



VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS

SERVING EDUCATION THROUGH SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICE

www.vasbo.net

Brenda Fleming, President
Rutland Northeast S.U.
bfleming@rnesu.org

Frank Rucker, President-Elect
Windham Southeast S.U.
frucker@wsesu.org

Lisa Perreault, Vice President
Barre S.U.
lperrbsu@u61.net

Call to Order and Introductions

Brenda called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Introductions followed.

Secretary's Report

MOTION to approve the Secretary's report as presented by Frank. Seconded by Rick. All in favor. So voted.

Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report by Steve. Seconded by Robin. All in favor. So voted.

Announcements

Steve thanked Bob for his years of assisting school districts through the VMBB and presented him with a token of gratitude. The membership agreed that his service has been invaluable.

Brenda reminded everyone about the Internal Control Questionnaire, which is due to each Supervisory Union by December 31. She also stated that if there is a snow event that necessitates cancelling VASBO, it will be posted on the VASBO website by 6:00 AM.

Brenda stated that invitations to Education Summit being held by Governor Scott had been sent out. Morgan, Rob, Nathan, Jean, Tisha, and Glenn, and Brenda were able to receive an invitation. Brittany, Steve, Rick, Robin, and Brian were waitlisted.

Brenda stated that there is an at large opening on the Tri-State Committee. Glenn stated that he would be interested in that holding that position.

Committees

Certification- There are two new certifications for consideration.

Software- A survey is being distributed regarding which software is used by Business Managers.

Business Manager 101- The November meeting went very well.

Tri State- Pulling together program ideas. The location for the 2019 conference will be the Mount View Resort in Whiteface, New Hampshire.

Updates

VSBIT-Laura shared on behalf of VSBIT. She stated that the board will act on a rate structure for Unemployment today. By Monday, rates will be available for budgeting purposes. Tim stated that for the Multi-Line program, the base rate structure appears that it will be flat. However, he cautioned that districts are individually rated based on a variety of factors, including loss history, number of vehicles, payroll, etc. The Ice Alert programming is being piloted. If schools are not part of the pilot program, they can purchase the materials from VSBIT. The cost for the program is around \$100.

Brittany Gilman, Secretary
Rutland Central S.U.
brittany.gilman@rcsu.org

Heather Wright, Treasurer
Orleans Central S.U.
hwright@ocsu.org

Steve Hier, Past-President
Springfield S.D.
shier@ssdvt.org



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VEHI-Laura shared on behalf of VEHI. Dental and Health rates are still with DFR. Indicators are that they are likely to approve the rates that were filed. The Vermont Education Health Benefits Commission has held several meetings. A report should be filed by the end of next week, which will likely include a list of pros and cons about negotiations at the state level. They also examined the composition of the VEHI board, but did not accept testimony from anyone. IRS reporting for 2017 has been relatively quiet. VEHI is re-vamping its website, which will be up by January 1. It will have a variety of documents to help employees navigate the new health care. Health insurance bills are going out a little late this month.

VMBB-Michael stated that they are continuing to monitor tax reform, but the impact should be muted or positive. They have added a subscriber button to the website so updates can be distributed more regularly. There will also be a webinar regarding how to obtain a bond. Michael@vtbondagency.org is his contact information. He encouraged any ideas, suggestions, or questions. Bob said that if bonds related to structures used by professional or semi-professional teams will become taxable under new tax law. He also noted that rates are on the rise.

AOE-Sean noted that he sent out final allowable tuition numbers—Rutland City and Springfield will need a revision. Joint schools still need some work, and some Statbooks are missing, so there may be some further revisions. Brad is working on equalized pupils. If you are a new unified union in FY19, contact Glenn Bouchard to let him know who will be submitting the preliminary budget. The Teacher Staff Salary Survey collection deadline has passed. Announced Tuition collections will be opened soon. The deadline is January 15. Preliminary Budget collection will open up in early January. A vendor has not been selected for the statewide data management program. They expect a second demo to be held so that further information can be obtained. There are still three vendors being considered. They are hoping to select a vendor before Christmas so the state can go through its independent review process. Emily stated that the Grantium transition training will likely happen in the spring. Service Plan reviews should be completed by the end of next week. Matthew Bradstreet will be replacing Nicole Tousignant. There was a report by DMG regarding service delivery. That will be coupled with a Special Education Finance report due by the end of next week to the legislature. This will likely be a topic of conversation at the legislature. The report suggested shifting to a census block grant model rather than a straight reimbursement. If you have not heard from Cassandra Ryan on Fiscal Monitoring, you have not been selected to be monitored this year. There are 12 SU/SDs that have been selected.

