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Vermont Principals' Association

*Supporting Learners and Leaders*

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## Vermont Principals' Association Executive Council Meeting

Friday, May 1, 2015, 10:00-3:00 Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier

**10:00** Welcome and member check in

Dean Stearns

The meeting was called to order by VPA President Dean Stearns at 10:05 a.m.

In attendance were the following: Dean Stearns, Pat Burke, Joan Cavallo, Jeff Moreno, Shaun Pickett, Heidi Lucas-Moccia, Tom Bochanski, Wayne Howe, André Messier, Amy Minor, Andy Paciulli, Robert St. Pierre, Lissa McDonald

VPA Staff in attendance: Ken Page

Absent were Bill Anton and Beth O'Brien

Guests: VPA Appeals Chair Dan Ryan; VPA Attorney Michael Marks

**10:05** Minute approval and follow Up from the March 27th Meeting Dean and Ken

This item was motioned by Shaun Pickett, seconded by Lissa McDonald and approved unanimously

**10:10-11:00** A major agenda item for May will be a full EC the discussion and decision regarding VPA 100<sup>th</sup> Year Activities for the Fall

Ken Page initiated this discussion and asked EC members to weigh in on a few ideas. The EC gave tentative approval to the following:

- Using some time after the Leadership Academy (August 6&7) to meet with their two established subcommittees the Activity Standards Committee and the Professional Learning and Support Committee to specifically talk about how their work can be focused around our 100<sup>th</sup> year. The thought is to celebrate the year, not just at an occasion.
- The EC group that has been formed to plan the work for the Leadership Academy includes: Joan Cavallo, Pat Burke, Lissa McDonald, Dean Stearns and Ken Page. They have tentatively set Tuesday, July 7 from 9-12 to meet at St. Albans City School to work on this.
- To kick off the 100<sup>th</sup> year with a birthday party at the Academy
- To organize a 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration Dinner for the fall
- To ask the Governor for a VPA Centennial Proclamation
- To issue 100<sup>th</sup> year pins for all of our members
- Other ideas that emerged: invite all new principals to attend Centennial Dinner, to establish a Google Doc to help centralize all Centennial Activities, to ask WCAX to run a year-long series on school principals similar to 30 schools in 30 days, for Ken to ask at an upcoming meeting of state Executive Directors what other associations have done to celebrate a milestone like this, to create a banner to give. Sell inexpensively to schools; invite back those who have been important to VPA-Scott Blanchard, Burns Page, Bob Withey, relatives of Ray Pellegrini, Dick

Breen, Robert Pierce etc., send letters to all principals of the year, find out how many schools in Vermont have been named after principals

- In general, the prevailing idea: Do more about the substance VPA and less about mutual admiration with schools

**11:00- 12:00 Guest: Dan Ryan, VPA Appeals Committee Chair**

**Discussion on VPA Appeals Policy**

**Appeals Policy Draft/Appeal Policy Comments from Attorney Michael Marks**

**Process for training Appeals Committee Members**

At 11:00, VPA Appeals Committee Chair Dan Ryan and VPA Attorney Michael Marks arrived. Dan, Ken and Michael updated the EC about the current state of the VPA appeals process and what has transpired to date. There is confusion by ASC about how the Appeals Committee does its work; there seems to be conflicting information about parents involvement about the Appeals process, there are some unwritten rules about the public's participation that have emerged from the so-called summer study.

Attorney Michael marks at the request of ken Page has given the EC a redraft of the VPA Appeals Policy. **The next step is for a VPA Policy subcommittee to meet with a subcommittee of the ACS appointed by the ACS chair Bill Lawson to meet over the summer to look at the redrafted Appeals Policy. EC members on this subcommittee are Lissa McDonald, Wayne Howe, Pat Burke, Dean Stearns, Ken Page and André Messier. It has been suggested that this meeting take place on June 26<sup>th</sup> at South Burlington HS. Ken with follow up with Bob Johnson and ASC Chair Bill Lawson about this.**

**11:50 Movin' On presentation (this item was moved up from 2:30 to accommodate an EC member who had to leave early**

Our EC member Heidi Lucas-Moccia is moving to Florida so she no longer can participate on the EC. On behalf of the EC, Ken Page presented her with a gift for her participation on the Executive Council. She received a round of applause from the EC.

**12:00-1:00 VPA Service Learning Projects followed by lunch (In Capitol Plaza ballroom)**

EC Members adjourned to lunch where they mixed with students and schools who had displayed their partially VPA funded service learning projects. Development Director Dave Cobb who coordinated this activity for VPA spoke of the projects and of the vitally important grant funders: VSAC and the Bay and Paul Foundation

**1:00-2:30 ■ Inviting New EC members to join us**

After a brief discussion, Joan Cavallo moved and it was seconded by Amy Minor to invite Erica McLaughlin, principal of Randolph Elementary School to join the Executive Council. This was approved on a 9-0 vote. Ken to follow up and to call Erica inviting her to join the EC.

