

On behalf of the Vernon School Board, I write in support of a one year delay in the implementation of Act 46.

By pausing the start button on school mergers, we will have an opportunity to work toward greater collaboration with our neighbors as well as problem solving with our supervisory union. This will allow our entire area to plan the best path forward for all of our children.

We in Vernon find ourselves in uncharted territory and it is not only our board but those we would normally turn to for advice and expertise. We are currently unsure of all of our options and have not had the time to fully explore the consequences of some possible actions.

We are not opposed to change or innovation, but when faced with both, we would like to approach it in as deliberate and thoughtful a manner as possible. Our children should benefit from a well planned strategy and not be harmed as we navigate this challenging time.

If granted the additional time, my board will be dedicated to working on timely investigation of options and building bridges with our neighbors so that we can all meet the goals of Act 46. We pledge to immediately begin this work so that we are in a position to finalize decisions, plan our FY21 budgets and set our school priorities far in advance of our 2020 town meeting.

Thank you for the important work you do to ensure a quality education for all Vermonters.

Sincerely,  
Kerry Amidon  
Chair, Vernon School Board