

# Welcome to School Board Service

Tuesday March 21, 2017

# Introductions

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- VSBA Staff

Harry Frank, Director of Education Services

Kerri Lamb, Director of Operations

\*Technical difficulties: 802-223-3580 / 800-244-8722

# Logistics

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- Your questions and comments are welcome throughout the webinar
  - Question box
- Please complete the evaluation at the close of the presentation
- We will follow up by e-mail with summary information, PowerPoint slides and other resources
- The webinar will be archived on VSBA YouTube Channel
  - VSBA website

# Agenda

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- The Role of the School Board
- The Essential Work of Vermont School Boards
- Education Governance in Vermont
- The Context of Our Work
- Your Questions
- Board Development Opportunities
- The VSBA
  - Resources and Supports

# The Role of the School Board

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The school board acts as trustees on behalf of the community to provide strong oversight of public education, assuring:

- high quality education for students
- the public gets good return on its investment
- the system operates effectively and ethically

# The Essential Work of School Boards

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Engage the Community  
& Establish a Vision



Develop a Budget &  
Assure Financial Oversight



Adopt Policy



Monitor Progress



Board & Superintendent  
Partnership



Effective & Ethical  
Operations

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# The Role of the Board Case Study: The Grocery Store

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You have been on the school board for the past 3 months. You are in the grocery store and a person in town with whom you are acquainted comes up to you and begins to complain about her child's teacher. She feels that the teacher is not responsive to her child's needs, but also that she is not attentive to a high-needs child in the classroom. She wants the school board to do something about it.

How do you react? What do you say?

How do you leave it with her?

What do you do next?

\* Post your answers in the question box

# The Role of the Board Case Study: Handling Complaints

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- Listen
- Follow complaint policy and procedures
- Direct through chain of command
- Inform chair and administrator
- Follow up later with complainant, if appropriate
  - Board is the final level of appeal - not first

