VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS

SERVING EDUCATION THROUGH SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICE

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TO: **House Education Committee**

FROM: **Nathan Lavery, VASBO President & Burlington School District**

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SUBJECT: VASBO Position on H.91

DATE: **February 26, 2021**

The Vermont Association of School Business Officials (VASBO) appreciates the opportunity to provide input in the consideration of H.91, An act relating to the suspension and review of the statewide finance and financial data management system.

VASBO's position on H.91 and related legislation is described below. We surveyed VASBO membership and this position received overwhelming support from our membership.

VASBO supports a pause in the process of expanding eFinance to new users.

Pausing the expansion of eFinance to new school members, as suggested by AOE CFO Bill Bates, is the best way to allow the agency to fully review the project status and develop a path forward that will ensure success – even if the pause results in redefining what success means for this project. The statement was supported by nearly 95% of respondents.

VASBO believes AOE should continue to provide full support to existing eFinance users.

VASBO members were unanimous in their view that support should be maintained for current eFinance users, even in the event of a project pause. Current users of eFinance rely on the program for all accounting and payroll processes. As written, H.91 could be interpreted as preventing AOE from maintaining support for current climates. While we do not believe this to be the intent of the legislation, we ask that support for existing clients be explicitly authorized to avoid any ambiguity.

VASBO supports the implementation of a Uniform Chart of Accounts but believes that utilization of eFinance should be voluntary.

More than three quarters of VASBO survey respondents agreed with this statement. Until such time as eFinance is show to provide satisfactory performance for current users, the process of enrolling new users should remain voluntary.