

**To: School Board Leaders and Superintendents**  
**From: Rick Scott, Member, UD 3 - Bridport & ACSU Chair**  
**Date: August 25, 2016**  
**Re: VEHI By-Law Change Update**

**Phase I: Petition Signatures**

- Earlier this week I submitted to Laura Soares over one hundred petition signatures seeking VSBA representation on the VEHI Board of Directors. I expect additional signatures will be sent to Ms. Soares in the coming days. Thank you for your efforts in helping us to exceed the 25 signature minimum threshold, especially over the summer months. Now we must plan for Phase II and Phase III.

**Phase II: Proxy Designation**

- In early September, VEHI will mail each Superintendent materials for the October 21, 2016 VEHI Annual Meeting, where the By-law change will come up for a vote of the membership.
- Included in these materials from VEHI will be the **Exhibit B, VEHI Proxy or Certificate of Authority** form, where each member district designates who has authority to vote on its behalf at the Annual Meeting. **This form must be completed and submitted to VEHI ahead of the vote** – preferably prior to October 21<sup>st</sup>, although the forms can be brought to the meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Samples of the VEHI Proxy or Certificate of Authority form are already on the VEHI website at <http://www.vehi.org/board/annual-report-and-meeting-packet/>. Proxies need not come from your school district, but may be anyone the district authorizes.
- At your Board's September or early October meeting, your agenda should include an item to designate the individual authorized to vote on the district's behalf at the VEHI Annual Meeting, allowing the district to complete Exhibit B above. **Note: I strongly recommend that you select option (a) on the form and identify an individual. Do not select option (b), which gives your vote(s) to the VEHI Board.** Instead, identify the individual, whether a Board member, the Superintendent, or other person who will definitely be in attendance at the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting at Lake Morey, and will vote in support of the By-law change.
- Each VEHI member district gets to cast one vote if it participates in the VEHI health program (BC/BS/VT), and one vote if the district also participates in the VEHI dental program (Delta Dental).

**Phase III: The Annual Meeting Vote**

- It is essential that the person given proxy designation by the Board on the Exhibit B form be able to attend the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in order to cast the district's votes on the By-law change and any other motions put on the floor that day.
- It would also make sense to bring a copy of the Exhibit B VEHI Proxy or Certificate of Authority form to the Annual Meeting to avoid any last minute controversy.
- As current members of the VEHI Board, VT-NEA President Martha Allen and Executive Director Joel Cook will be in attendance at the meeting and will certainly speak passionately in opposition to the By-law change. Additional opposition may also come from school districts around the state.
- Please insure that either the authorized signer or the person given proxy designation will be present and committed to vote in favor of the By-law change.

**Important Final Note:** Even if you were unable to sign the petition supporting this change over the summer, please seek support for this important By-law change from your Board in the weeks ahead, and send an authorized representative to vote "yes" on October 21<sup>st</sup> at Lake Morey. The VSBA should have the same formal standing and voting rights as VT-NEA on the VEHI Board of Directors.