VSBA-Nicole said that roughly 300 people signed up for the Education Summit, and that the Governor does not want to turn people away, so they are trying to determine if there is appropriate space. There are panels being assembled regarding Act 46. In terms of the Health Insurance Commission, there appears to be a consensus that if a health insurance was set at the state level, it should be negotiated rather than set in statute and that there should be standards for fact finders. Jeff stated that much of the focus of the Education Summit will likely be to put the burden of cost containment on K-12. He suggested approaching the summit with a cogent message, and to not expect to solve the issues that face us very

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quickly. Nicole stated that the state has predicted an overall education spending increase of about 3.5% across the state. This has factored in to the estimate of a 9 cent tax increase. An important marker at the local level is the 2.5% increase in education spending per equalized pupil requested by the governor.

Cost Containment Committee

Brenda said that the committee would like to present a paper for VASBO's consideration in January. Suggestions include the following: eliminate carve outs to new legislation, examine statewide bargaining for health insurance, examining special education funding, a single general statewide accounting system, centralizing information technology functions, outsourcing of non-core services, and tuition to out-of-state private schools for 7-12 choice. Nathan said that the feedback from legislature representatives was mixed. Specifically, the feedback regarding outsourcing of non-core services was not well received, while examining special education funding. Peter stated that his suggestion was to move to a 25% employee contribution to health care over 10 years. He noted that as finance professionals, we should be aggressive about cost controls. Jeff suggested that the committee not alter their suggestions before presenting them to the legislature during legislative session. Rick and Steve agreed. State-Placed Students was also a suggested area of examination. Brian stated that he feels statewide out-sourcing for areas like food service could accomplish significant efficiencies. Teaching licensing restrictions were also discussed. Reducing the number of supervisory unions over a period of time at the highest level was brought up. Frank brought up the Affordable Care Act and how it could interact with a 25% employee health care contribution.

FLSA Update

Brenda reviewed the FLSA update and a document that helps to determine is an employee is exempt or non-exempt.

Fact Sheet 17N for US DOL – John read this, which states that nurses generally are considered learned professionals if they hold an RN license.

Brenda shared that Pietro recommended that contracts state whether an employee is exempt or not, and under what provision.

Adjournment

Rebecca made a motion to adjourn. Kathy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 P.M.

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12-8-17

STEVE HIER

SPRINGFIELD

Robin Pembroke	OSSU
LORI BISEAU	WCSU
Cheryl Hankner	TRSU
Laura Nassau	CVSD
GRACE MANITTE	CSSU
Rob GESS	GISU
April Torhelle	NCSU
Randy Moxon	BVSU
BOB FAHEY	(ESC)
Brittany Gilman	PCSU
Edel Spee Cole	WNESU
Heather Wright	CCSU
Amadee Denton	So Burlington
Kathleen Barron	EWSU
BRIAN DONAHUE	EWSU
Ashley Barnhart	WRVU
Martha Liguori	MRUSD
Richard Schuman	Windsor Central
Grant Geisler	Montpelier
Josh Quinn	ACSD
Lisa Renaud	Barre
Gene Wilkinson	HCSU
Brenda Fleming	RNESU
Howard Mansfield	ANESU
Rick Pembroke	OSSU
Tisha Hartman	ONSU

Don Johnson
And London

Milton Town SD
LSSU

Frank Parker

WSESU 48

Melanie Elliot

OESU

Cheryl Scarzello

ARSU

Margaret D'Arzo

FNESU

JOHN Aubin

South Burlington

Rebecca Gauld

Windsor SD

Laura McAllister

FNWSU

Jeanne Houlton

FNWSU

Jeanne Jensen

CVSD

Michelle Baker

HVUSD

Jim Vezin

Hartford

Chris Sumner

FWSEI

Daren Atwood

Windham SWSU

William Walker

ACSU

Jerry Blood

BMU

Laurie Keene

WCSU

Pete Amos

Rutland City