



VERMONT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION  
MEMO  
From the Desk of Jay Nichols

January 12, 2021  
Senate Education Written Testimony Notes VPA Overview

Overview VPA:

- Founded 1915 as VT Headmasters (Became VPA 1989)
- Oversight of high school sports founding principle
- Has involved into the organization we have today
- Membership Driven Organization
  - Members are Schools AND
  - Individuals (mostly principals/assistant principals/AD's but quite a few Superintendent and other central office positions)
- Now VPA:
  - 5 employees for the entire state
  - Provides professional learning for members and other educational leaders in VT (and sometimes nationally)
  - Run a nationally trained mentoring program for new school leaders
  - Advocates for school leaders and students at the state and national level
  - Provides oversight of high school extracurricular activities through member committees and provides state championships
- VPA Governance:
  - Executive Council
    - Work directly with Executive Director Jay Nichols
    - 15 members
    - One retired principal, one assistant principal, and one CTE Director

- Governing Body of VPA. Oversees VPA similar to a school board overseeing a school district
  - Boards seeks to be geographically, gender, school level and size diverse
- o Professional Learning & Support Committee
  - Work directly with Assistant Executive Director Mike McRaith
  - Oversees professional learning
  - 10 member committee principals and Central Office leaders
  - Plan the Annual Vermont Leadership Academy and other leadership learning events
- o Activity Standards Committee
  - Work directly with Associate Executive Director Bob Johnson
  - Regulates all middle school through high school sports and activities
  - Oversight with school districts of all high school playoffs in state
  - 28 sports, almost 80 state championships!
- o Main member Benefits:
  - Weekly Electronic newsletter
    - Updates weekly, research on leadership and instruction
    - Advocacy updates nationally and state
    - Legislative updates nationally and state
    - Members only access to website with many resources
    - \$1000 of legal job protection
    - Priority access to the Waddington School Leadership Initiative
    - Reduced fees to professional events
    - 24 hour access to executive director for leadership support
    - Ability to serve on leadership committees