

I am Bobbi Shutts, VSEA member for 11 years, and Special Educator at Community High School of VT at Marble Valley Correctional Facility.

I want to present a lesson I teach in my career readiness class when I help students with transition goals.

It is called setting S.M.A.R.T Goals.

Governor Shumlin's goal , According to his inaugural address: "We cannot just restructure and cut to close our \$94 million hole without inflicting significant damage upon Vermonters who need us." The Shumlin administration's goal is to restructure government and consolidate programs that officials say will save money in the long run.

Now for the SMART GOAL

Is it?

SPECIFIC...the goal according to Gov. Shumlin is to cut CHSVT funding by \$2 million, cutting teaching, positions at The Veteran's Home , and Rutland Dispatchers and possible others. There are no specific plans being proposed by the Governor to increase state revenue. No specific plans for the upper 1% of income earners to pay their share of taxes.

Is the goal

MEASUREABLE...yes these cuts are very measureable, creating loss of services to the most needy, Veterans, incarcerated students, and Rutland county residents who need efficient, local, emergency calls answered swiftly and with knowledge of the area.

IS THE GOAL?

ATTAINABLE/ACHIEVEABLE cuts....as proposed yes, on the backs of the middle class citizens of VT, who already are paying more the upper 1% of taxpayers who do not pay, attainable at the loss of meeting the needs of students who receive career readiness classes, vocational training and certifications, job soft skill training, and lessons on how to become productive tax paying citizens. Attainable at the cost of Veterans who deserve services to aid with homelessness, mental health care, and supports in return for the services they have provided us...freedom, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Is the goal?

REALISTIC... these cuts will only result in the realism of students losing out on learning transitional skills, daily living, skills, and added assistance in learning their strengths and weaknesses, and lessons on how to become a tax paying productive members of society.

Realistically speaking our elected officials need to build VT strength by finding ways to build lasting revenues, not cutting vital services to citizens. Reality check, VT has a Rainy Day Fund

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From the VT Digger, The Rainy Day Fund (technically called the General Fund Balance Reserve) is one of five official reserves built into state coffers. Along with a Stabilization Reserve, it's one of two attached to the state's General Fund. The other three reserves are for education, transportation and health care. State's chief fiscal officer, Steve Klein, advised the House Ways & Means Committee on Jan. 31, "You can say give it all back to the taxpayers, but in a bad year you're raising taxes," he said. According to VT Digger, "having to find money when times are tight — is exactly what the reserves are designed to hedge against."

Joint Fiscal Committee Memorandum , September 5, 2014

Fiscal Year 2014 Closeout for the General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve is \$ 66.16.

Isn't it time to call in the reserves for THESE Vermont Rainy Days?

Is the goal

TIMELY...

It is time to change from doing the same thing over and over(making cuts) and expecting different results. Move forward finding ways to increase revenues, achieve changes for fair taxation of the upper 1%.

Recognize the ripple effect of the proposed cuts, and demand alternatives in order to save jobs and improve services.

Take the time to make decisions to create SMARTER goals for better outcomes for Vermont!