

Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT)
Board of Director's Teleconference Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2020

Present: Bob Giroux, Michael Bailey, Brenda Fleming, Steve Hier & Michael Clark.

Staff: Laura Soares, President and Jonathan Steiner, Incoming VSBIT President

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m., by Chair Bob Giroux.

Review and Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Public Comment: None

Approve Minutes of May 28, 2020 Board Meetings

Michael Clark made a motion, seconded by Steve Hier, to approve the minutes of May 28, 2020. The minutes were approved as written.

Update on COVID-19

Jon Steiner provided updates:

- a. Unemployment Program** – In mid-March UC benefits were increased by \$600, eligibility was expanded and the collection period lengthened. The DOL was overwhelmed and paid 2100 VSBIT claims without notice to districts. Although VSBIT is not liable for the increased benefits, in July VSBIT was billed over \$1.7 million for the quarter, exceeding the largest amount for a full year in the history of the program. The DOL stopped communicating with VSBIT and Equifax. VSBIT hired an attorney and paid the DOL under protest. VSBIT will contest claims as justified and expects a return of its overpayment.
- b. Multi-Line** – There have been no COVID related claims. Multiline has worked with members on issues such as foggers, outdoor classrooms and HR issues.
- c. Operations** – VSBIT staff has continued to work remotely and meet expectations. The building will reopen in mid-September for groups of 5 or less, following all protocols.

- d. **Statewide Role** – VSBIT has continued to be a leader and has participated in the DOE task force weekly calls, created an HR guidance document, among others, on COVID issues and worked with VSBA, VSA, and VPA to coordinate responses.

2020 Annual Membership Meeting (to be held remotely)

- a. Laura explained normally the VSBIT Annual Meeting is held in conjunction with the Annual Meetings of VSA and VSBA for convenience of the members. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the VSA and VSBA will not be having these meetings in person this year. Since the VSBIT Board is meeting on October 22, 2020, Laura suggested holding the Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Board Meeting.

Brenda Fleming made the motion, seconded by Michael Clark to set the date and time of the Annual Meeting on October 22, 2020 at 3:30 p.m., and close the membership books as of the end of business October 9, 2020. This meeting will be held remotely. The Board will hold a regular business meeting after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

- b. **Update from the Nominating Committee (Mike, Michael and Laura)** – The nominating committee will bring forth Brenda Fleming to serve another three-year term in the School Business Official seat and Steve Hier to serve another two-year term in the At-Large seat.
- c. **Annual Report** – Bob Giroux will speak with Laura and Jon to complete the annual report.

Transition Update from the President and Incoming President

Laura discussed the progress of the transition and how she is immersing Jon in all aspects of the organization. She feels that the transition is ahead of schedule and Jon is a good fit for the organization in experience and personality. Jon discussed how Laura has been providing him with historical information, involving him in day-to-day decision making and giving him control of future projects. He discussed his work with VSBA, VSA and VPA and mentioned how he is meeting staff and is impressed with their abilities and dedication to the mission.

Laura asked the Board if there was anything specific they wanted to see during the transition and it was suggested that this be an agenda item in October.

Review Annual Conflict of Interest Statements from Directors and Officers

The Board discussed the conflict of interest statements and there were no concerns.

Review 2020 Board Evaluation Survey Results – Located in Dropbox

The Board reviewed and discussed the results of the self-evaluation survey, which showed no concerns. Suggestions were made to clarify and amplify certain questions for next year.

New Business

Laura updated the Board on COVID's effect on VEHI.

At 4:39 p.m. Michael Clarke made a motion, seconded by Brenda Fleming, to enter Executive Session to discuss a contract with Laura Soares and Jon Steiner present. The motion passed. At 4:55 p.m. the Board came out of Executive Session and no actions were taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Laura Soares

Next Meeting: October 22, 2020