

December 26, 2017

Rebecca Holcombe  
Secretary of Education  
Vermont Agency of Education  
219 North Main St, Suite 405  
Barre, Vermont 05641

Dear Secretary Holcombe-

Please find enclosed our Alternative Governance Structure application for the communities of Brattleboro, Dummerston, Putney, Guilford and Vernon.

Because there was widespread opposition to the merger articles, an Alternative Governance Structure Committee was formed to create a vision for our educational system that reflects the expressed values of our communities. When the Articles of Agreement were defeated in early November, the work of this committee accelerated.

Four Study Committee veterans were joined by other official board directors from all five towns. Also at the roundtable are teachers, parents and community members from all the districts.

We are continuing to listen to our communities to make sure their voice is heard and their vote is respected. Our work is guided by our districts' longstanding commitment to education and a belief that the wisdom of an engaged electorate is not to be ignored.

We look forward to expanding the opportunities to serve all our children and our communities through the implementation of this proposal.

Sincerely-

Kristina Naylor, Committee Chair  
on behalf of the WSESU region Alternative Governance Committee:

Anne Beekman, Vice Chair, Putney Town School Board Representative  
Laura Chapman, Putney Town Schoolboard Representative  
Sue Meggiolaro, Dummerston Town School Board/parent  
Emily Gelke, Educator, Dummerston Town School Board Vice Chair/Parent  
Kerry Amidon, Vernon Town School Board/parent  
Mike Hebert, Vernon Town School Board  
David Schoales, Brattleboro Town School Board, Brattleboro Selectboard.  
Tim Morris, Putney parent  
Don McLean, Former Chairman Guilford School Board  
Steve Redmond, Former Vice-Chair Guilford School Board/parent  
Jody Normandeau, Dummerston Resident-grandparent  
Sandy Morrison, Vernon School Board

Additional Signatories:

Andy Davis, Brattleboro, Educator and Parent

Mike Mrowicki, Putney Vermont House of Representatives

Cheryl Redmond, Guilford parent

Tom Ehrenberg, Putney

Paul Normandeau, former Selectboard chair and grandparent

Ellen Forsythe

Ines McGillion, Dummerston parent

Dan Normandeau, parent and former school board member

Virginia Bunker, Author and former teacher

Mary Ellen Copeland, Dummerston

Edward Anthes, Dummerston

Judy Davidson, Brattleboro psychologist and former selectboard member

Jack Davisdon, Brattleboro Trust Company of Vermont

Ken McCaffrey – Brattleboro, Retired Brattleboro Educator

Kelt Naylor, Dummerston Parent

Elizabeth Adams – retired PreK teacher

Sam Farwell, Dummerston Parent

Akara Draper

Linnie Jones

Carol Schnabel

Peter Hetzel

Gail Sorenson, Dummerston