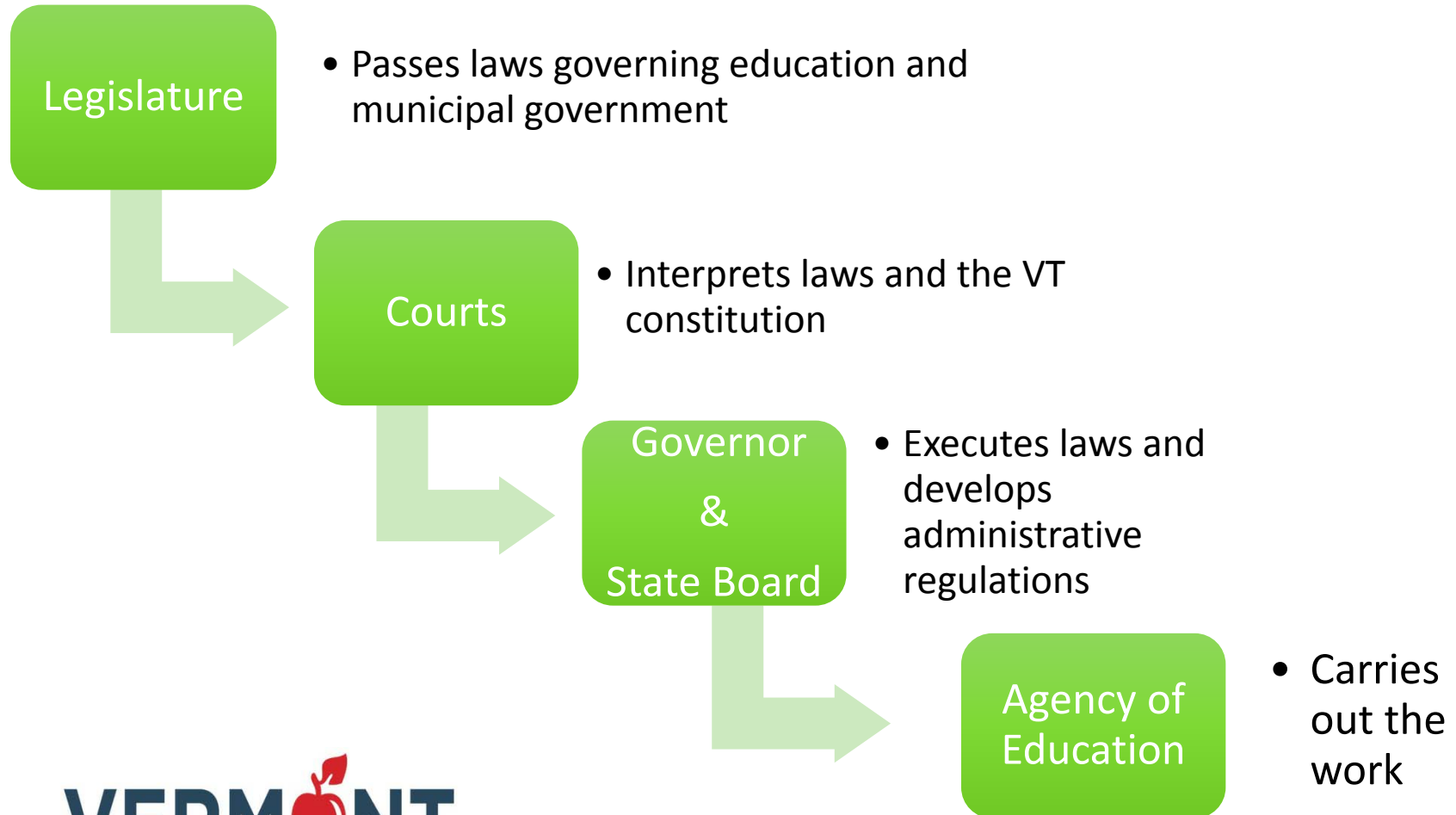
# Recommendations for New Board Members

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- ✓ **Your work is to assure that every student receives a high quality education and every taxpayer receives a good return on investment ... your job is not to “run the school”**
- ✓ **Bring your passion and commitment, keep the big picture in mind and follow good governance practices - policy**
- ✓ **Follow the law, uphold the highest ethical standards and avoid conflicts of interest or the perception of conflicts**
- ✓ **Remember individual board members have no legal authority ... power rests in the board as a body**

