UNAPPROVED MINUTES

DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JOINT MEETING WITH CABOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Danville School Library

Attendees:
Cabot School Board: Board Chair Chris Tormey, Jackie Folsom, Lisa Olsen
Cabot School: Principal David Schilling
WCSU: Superintendent Nancy Thomas
Danville School Board: Board Chair Sandy Hauserman, Peter McAlenney, Walter Smith, David Towle
Danville School: Principal Kerin Hoffman, Dean of Students Patrick Pennock, Student Representative Matthew Hauserman
CCSU: Superintendent Mathew Forest; Consultant Peter Clarke
Members of the public

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Sandy Hauserman for Danville and Chair Chris Tormey for Cabot.

2. Continued Act 46 Discussion

There was discussion of reasons students may not stay at Danville or Cabot after middle school graduation. Size of the school may be a factor. Danville has students leave to the private high schools due to the curriculum at those schools.

There was discussion regarding the sports available at Danville. Students do have the opportunity to go to Lyndon Institute and St Johnsbury Academy for sports that Danville does not offer.

There was discussion on the strengths and opportunities at each school.

There was a discussion on the timeline for merger. For a conventional merger and incentive grants were taken advantage of, a vote of the districts to merge would have to be done by July 1, 2017. This should be plenty of time to decide a direction and get community involvement. You can go up to two years to decide. If by 2018 nothing has been done, a report has to be done to the State to explain why a district wants to remain as it is and what the benefits are to students.

Peter Clarke went through an exercise which assumed the new district had been developed. There was discussion on what staffing would look like for two campuses and pre-K to 12 grade students, what issues might be faced, and what cost savings might be seen.

There was discussion about what different configurations might work for the merged district.
-one elementary school and one middle/high school
-one pre-K to 12 school (a new building)
-pre-K to 12 magnet schools (music/arts magnet, IB or pathways magnet)
-two pre-K to 8 schools and one high school
-expanded preschool, in-house special education facility and K-3 at one campus and 4-12 at the other campus

-discussion on Cabot/Twinfield and Cabot/Danville elementary versus high school savings
-close Cabot and have one pre-K to 12 school
-pre-K to 5 and 9 to 12 in Danville and 6 to 8 in Cabot
-Twinfield/Cabot merger at pre-K to 8 and Cabot/Danville merger for 9 to12
-pre-K to 10 in one and smaller facility for expanded 11 to 12 grade program in another

Options eliminated for various reasons:
-close Cabot and have one pre-K to 12 school
-all the proposals which merge elementary grades

Options left:
-two pre-K to 12 schools and magnet schools
-two pre-K to 8 or pre-K to 6 schools and one high school

The focus for further discussions will be on the two options left. Peter Clarke will try to do some brainstorming to see what configurations might be if the three schools combined.

Jackie Folsom requested student representatives attend future discussions.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Cabot School. Items of discussion will be a larger organizational piece and further brainstorming on the two remaining options. Student representatives will be asked to attend. Peter Clarke asked if the administrative teams for Cabot and Danville, including curriculum coordinators, superintendents, principals, and some teachers, to have a brainstorming discussion on the two options to bring to the full group.

3. Adjournment
A motion was made by David Towle and seconded by Chris Tormey to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Hinman, Meeting Recorder