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Vermont Principals' Association

Supporting Learners and Leaders

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UNAPPROVED MINUTES

AGENDA for JANUARY 29th EC Meeting

Thursday, January 29

In attendance: EC Members: Bill Anton, Patrick Burke, Joan Cavallo, Wayne Howe, Lissa McDonald, Andre Messier, Amy Minor, Jeff Moreno, Beth O' Brien (12:15), Shaun Pickett, Dean Stearns, Robert St. Pierre, Ed Webbley (10:35).

Absent: Heidi Lucas Moccia, Andy Paciulli, Tom Bochanski

VPA Staff: Ken Page, Bob Johnson, David Cobb

Other: 11:30: Nicole Mace, General Counsel for the Vermont School Boards Association and Jeffrey Francis, Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association

Afternoon: Jacki Ball, NASSP Assistant Director of Advocacy (1:00); Jason Rosco, 12:00 (VPA Legislative Committee), Dana Peterson, 2:00 (VPA Legislative Committee)

1. Welcome and EC member check in- Dean Stearns

VPA president Dean Stearns welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:10. People introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 5th EC meeting, VPA president Dean Stearns

Jeff Moreno moved and Amy Minor seconded approval of the minutes of November 5, 2014. They were approved unanimously.

3. Formation of VPA Nominations committee

Per VPA bylaws, president Stearns asked for volunteers to serve on the nominations committee: The following people volunteered: Shaun Pickett, Lissa McDonald, Dean Stearns and will be bringing a recommendation for the next president elect to our March 27th meeting as well as confirming second year three year terms for Ed Webbley, Jeff Moreno and Tom Bochanski

4. Approval of VPA Audit (plus current budget update by Delina and Ken)

The following motion was made by Wayne Howe and seconded by Andre Messier: " I move to approve the VPA Financial Audit dated August 19, 2014 done by Sheila Valley of Fothergill, Segale and Valley and to encourage our executive director to use the audit results to inform the development our 2015-16 VPA Budget." The motion was approved unanimously.

While waiting for Nicole Mace and Jeffrey Francis to arrive, the Executive Council discussed #9 Staff Updates: They heard from Associate Executive Director Bob Johnson and Development

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Director David Cobb. Bob Johnson updated the EC regarding sports safety and concussions national lawsuits as well as a recent appeals committee decision that may have future implications for the Activity Standards committee. He told the EC that the ASC committee will follow up with this item at the ASC meeting on February 5th in Stowe, and he invited EC participation in the meeting, which will also involve VPA attorney Michael Marks, and the chair of the VPA Appeals committee, Dan Ryan. Development Director Cobb updated the EC about progress toward firming up the Academy '15 lineup. He announced that Murray Banks would be our send-off speaker

- a. **Discuss item #6a below Six areas of focus: Green Mountain Imperative Summit**

Following this, the EC spent some time talking about impressions of the Green Mountain Imperative Summit. Those who attended are as follows: Joan Cavallo, Dean Stearns, Patrick Burke and Ken Page. The following is a paraphrased version of the discussion:

Wayne Howe: To me the most important aspect of the summit's conclusion has to do with quality and equity

Dean Stearns-This likely result in the cutting of school programs at smaller schools.

Wayne Howe: I agree, but larger schools will be okay.

Bob Johnson-I don't hear people talking about the many mandated initiatives that the legislature has imposed on schools, such as concussion legislation, hazing legislation.

Ed Webbley-I know that Danville HS is one of the schools in the future that will be on the chopping bloc. But you should see Act 77 in action (Personalized learning Plans). But PLP's require a teaching staff that can be extremely flexible. In order to make things work, I have been given the marketing task of finding 50 more students.

4.A NEW AGENDA ITEM: 10:45 or 11:00 Nicole Mace, General Counsel of VSBA, to address EC about a Policy Framework for an Integrated PreK-12 Educational System (note: Speaker Shap Smith has also seen this and it is likely to be the basis for a governance bill going forward in the legislature (Translation: important discussion that may require us to re-prioritize other agenda items)

At 11:30, Nicole Mace and Jeffery Francis arrived. Jeff began with a quote from Rebecca Holcombe: "What we have been is not going to cut it!"

Nicole mace explained a plan that VSBA and VSA have been working on. She reminded the EC about last year's work on H. 883 and why it was difficult for some school boards to support it. She also explained how Secretary Holcombe join the VSBA falls meetings. What emerged from the fall conversations with school board members was a need to flexibly deploy resources; they heard from their members that it can't be a one size fits all approach, that boards have no

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appetite to eliminate school choice, that the Green Mountain Imperative work is a good starting point for this year's legislative session. She presented a preK-12 framework that was well received. This framework emphasizes equity, efficiencies and quality. Unlike H. 883, this approach would be more flexible. It would allow for multiple boards, it would assume a larger role for the Vermont Board of Education. It would be up to the state Board of Education to waive Title 16; it would not include a design team. Rather than being punitive, it would give districts time before penalizing them with possible loss of their Small Schools Grant or their Hold Harmless Provision.

