

My name is Callahan Beck, and I am a former student member of the Vermont State Board of Education. During my tenure from 2017 to 2019, I had the privilege of serving while attending Saint Johnsbury Academy.

One of the significant challenges we faced during my time on the board was navigating the legislative proposals of Act 46. This included extensive deliberations on district mergers, such as the Stowe, Morristown, and Elmore merger.

I distinctly recall the extensive documentation provided to us, containing detailed information on proposed mergers and their underlying rationales. As a conscientious board member, I dedicated valuable time to thoroughly reviewing each proposal and carefully considering the testimonies from individuals directly impacted by these mergers.

During the deliberations on the Stowe, Morristown, and Elmore merger, I proposed a motion to extend discussions further. This decision was driven by the compelling testimonies presented during our meeting.

Following this motion, I received communication from various stakeholders, including representatives from Stowe media outlets and members of their school board. However, it is important to note that I have no recollection of being contacted by anyone from the governor's office regarding this motion or any other matter during my time on the board.

Throughout my time on the board, I maintained independence in my decision-making process. I was guided solely by the data and testimonies presented to me, ensuring that my votes and statements were reflective of my own convictions and the best interests of those I served.

If there are any further questions or clarifications needed regarding my experiences on the board,  
I am more than willing to provide additional information.