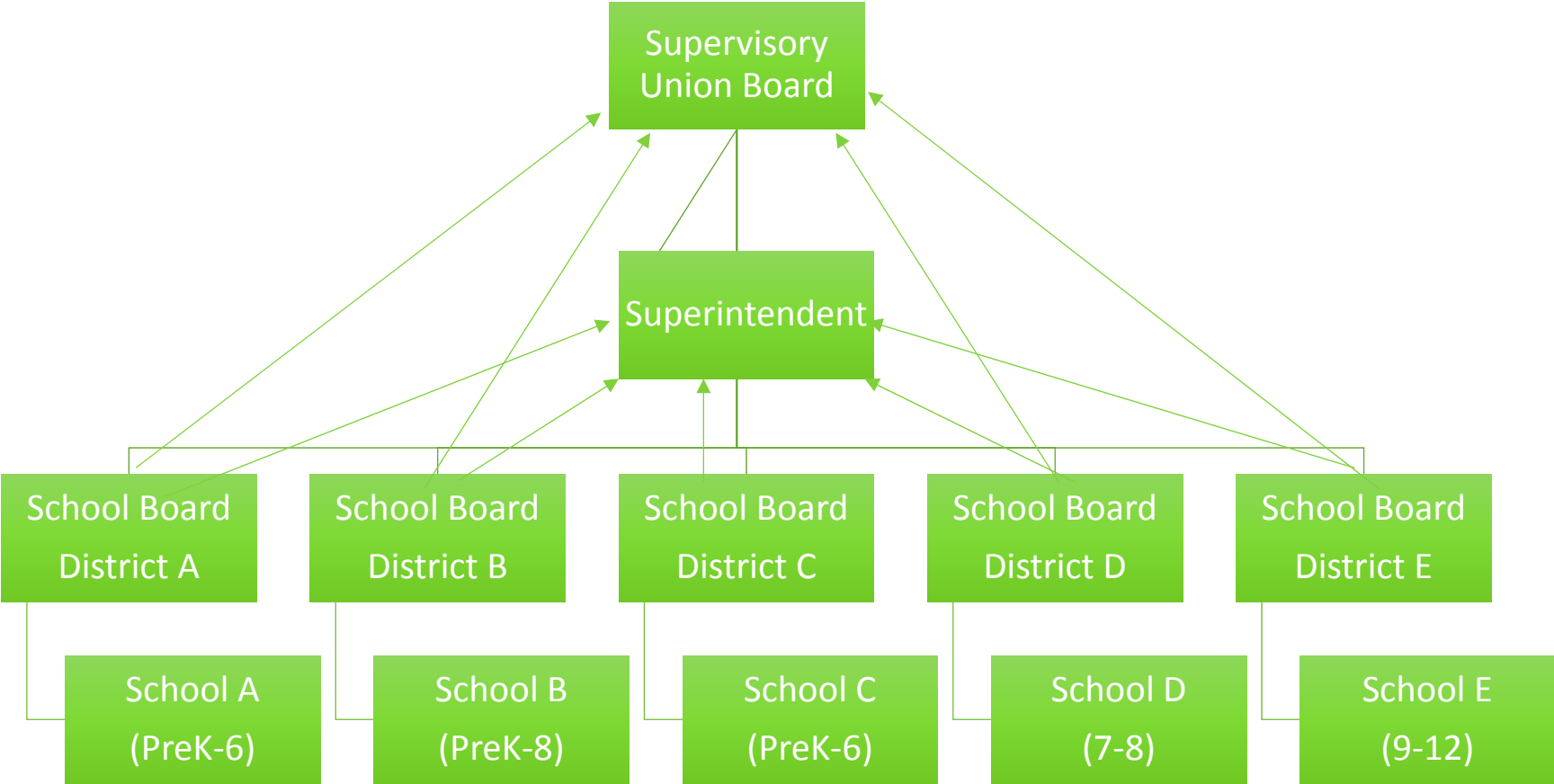
# Education Governance in Vermont

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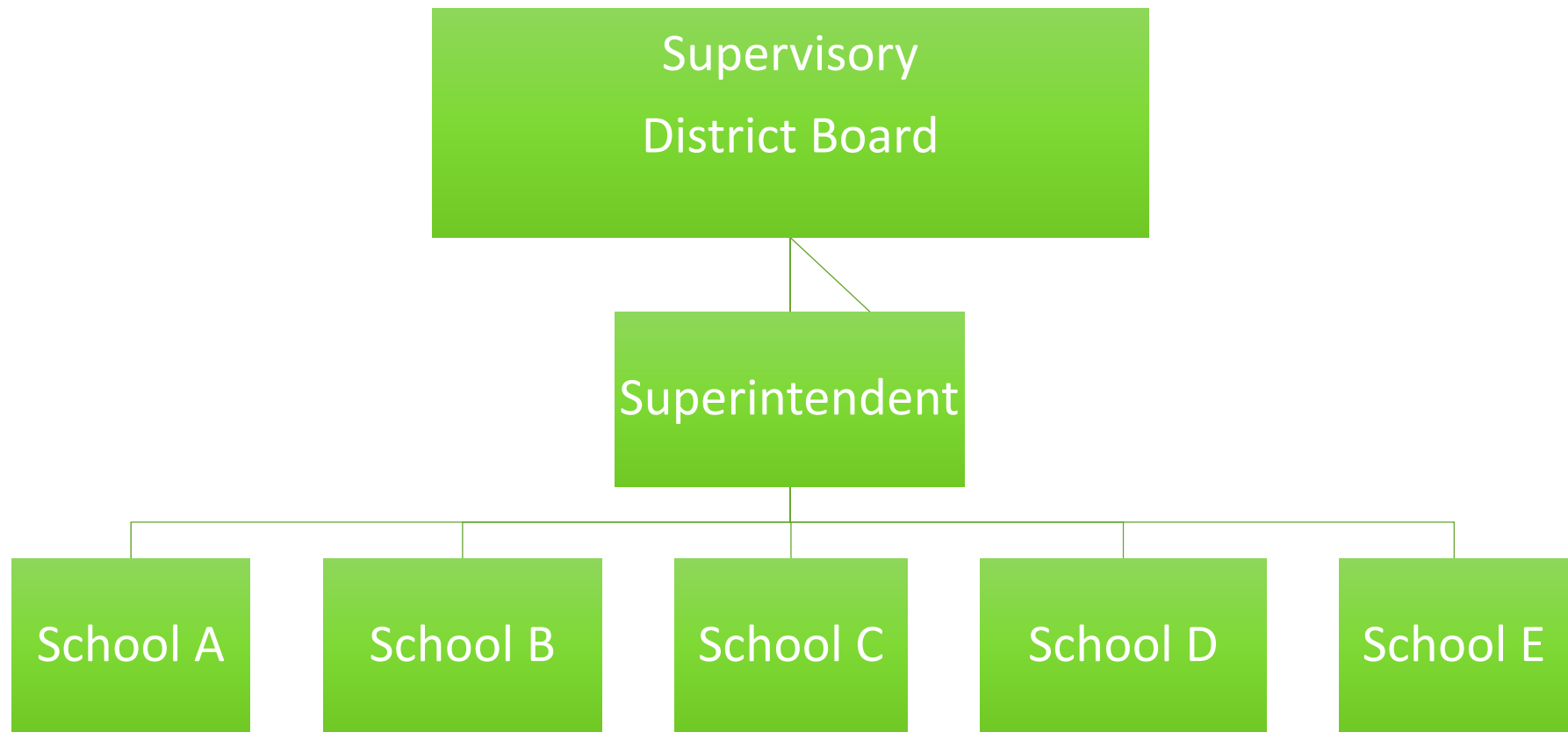


# Education Governance in Vermont



# Education Governance in Vermont

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# Your Questions

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**As you start your work as a member of the school board, what is your most pressing question?**

*Type your question in the Question Box.*

# Board Development Opportunities

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- **The Essential Work of School Boards**
  - Dates in March and April / See next slide
- **Board Chairs and Superintendents Joint Training**
  - Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>, Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT
- **Regional Meetings**
  - Dates in the fall / to be announced
- **Annual Conference**
  - October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT

# The Essential Work of School Boards

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**We urge all board members to attend this orientation to the role and responsibilities of school board members:**

- 3/28/17 - Winooski High School (5:00-8:00PM)
- 4/03/17 - Bennington / Southwest Vermont Regional Technical Center (5:00-8:00PM)
- 4/06/17 - Montpelier / VSBA Conference Room (5:00-8:00PM)
- 4/10/17 - Brattleboro Union High School (5:00-8:00PM)
- 4/25/17 - Rutland High School (5:00-8:00PM)
- 4/27/17 - Lyndon Town Elementary School (5:00-8:00PM)
  
- 5/23/17 - Webinar (6:00-7:30PM)

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**The VSBA exists to achieve Vermont's vision for public education by supporting all school boards to serve as effective trustees for education on behalf of their communities and by providing a strong collective voice toward enhancing the cause of public education in Vermont.**

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# The VSBA serves as the collective voice for school boards

- Work with the Agency of Education, State Board of Education and the General Assembly to inform education policy decisions
- Provide information to our members about important public policy deliberations
  - Education Legislative Report
  - Legislative Alerts

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## The VSBA supports boards to do their work well

- Phone and Email Consultation
- Ongoing Trainings and Annual Conference
- Meeting Planning and Facilitation
- Regular Updates and Member-to-Member Exchange
- Publications
- Consultation Services
- Website



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- Thank you for participating in tonight's webinar
  - Please complete the on-line evaluation

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