



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union Serves as “Lt. Governor for a Day” as Part of Virtual Program in the Vermont State House

Montpelier, Vt. — On Wednesday, March 10, 2021 Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union third and fourth grade students visited the Vermont State House virtually as part of Lt. Governor Gray’s “Lt. Governor for a Day” program.

Launched in February, the bi-weekly virtual program aims to connect Vermont classrooms and students with State government, the legislative process, and the inner-working of the Lt. Governor’s Office and State House.

Participating via Zoom, Supervisory Union teacher Ms. Emma Holcomb and third and fourth grade students from Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburg, Montgomery Richford and Sheldon elementary schools met with Lt. Governor Gray.

Emma Holcomb stated, “I am very pleased to be able to help connect students to their state government and vice versa. Civics are very important to me personally and as an educator, being able to share that passion with others is great to experience. Allowing students to share their ideas and see where the future of Vermont is going gives me hope.”

As part of the program, students met with Lt. Governor Gray in advance of the 1:00pm convening of the Vermont Senate, over which the Lt. Governor presides from the Senate Chamber. Due to the pandemic, Senators join virtually. Lt. Governor Gray recognized the students during the proceedings while they watched the live session via YouTube.

“These students are our future and I’m deeply inspired by their interest in current events and the inner-workings of state government,” Gray said. “I hope these students feel that our Vermont State House is as much theirs as it is elected officials and advocates. I also hope that as our future leaders, they feel government is accessible and participation is possible.”

“When asked what they would do as Lt. Governor, I was deeply moved to learn of their priorities of reliable rural broadband and dismantling systemic racism, among other urgent issues facing our communities” Gray added.

Jacob, a student from Northeast Supervisory Union Virtual Academy stated, that he would like, “to make more electric car charging stations...and better internet for people in more rural places.”

Kayah, another Northeast Supervisory Union Virtual Academy student, said that, “everyone should have to know about Black Lives Matter.”

Mason, also of Northeast Supervisory Union Virtual Academy, expressed the need for, “better mental health help for kids.”

Senators Cory Parent and Randy Brock, who represents Franklin District, were invited to attend, and were able to take questions from the students, as well.

Senator Cory Parent stated, “I'm thankful that Lt. Governor Gray has found new innovative ways to keep the tradition of having an open State House for Vermonters of all ages.”

Senator Randy Brock added, “It’s never too early for kids to learn how government works. They seemed to have fun and so did I.”

The “Lt. Governor for a Day” program will continue every other Wednesday from roughly 12:00 – 2:00pm throughout the 2021 Legislative session. More information can be found here:

<https://ltgov.vermont.gov/ltgovernorforaday>

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