



Testimony to House General and Housing Committee - January 26, 2023

Jeffrey Francis, Executive Director

## **Introducing the Vermont Superintendents Association**

### Our Vision and Mission

The Vermont Superintendents Association works to ensure that Vermont public education supports each and every student in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed for success in a rapidly changing world. To achieve that result, the Association:

- Promotes improvements to laws, regulations and practices.
- Engages partners to support a framework for transforming public education to meet the needs of 21st century learners.
- Supports superintendents through transparent, proactive analysis and communications specific to educational issues at the local, state, and federal level.
- Supports superintendents through high quality professional development and direct support within the districts they serve.

### Membership Composition

- 55 superintendents
- 8 assistant superintendents
- 10 professional affiliates

### Leadership and Organization

- 10 Member Board of Trustees comprising 4 officers, 5 regional representatives and the past-president
  - Peter Burrows, Addison Central School District, President
  - Amy Minor, Colchester School District, President-Elect
  - Julie Regimbal, Missisquoi Valley School District, Secretary
  - Lynn Cota, Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union, Treasurer
  - Michael Clark, Grand Isle Supervisory Union, Champlain Region
  - Jennifer Botzjoorns, Kingdom East School District, Northeast Region
  - Sherry Sousa, Windsor Central Supervisory Union, Southeast Region
  - Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Slate Valley School District, Southwest Region
  - David Younce, Past-President

- Organized in 5 regional groups that historically have met monthly on operational, policy and organizational business - far more frequently through the pandemic.

#### Association Staff

- Executive Director: Jeffrey Francis
- Associate Executive Director: Chelsea Myers
- Office Manager: Kristi Tate

In general the work of the Association falls into these areas, consistent with VSA's missions:

- Support for members (from staff and colleagues)
- Engaging in the education policy arena
- Providing professional learning opportunities for superintendents, central office administrators and education leaders interested in the superintendency

Most recently our areas of focus have been:

- Supporting superintendents and school districts in state initiatives such as Act 173 implementation; PCB sampling; preparation to the field for implementation of the proposed changes to the Education Quality Standards under Act 1; monitoring the development of school district quality standards under Act 127
- Emphasizing equity and inclusion through programs of the Association and partnerships with other organizations
- Conducting a robust professional learning program focused on best practices in school leadership, leadership development and inclusive education.

#### Three Priority Areas for 2023/2024/2025

- Facilities
- Worker Shortage
- Mental Health

Like the Committee, VSA is engaged in very dynamic work intended to conform to our mission, including informing the work of the General Assembly. We pledge to do our best to provide information, perspective and expertise from the vantage point and experience of school superintendents, and to contribute to legislative and public discourse related to the public education delivery system.

In light of current obligations, responsibilities and challenges facing school districts and public education, our request is that you be discerning in your consideration of proposed legislation and evaluate it to be certain that it is purposeful, necessary and within the current capacity of the system to deliver on any new obligations or commitments. When the latter criteria is not being met, we ask that you provide the resources to make sure that it is.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. We look forward to supporting the work of the Committee.