Following this, Joan Cavallo asked Nicole if the issue of poverty is being addressed. She and several other principals spoke to the alarming mental health needs of young children. Joan also spoke of attendance issues with younger children and wondered if this would be emphasized.

5. Brief Updates: President's Update (**none**), Subcommittees and National Reps-Finance, Policy Revision, NAESP (Tom) (**none**). NASSP (Ed) (**none**),
6. Important Information Sharing from November meeting
 - a. Six areas of focus: Green Mountain Imperative Summit
 - b. How can all EC members be more involved with statehouse proposed legislation? (**Item passed over**)
 - c. Will EC support developing a VPA Resolutions Process? (Direction/stances of VPA on issues or legislation) (**Item passed over**)
 - d. Policy Revision Project Update (**President Dean Stearns updated the EC regarding the work of the Policy Revision Committee and he highlighted the follow up work done by Wayne Howe and Ken Page. Dean said that the work goes a long ways toward the project completion by August of 2015.**)
 - e. FY '16 Budget Update **item passed over**)
 - f. Principal Awards Follow Up (**President Dean Stearns reminded the Executive Council members of the memo in their meeting packets that talks about changes in our Principal of the Year Awards including our commitment to call references for candidates so we can be assured that there is someone who can speak in detail about each of the candidates during the selection process.**)
7. Brief Introduction: Emily Simmonds, Legislative Analyst, Ed. Collaborative (Charlie Enscoe's former position).

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Emily joined us for lunch and introduced herself to the Executive council. She explained that she is a third year law student at Vermont Las School. She is really enjoying her position and thinks it is a great match for her interests and direction.

8. Lunch by LePetit Gourmet and Three Special Guests: Emily Simmonds, Jackie Ball

9. Introduction of Jackie Ball, NASSP Associate Director of Advocacy, Reston, VA speaking about "Advocacy 101 for State Organizations."

At 1:00, Jacki Ball from NASSP arrived from Washington DC to talk with the Board about promoting its advocacy goal. She passed out these handouts:

- 1. Advocacy Update PowerPoint**
- 2. Joint letter dated 1-8-15 from NASSP, NAESP and AFSA to Chairman Lamar Alexander of the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and to Senator Patty Murray, Ranking Member HELP Committee**
- 3. Statement from NASSP, NAESP and AFSA in response to the discussion draft by Sen. Lamar Alexander to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act**
- 4. An NASSP flyer on legislative Advocacy called "Get Informed, Get Involved, Make a difference."
(Ken Page will PDF these to the VPA membership)**

9. (If time allows) 2:40-2:55 Staff Update: Dave Cobb (PL&S standing committee); Bob (ASC Standing Committee), Ken Page, (EC and overall picture) (passed over)

10. (If time allows) 2:55-3:10 Follow Up, Plans for March Meeting and member check in

➔ Adjourn to Vermont Statehouse to Meet with House and Senate Education Committees from 4:00-5:00 At 3:02 with its business completed, Bill Anton moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Joan Cavallo and approved unanimously.

Follow Up: The following note is from the House Education Committee Amended Agenda 4:00 p.m. Vermont Principals' Association

Reception with the Senate Committee on Education in room 10. In addition to testimony from Mr. Page, written testimony was submitted by an anonymous Vermont school principal and Andre Messier,

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Principal, Lake Region Union High School. The list of those who testified is as followed: Ken Page, Executive Director, Vermont Principals' Association; Jacki Ball, Associate Director for Advocacy, National Association of Secondary School Principals; Wayne Howe, Principal, Northfield Elementary School; William Anton, Principal, Dover School; Merri Greenia, Principal, Craftsbury Elementary School; Andre Messier, Principal, Lake Region Union High School; Brett Blanchard, Principal, Fair Haven Union High School; Michelle Mathias, Principal, Edmunds Elementary School; Joan Cavallo, Principal, St. Albans City Elementary School; Dana Peterson, Principal, Woodstock Union Middle School; Judith Ross, Principal, Peacham Elementary School

Remaining meeting dates for the 2014-15 school year

Friday, March 27, 2015 at Northfield Elementary School (**confirmed on 1-30 that the meeting is at 10:00 at Northfield Elementary School, 10 Cross Street, in Northfield. It is the meeting that will include the selection of the Principals of the Year. The EC will be joined at lunch and assisted by the 2014 Principals of the Year**)

Friday, May 1, 2015 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier

August 6-7, 2015, Killington for EC+ASC+PL&S summer meeting