



State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State
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Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Secretary of State
S. Lauren Hibbert, Deputy Secretary

July 18, 2024

JUL 25 2024

Mr. Jim Volz, Chair
Plainfield Selectboard
149 Main Street/P.O. Box 217
Plainfield, VT 05667

Dear Mr. Volz:

We have received your letter regarding negotiations for the sale of Goddard College by its Board of Trustees.

I can certainly understand why the town of Plainfield is concerned about any planned sale. I know other area towns, including my town of East Montpelier, are also paying close attention.

While the Secretary of State's office maintains Vermont's registry for Vermont's business entities, we have no oversight of how these entities are governed and consequently limited familiarity with their broader operations or legal obligations.

I see your Board has also directed its letter to the Vermont Attorney General's office. I understand that Goddard College gave notice to the Attorney General, citing 11B V.S.A. § 12.02(g), of the College's closure and planned transfer of its assets in advance of its dissolution. I expect that the Attorney General's office is the appropriate State resource here.

For students, parents, and faculty, it appears that the Vermont Agency of Education can provide information about complaint resolution and student records:

<https://education.vermont.gov/vermont-schools/school-operations/post-secondary-programs>.

Otherwise, I recommend that your Board consult with your town's attorney about any available legal recourse for your town.

Best regards,

Jenny Prosser
General Counsel & Director of Municipal Assistance
Vermont Secretary of State's Office