

## Sunset Advisory Commission Board and Commission Review

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found. **The CHSVT Advisory Board meets monthly from August through May. Agendas and minutes are posted on [www.chsvt.org](http://www.chsvt.org) (although this has not happened recently due to staff cuts)**

Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive. **All members are appointed to 3 year terms pursuant to 28 V.S.A. § 121. They are entitled to \$50 per diem and mileage.**

BOARD MEMBER NAME	TERM EXPIRES
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Sean Recicar	2/28/2019
Joan Lenes	2/28/2021
Sarah Flynn	2/28/2018
Richard Fraser	2/28/2019
Beth Hulbert (resigned)	2/29/2019
David Luce	2/29/2020
Grace Sweet	2/29/2020
Offie Wortham	2/28/2018
Heather Weinstein	2/29/2020

2. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose. **The board was established for the purpose of advising the education supervisor of the independent school established in section 120 of this title. The board shall have supervision over policy formation for the independent school, except as otherwise provided, shall recommend school policy to the commissioner of corrections, shall oversee local advisory boards of the school, and shall perform such other duties as requested from time to time by the commissioner of education or of corrections.**

3. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose? The board is not needed to supervise policy, but having the board to advise regarding policies and practices can be helpful. School policy is complex given placement within VTDOC and AHS. There are many state, agency and department policies that must be factored. They provide an important role in advocating for the needs of students in the school which would likely not happen without the board as state employees are not permitted to advocate as freely.
4. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance? Given the answer above, the board has struggled to define its purpose. Stuart is the new chair and has great ideas and is leading the group to clarify their purpose based upon needs of the school.
5. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner? It is important to have non-State employees who are engaged in education and careers to advise the VTDOC and the school. Without that outside perspective, policies and practices will be less likely to reflect best practices in education.
6. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose? We have other boards in the state that have education and career members who could possibly fulfill the purpose. I am not sure if that is absolutely feasible since I do not know the full scope of the other boards.
7. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission? Not exactly. See answer 3 above.
8. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded? The funding comes from the school's operating budget. Per diem costs for last fiscal year were \$1500.
9. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations? The statute says "The Board shall report on its activities annually to the State Board of Education, the Secretary of Human Services, and the Commissioner of Corrections." In the past, the school's annual report was the only report produced, but that is not related to the board's activities.
10. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission? I would clarify in statute the specific purpose of the board, whether there are deliverables expected of the board and what activities must be reported annually.