Welcome to School Board Service and the VSBA

April 2020
Agenda!

The Role of the School Board

Essential Work of Vermont School Boards

Education Governance in Vermont

The VSBA
The Role of the School Board

The school board acts as trustees on behalf of the community to provide strong oversight of public education.
The school board acts as trustees on behalf of the community to provide oversight of public education, assuring:

- High quality education for every student in the district
- The public gets good return on its investment
- The system operates efficiently, effectively and ethically
Essential Work of Vermont School Boards Workbook

• Published by VSBA
• Last updated Spring 2019
• Order at vtvsba.org from the New Member Tool Kit.
Essential Work of School Boards: Vision

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Adopt Policy
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight
- Monitor Progress
- Effective & Ethical Operations
Essential Work of School Boards: Vision

Engaged with Community
- Structured and ongoing dialogue

Clear Educational Vision
- Developed with community input
- Board monitors progress
- Board makes policy and budget decisions to support vision

Whole Board Unity
Essential Work of School Boards: Policy

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Adopt Policy
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight
- Monitor Progress
- Effective & Ethical Operations
Essential Work of School Boards: Policy

Articulate values and concerns
- Educational Results
- Legal requirements
- Community Expectations

Delegate
- Administration interprets policy
- Written procedures

Monitor
Essential Work of School Boards: Superintendent

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Adopt Policy
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight
- Monitor Progress
- Effective & Ethical Operations
Essential Work of School Boards: Superintendent

Chief Executive Officer
- Accountable for operations

Mutual Accountability
- Board must provide clear direction and set priorities
- Superintendent must deliver on board's priorities
### Roles: Board, Superintendent, Principal

#### Board
- Sets clear goals
- Assures good communication between board and administration
- Establishes and monitors clear system for accountability

#### Superintendent
- Chief Executive Officer
  - Operations
  - Educational Leadership
- Accountable to Supervisory Union and District Boards

#### Principal
- Instructional Leadership & day-to-day school operations
- Relies on Supervisory Union action plan, priorities, and initiatives
- Accountable to Superintendent
Chain of Command: Board, Superintendent, Principal

Board: Vision, Policy, Resources, Accountability

Superintendent: Systems Leader and CEO for the district, accountable to SU and District boards

Principal: Educational Leader for school, accountable to the superintendent
Essential Work of School Boards: Budget

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Adopt Policy
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight
- Monitor Progress
- Effective & Ethical Operations
Essential Work of School Boards: Budget

Assure adequate resources to advance vision

High level oversight

• Assure prudent management on behalf of taxpayers
Essential Work of School Boards: Monitoring

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Adopt Policy
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight
- Monitor Progress
- Effective & Ethical Operations
Essential Work of School Boards: Monitoring

Board is accountable for

- Progress on student outcomes
- Compliance to all policies
- Clearly stated objectives and expectations

Administration is accountable for

- Evidence of progressing toward vision
Essential Work of School Boards: Operations

Engage the Community & Establish a Vision

Adopt Policy

Board & Superintendent Partnership

Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight

Monitor Progress

Effective & Ethical Operations
Essential Work of School Boards: Operations

- Well-organized Meetings
- Engaged and Informed Board Members
Handling Complaints

1. Receive complaint
2. Follow district complaint policy and procedures
3. Inform chair and administrator
4. Follow up later with complainant, if appropriate
5. Board final level of complaint appeal - not first
Recommendations for New School Board Members

**Your Work**
- High quality education for every student
- Good return on investment for every tax payer
- Your job is **NOT** to “run the school(s)”!

**Enthusiasm**
- Bring passion and commitment
- Keep the big picture in mind
- Follow good governance practices and policies

**Ethics**
- Follow the law
- Uphold highest ethical standards
- Avoid conflicts of interest - real and perceived

**Role of Individual Board Member**
- No legal authority
- Power rests in the board as a body
Education Governance in Vermont

- **Legislature**: Passes laws governing education and municipal government
- **Courts**: Interpret laws and the VT constitution
- **Governor & State Board (SBE)**: Execute laws and develop administrative regulations
- **Agency of Education (AOE)**: Carries out the work
Partially Consolidated Governance

Supervisory Union Board

Superintendent

Consolidated District 1 School Board
- School C (PreK-6)
- School B (PreK-6)
- School A (PreK-6)

District 2 School Board
- School D (PreK-8)

District 3 School Board
- School E (PreK-12)
Consolidated Governance

Supervisory District Board

Superintendent

School A  School B  School C  School D  School E
VSBA Vision Statement

The VSBA exists to achieve Vermont’s vision for public education by supporting all school boards to serve as effective trustees for education on behalf of their communities and by providing a strong collective voice toward enhancing the cause of public education in Vermont.
VSBA Staff

Sue Ceglowski  
Executive Director  
sceglowski@vtvsba.org

Susan Holson  
Director of Ed. Services  
sholson@vtvsba.org

Sandra Cameron  
Director of Public Policy  
scameron@vtvsba.org

Kerri Lamb  
Director of Operations  
klamb@vtvsba.org
VSBA: The collective voice for school boards

Informs education policy decisions
- Agency of Education
- State Board
- General Assembly

Informs members about public policy deliberations
- Education Legislative Report
- Legislative Alerts
- Annual Legislative Update Webinar
VSBA Supports School Boards

Phone and Email Consultation

Ongoing Training and Conferences
- School Board U Live Workshops
- Monthly School Board U Online Webinars
- Regional Meetings
- Annual Conference

Meeting Planning and Facilitation

Regular Email Updates

Website
- www.vtvsba.org

Consultation Services
- Superintendent Search
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Strategic Planning
- Policy Governance
- District Consolidation Implementation
- Vermont Education Policy

Collective Bargaining Supports
- District negotiation website compilation
- Open Meeting Law
- Master Agreement Database
- Training and Consulting

Publications
- Vermont Education Law Book
- From the Boardroom Member Newsletters
- Essential Work of Vermont School Boards Workbook

©2020 Vermont School Boards Association. All rights reserved.