

Clarence Haynes 4/22/15

April 22, 2015

I am pleased to have the chance to appear before this committee to share some of my thoughts on pending legislation before the committee, H-361, etc.

I am Clarence K. Haynes from Middletown Springs, VT.

I am currently a member and chair of the local school board (this is my 15th year as a board member). Board Chair of the Rutland Southwest SU, I am president of the Rutland Region School Boards Association, and a member of VSBA Board of Directors.

Over the past 40 years I have served my community in many capacities; Planning Commission, Highway Laborer, Fire Department member, Fire Department Captain, Fire Department Training Officer, Town Moderator, Road Foreman, Selectman, Chair of Select Board, Chair of Board of Civil Authority, Truant Officer, and a Trustee of Cemetery Invested Funds.

All comments and opinions offered by me are my own and do not represent the opinions of the boards that I currently serve on as a member, although they might.

- Focus on producing a quality piece of legislature that will help us move forward, but which does not assume one size can fit all
- Fully fund the AOE and SBE to have the staff to fulfill the new requirements imposed by H361
- Get rid of a “hard” quota for the number of students to be served by a system
- Extend the time lines by at least a year
- Caps in most forms is very much a non-starter
- Current Education Fund % back to 61% property tax, as it was in the beginning. Restore general fund to appropriate level.
- State-wide Teachers Contract
- Control runaway healthcare costs
- Small Schools Grants. A deal is a deal. If it must go so should \$7.00 /per parcel/ year from the education fund to town & cities to bank until the need for re-appraisal comes.