

APPROVED

CABOT/DANVILLE/TWINFIELD ACT 46 STUDY COMMITTEE (706)

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Ian Covey, Lauren Cleary, Sarah Watkins, Jack Hoffman, Tim Sanborn, Sandy Hauserman, Bruce Melendy **Consultant:** Peter Clarke **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent WNESU; Mat Forest, Superintendent CCSU **Absent:** Ry Hoffman, Dave Towle, Scott Harris

Call to Order: Chris Tormey, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Approve October 12, 2016 minutes: Chris suggested a change from “Chris reflected” to “The group agreed that it is a reasonable assumption that” it will take some combining of students that are now in three separate schools to reach at least some of the goals.

Lauren Cleary moved and Sarah Watkins seconded approval of the minutes as amended. The Committee approved the minutes as amended.

Public Comment:

Jim Barlow, a resident of the Twinfield Union District and parent of 3 students, expressed concern that some families are leaving the area in order for their children to have more educational opportunities at larger schools nearby. One of his sons attended another nearby school using CHOICE in his junior and senior years. He asked the Committee to focus on increasing opportunities, peer groups and diversity through economies of scale and combining resources among these three schools.

Discussion:

- Jack Hoffman asked that the administrators seek greater detail in the billing provided by the VSBA for Consulting services. Peter Clarke, consultant for this Committee, confirmed that he provides such detail to the VSBA, so that it could be included. CCSU is the fiscal agent for the grant and Superintendent, Mat Forest will make the request to the VSBA.
- The Committee discussed different versions of combining and/or splitting the high school students of the three schools. There was consensus that there should be choice among the schools in order to provide more options for students. The Committee discussed a number of variations. The objective is to keep vibrant programs in the schools, utilizing the resources of the three communities.
- The Committee discussed the idea of two magnet schools, one at Twinfield focused on place based/project based work and one at Danville with International Baccalaureate as a specialty area. Students at all three schools could choose which school to attend and could change schools.

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- Another option discussed was the possibility of having one middle school for grades 6 – 8, combined for Cabot and Twinfield students, perhaps located at Cabot.
- Another idea that was discussed was the concept of one high school with 2 or 3 campuses. That could take many different variations: Math at one campus, arts and humanities at another and science at another. Students could move to attend at different semesters or split time in the day. Teachers could move. This could provide many more options within each discipline and shared professional development among teachers. Another option is to have core courses taught in grades 9 and 10 with specialty focus areas in grades 11 and 12 such as environmental science, arts and humanities or other options.
- Concerns were raised about how co-curricular activities would work for the one school concept. VPA has indicated flexibility, but there would need to be more work to figure out how options could be designed. The cost and time in busing from one school to another was also a concern that will need to be considered in these different options.
- The Committee would like to further discuss variations of this option and the magnet school option. This could lead to the Committee selecting promising avenues that could then be brought back to the administration and teachers at the schools to discuss how these could be operationalized.
- Jack asked that there also be a discussion of how the Act 77 work of personalized learning (PLP's) and proficiency based learning and graduation would fit into the options being considered.
- At the meeting on October 26, the Committee will continue to discuss variations and narrow the options for further development at future meetings.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Thomas, Notetaker