

VSBA Around Vermont

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Workshops

The VSBA worked with the **Springfield** school board and administrators as they focused on goal setting around school and community communications and student achievement.

I facilitated a meeting with the **Kindle Farm** board and administrators as they continue to work through leadership challenges in that approved independent school district. Kindle Farm provides hands-on, farm-based education services for students with learning challenges.

Strategic Planning

I met with the **Caledonia Central Supervisory Union** board to continue preparations for strategic planning processes in **Walden, Danville, and Barnet**. We have developed an aggressive schedule to plan large-scale community forums in each of the three towns this November.

The VSBA is beginning conversations with **Georgia Elementary School** leaders about facilitating a similar planning forum in their town this January.

School Kick-Off Event

I presented a two-hour keynote on school board and educator roles and responsibilities, and visioning for the future for the **Waits River Elementary School**. All teachers, staff, administrators, and the school board were in attendance. I am working with the Waits River board on a facilities upgrade study committee.

Technical Assistance for Boards that Govern AYP Compliance Districts

One of our goals this year is to provide information and resources for districts that are identified as in need of assistance under No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) compliance regulations. The plan is for VSBA staff to meet periodically with Department of Education AYP consultants to align school leader resources with VSBA training materials. The priority is to work with the eleven school boards that govern school districts that have been identified for AYP reorganization.

VSBA Governance Studies

We are wrapping up the **Hartland/Hartford** phase I governance study that is exploring the benefits and challenges to both districts if Hartland discontinues high school choice and creates either a union district or a joint contract school with Hartford.

The VSBA continues to work with **Whitingham** and **Wilmington** (Twin Valley Joint Contract School) as they focus on a facilities bond vote in March 2009.

The VSBA is working with Tom O'Brien, Addison Northwest superintendent and governance consultant, on the **Pittsfield** governance study committee. This study explores the financial and

school quality benefits and challenges to Pittsfield if this district, which currently does not operate a school, were to discontinue school choice and create a governance relationship with another district in the region.

Policy Governance

Laura Soares continues to facilitate a Policy Governance implementation process with the **Hartford School District** and is working with Robin Scheu to do the same for the entire **Orange Southwest Supervisory Union**. Laura presented the Policy Governance concept to the **Essex Jct. Prudential Board**.

Val Gardner has contracted through the VSBA to facilitate implementation of Policy Governance for the **Essex Town School Board**.

Laura Soares and Val Gardner facilitated a superintendents' networking meeting at the VSBA office in mid-August. We will host another networking session for districts that have or are implementing Policy Governance at the annual conference on October 30-31.

Bonita Bedard, Starksboro board chair, facilitated a Policy Governance information session for the **Lakeview Union Elementary Board** (Greensboro and Stannard) and superintendent in August. Bonita's district was one of the four initial Policy Governance pilot districts.

Superintendent Searches

I continue to work with the **Washington Northeast Supervisory Union** as they consider governance options related to their upcoming superintendent search process.

The VSBA and the Vermont Superintendents Association will soon announce an "**Aspiring Superintendent**" series of events to encourage current school leaders to become qualified candidates and apply for future superintendent job openings.