

APPROVED

Vermont Superintendents Association  
Board of Trustees' Meeting  
Friday ,April 3, 2020  
Via Zoom  
9:45 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Trustees Present: Tracy Wrend, Jeanné Collins, Zach McLaughlin, Emilie Knisley, David Younce, Peter Burrows, Jacqui Wilson, Kevin Dirth, Bridgid Nease, Elaine Pinkney

Staff present: Jeff Francis, Chelsea Meyers

President Jeanné Collins called the meeting to order at 9:47pm

**Action** : Dave Younce moved and Peter Burrows seconded approval of the consent agenda. **The motion carried.**

Announcement - Election Results - AASA Governing Board - David Younce was elected to the AASA Governing Board for a three year term - this was an election by the membership.

Jay Nichols, Executive Director, VPA joined the Trustees for a discussion of spring sports and coach compensation. VPA sent out a communication today about the rationale for suspending spring sports through April 30. A decision about a limited sports season will be made on April 30.

The VT Athletics Directors met and discussed and took a position in support of paying coaches and represented that position to the VPA's Activities Standards Committee. Letters were by the VPA, Athletic Directors and Activities Standards Committee representing the position and were broadly shared prematurely. Superintendents discussed additional considerations, recommendations, and options with Jay. The matter of coach compensation was also discussed. Superintendents highlighted the many local contexts and Collective Bargaining Agreements that must be considered in decision-making.

David Younce moved and Zach McLaughlin seconded that VSA recommends that VPA make a final decision on a spring sports season by 4/30. Superintendents recommend that if a season does occur, coaches will be paid on a prorated basis determined by the length of the season compared to normal length, and if there is no season, coaches will not be paid. This motion was withdrawn by Dave and Zach.

**Action :** David Younce moved and Zach McLaughlin seconded that VSA Trustees agree that VPA should make its final decision about whether or not there is a sports season by April 30. **The motion carried.**

**Action:** David Younce moved and Peter Burrows seconded that the VSA Trustees recommend that spring season coaches be paid on a prorated basis according to the length of the season, if there is a season, unless otherwise dictated by a CBA. **The motion carried by a vote of 7-1.**

Jeff will send, on behalf of the Trustees a copy of the letter, a notification that Trustees considered the matter and took the two actions indicated immediately above, to all superintendents. Jay will be notified concurrently and is encouraged to communicate to his constituencies.

The Executive Director's Report was provided by Jeff Francis:

- a. COVID-19 Response, including general observations, Regional Groups, the Legal Group w/VSBIT, and the Continuity of Learning Response.
- b. Preliminary Report on VSA Finances in Light of COVID-19 Impacts are under review and suggest a good financial position and no need to dip into reserves prior to mid-May. More information will be provided in May.
- c. Legislative Report includes that the current status of pending legislation is unknown, and the state of the education fund is dire and stark, and collection of revenue for approved FY21 budgets is unknown and very uncertain beyond FY21.
- d. Superintendent of the Year Deadline was postponed through the last Friday in April, or April 24. Plans for honoring the recipient are TBD. **(Thursday, April 30)**
- e. Superintendent Transitions document was shared.
- f. Other topics were discussed.

COVID-19 response: What information should VSA be collecting re: COVID-19 Response by Districts? For example, childcare provision; internet connectivity; lessons-learned; vmers. What now? What afterward? VSA's possible response(S)? Can we review lessons learned from the 2008 recession and ARRA funds?

Chelsea and Jeff presented a Professional Development and Communications Report. Chelsea and Kristi have a plan for communicating cancellations. Content from the spring conference will be moved to a fall opportunity. During the COVID-19 response, Trustees felt non-COVID-19 PD will be low attendance. We suggested keeping the times, using for COVID-19 response related subjects and canceling as needed.

Secretary Dan French joined the Trustees and sought feedback on several items. On April vacation (followed established regional calendars, teachers need a break, no public health issues with a break, save days for the end in June when we may be able to do more) Dan will likely communicate early next week. We discussed considerations

for continued compensation for employees. There is an estimated \$90M shortfall in the ed fund. Strategy for use of federal funds is being developed.

We discussed budget votes where budgets haven't voted yet or had rejected budgets.

Trustees Updates and Regional Reports were shared. CVSA is meeting daily and working together supportively and coordinating decision-making regionally. Winooski Valley has a daily call-in which people attend as they are able; content is mainly sharing. The Northeast meets 3 times per week to support understanding of guidance and problem-solving. The Southwest meets daily and is trying to respond consistently. The Southeast was meeting daily and now every other day; they are working informally and are focused on colleague support. When students move, some regions are working out arrangements for continuity in former schools where they have relationships.

We reviewed the current state of school-sponsored childcare.

The meeting adjourned at 12:54pm.