■ Appointment of NAESP State Director/Federal Relations Coordinator

■ Appointment of new NASSP State Coordinator

Before the meeting, Ken had had a conversation with NAESP State Rep Tom Bochanski who said because of time constraints, he is no longer able to serve as our VPA NAESP State Rep position. Wayne Howe had represented Tom at this year's NAESP Leaders' Conference and was willing, if confirmed by the full EC to serve as the new NAESP state Rep. Regarding NASSP State Coordinator Position, it was noted that our previous NASSP State Coordinator is not currently employed as a principal. So, this position also needs to be filled. Ken had had a conversation with André Messier about serving as the new State Coordinator and Andre would like to do this if confirmed by the full

EC. After a short discussion, Jeff Moreno moved to approve Wayne Howe as the new NAESP State Representative and André Messier as the new NASSP State Coordinator. Joan Cavallo seconded the motion and both nominations were approved unanimously. Ken Page will be following up with NAESP and NASSP to let them know the names and contact information for Wayne and André.

■ **Principal of the Year Process Suggested Changes**

Ken referred the EC to the ideas he had written on the meeting discussion guide. In it were some ideas about changes to the Principal of the Year award. The EC gave approval to the following: An open nomination process at the Academy (Ken to work out logistics), and a process that involves the Superintendent of Schools as an important reference check. The EC entertained a discussion about moving up the timeline from the end of March to the January meeting, but ultimately rejected this idea.

Regarding the beginning of an Admin team award, the full EC weighed in optimistically. However, most members were cautious to separate this from our individual principal awards. Here is the synopsis of the comments: This needs to be an outcomes award to any educational group, not just principals; it is a team award given to a group that has “hit-it-out-of-the-park;” it should not be given on a timeline, but sporadically. It was suggested by Ken that this award could be given at the statehouse when we meet with the legislators in January. Most agreed that the criteria would have to be some of the following: the work could be replicated, it should have broad categories, should be for exemplary work by a team. There was consensus that this discussion needs to be continued at our next meeting in August.

■ **Summer Planning/Projects for VPA**

Ken identified the following: 100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Planning; Revision of VPA Policy Project in time for our Annual meeting; VPA/VSA/VSBA Roles and Responsibilities Project; Mentor Training Class in August, New Principal Workshop Planning, Rewrite of Appeals Policy and Procedures; Rewrite of process for Principal of the Year Awards

■ **Outline for VPA Annual meeting**

Ken reviewed the agenda used last year just prior to the start of the Academy. EC members thought this seemed reasonable and gave Ken the direction to continue with this format.

■ **H. 361 Ed Reform Bill Progress**

Ken reviewed the progress of the Educational Reform bill called H. 361. He said that the upcoming week is likely to be the last full week by the Vermont legislature. Ken referred EC members to the side-by-side House and Senate versions of H. 361 in their packets. Ken also gave EC members a copy of the latest Education Legislative Report #9.

■ **Other legislative Initiatives**

Because of time constraints, there was not time to discuss other legislative initiatives. Ken referred to an attempt to slide information into the Miscellaneous Education Bill (H.

■ **Summer Mentoring Class for Mentors**

This was not discussed. Ken shared the following: At the March 12th Mentor Meeting, the issue of future new Mentor Trainings was raised. Peter Evans followed up with Ken. Ken contacted Kathleen Sciarappa, our NH Mentor Trainer who also trains nationally with NAESP. After working

with the National Mentor Coordinator Carol Riley, it was decided to advertise for a training in Vermont August 12-13-14

**2:30-2:50 (Tentative) Presentation from Kathy Lawrence, Vermont School Library Association on the changing roles of the school librarian**

Kathy Lawrence was unable to attend today's meeting, so this item was postponed. Although she has an interest in attending the Leadership Academy to make her presentation, it may not be possible because of time constraints. Ken will contact her and see about rescheduling.

**3:00 Other business/Adjourn**

With no more business before it, the Executive Council adjourned at 2:45 p.m. Motioned by Jeff Moreno and seconded by Wayne Howe. It was approved unanimously.

**IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL**

Next meeting: Summer Meeting Thursday-Friday, August 6-7 at Killington. Note: If you are at the Academy, you can keep your room and VPA will pay for room and meals for Thursday night and Friday. If you are just coming for the EC Meeting, we will pay for your Thursday night room plus meals. Typically, we start at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, go to dinner at 6:00, meet on Friday morning and leave after lunch on Friday. Remember, this is an important meeting since it the one time yearly when we meet separately with our two major subcommittees: The Professional Learning and Support Committee and with the Activity Standards committee.

**PLEASE: RSVP to [wscott@vpaonline.org](mailto:wscott@vpaonline.org) if you are coming to our EC Meeting on August 6-7. Thanks**