



September 1, 2021
for immediate release:

State Ethics Commission Executive Director to Step Down - New Member Joins Ethics Commission

The Vermont Ethics Commission announced today that its Executive Director, Larry Novins, is stepping down at the end of the month. In his letter of resignation to the Commission, Novins said he was sad to leave for personal reasons but proud of the accomplishments of the Commission during his tenure. Novins joined the Commission in December 2018. He spearheaded the Ethics Commission's work helping it plan for the future.

Realizing that the Code of Ethics adopted by the Commission in 2018 was neither binding nor enforceable, Novins oversaw the drafting of a code of ethics that could become law, as almost every other state has done. Novins described a code of ethics as a "necessary first step toward governmental accountability." In February of 2020, all Vermont state-wide elected officers sent the Legislature their recommendation that Vermont establish a code of ethics for all three branches of government. A bill to do just that was introduced last winter. Novins added, "I am proud to have been on the ground floor of this effort. I told the Commissioners that I continue to support the Ethics Commission's efforts and am willing to assist if I can." The Ethics Commission members at their September 1 meeting stated, "We have been very lucky to have Larry as our Executive Director. His legal and organizational skills were invaluable. On a personal level, Larry was a joy to work with. We will miss him greatly."

The Ethics Commission's search for Novins' successor has begun. Information about the position is available on the Ethics Commission website and the State of Vermont DHR website.

New Commission Member. Susan "Ze" Anderson-Brown was appointed to the Ethics Commission in August. Ms. Anderson-Brown brings a wealth of human resources experience and public service to the Commission. She is a native Vermonter and is the Executive Director of Human Resources for the Burlington School District in Burlington, Vermont. She is actively involved in the American Association of School Personnel Administrators (AASPA) and is serving her third term as Chair of AASPA's Legislative and Governmental Committee and served two terms on AASPA's Membership Committee. In addition, she is a founding member of Vermont School Human Resources Professionals, Inc. (VSHRP), the Vermont affiliate of AASPA. She has served on the board of VSHRP since its inception in 2016, including 2 terms as the President. Said acting Ethics Commission Chair Paul Erlbaum, "Ze is a welcome addition to the Ethics Commission. We are excited to have her on the team."

For additional information contact the Vermont State Ethics Commission at ethicscommission@vermont.gov (802) 828-7187