

**WASHINGTON NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
CABOT SCHOOL/TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL/DANVILLE SCHOOL
ACT 46 STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, April 11, 2016, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Cabot School Library**

PRESENT:

Cabot: Chris Tormey, Board Chair;

Board Members: Lisa Olson, Jackie Folsom, Sharon O'Connor;

Student Representatives: Alisha Celley, Megan Walker, Isabella McCallum;

Administrators: David Schilling, Principal

Twinfield: Patrick Healy, Board Chair;

Board Members: Scott Harris, Jack Hoffman, Chandra Miller, Jill Wilson,

Administrators: Mark Mooney, Principal

Danville: Sandy Hauserman, Board Chair;

Board Members: Peter McAlenney, David Towle, Walter Smith,

Student Representative: ____ Hauserman

Administrators: Kerin Graham Hoffman, Principal; Patrick Pennock, Dean of Students; Andrea Wasson, Special Service Director

WNESU: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Director

Consultant: Peter Clarke

Call to order: Chris Tormey, Cabot School Board Chair, Patrick Healy, Twinfield Union School Board Chair, Sandy Hauserman, Danville School Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Board Discussion:

a. Educational Challenges and Opportunities :

- **Challenges for Twinfield and Cabot include:** Substantial facility issues at Cabot, some improvements needed at Twinfield, declining enrollment (extracurricular, class sizes, per pupil costs, financial challenges), breadth of offerings, Collective Bargaining Agreement/salary scale different between the two schools, distance between the schools: transportation for students going back and forth, time on buses, money and efficiency, different schedules, sharing staff, perceived and/or real differences in student cultures and athletics, communities would have a hard time, feeling attached to their community school, maintaining and expanding curricular opportunities, poverty and associated issues, how to increase personalization with declining resources, professional development support – time, community culture/ buy-in to shared responsibility, community participation change, Town Meeting vs Australian Ballot, current debt and future facility liabilities, representation on the Board/ trust that each board member is looking out for both schools' interests.

- **Potential Act 46 Challenges for Twinfield and Cabot Include:** loss of the “Hold Harmless” protections (declining enrollments) and loss of Cabot’s Small Schools Grant (\$147K).
- **Danville Challenges Include:** Danville Facilities: roof, some fire/safety, repointing brick, auditorium, declining enrollment, challenge to attract more tuition students from neighboring towns, capacity issue at high school, increasing tuition revenues through program enhancements and partnerships.
- **Shared challenges between Cabot and Danville:** Special Education costs – spikes in need creating a greater economy of scale to serve students; Identity and Culture – enhancing program while maintaining traditions and cultural identity, melding school cultures, in governance or student/program merger, increasing student needs due to poverty; Greater Academic Demands - Act 77: PLP’s, individual learning paths, professional development, equity of opportunity for all students.
- **Strengths at Twinfield:** Renaissance Program, 80 acres and a brook, Eco Program, Intervention Block (WIN), Integrated Curricula grades 7/8, 8th grade Canoe trip, Synapse program in 9/10, Design Tech Program, Pre-K, Elementary 2 year teams, Behavior Analyst, X-day with Cabot, June Term.
- **Strengths at Cabot:** Middle School Leadership Program/Canoe Trip/ DC Trip, Integrated Curricula grades 7/8, 3/4 are project based, town based, community centered, Pre-K, Health Center Collaboration, Guidance Program, June Term. Music Program and Facility, Instructional flexibility in addressing student needs, integrated-co-teaching, experiential/project learning, athletics (but with fewer teams), League of Innovative Schools Connection, Art/Innovative Lab, VSAC Cohorts, AP Programs, Intervention/Individualization, Cabot/Twinfield X Days.
- **Strengths at Danville:** Staff Commitment, Administrative Capacity, In-house Dual Enrollment courses (staff with Masters degrees), Shared Teachers – Middle and High School; capacity to accelerate (e.g. math), Pathways Coordinator – Internships, K-12 MTSS – Data Assessment, Semester Based Block (increases program options), future IB Program, Science/Environmental Program, personalized education-small but not too small, 40 tuition students enrolled in grades 7-12.
- **What is the overall goal:** increase opportunities for students while controlling costs
- **Danville/Cabot/Twinfield Potential High School Options:** What school format will best serve our kids, both now and in the future? Chris shared an informational packet that he put together with potential High School options that highlight the strengths of each school.
 - Premise for High School Change: Our Historic Strengths – Small classes, support for diverse learners, caring, creative teachers have helped our students succeed, involvement in school projects and extracurricular activities has helped our kids develop important life-long skills, strong interest and support from community members. Our Current Challenge – Are our schools as strong as they used to be, as classes have shrunk and programs have been cut? Would a different setup improve them? Could the new setup help to maintain our small-school strengths, while offering a greater range of teachers, students and courses for our kids to learn from?
 - Our Current Setup: Three Separate Schools – High School students enrolled at Danville 109, Cabot 54, and Twinfield 133. Number of teachers in 4, “core” subjects Danville 9.2, Cabot 3.2 and Twinfield 7.6.

- Current Offerings: Science – Core Courses – Danville (Integrated Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics); Cabot (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science .5, Physics .5); Twinfield (Synapse: Integrated Science/Humanities, Chemistry). Possible Electives – Danville (Lake Ecology, Environmental Science, Human Biology .5, Envirothon); Cabot (Marine Biology, AP Biology, AP Environmental Studies); Twinfield (Physics and Astrophysics, Geology and Field Mapping .5, Bioethics/Science through literature).
- Chris demonstrated how combining staff and students for science could free up staff for many more electives or possible savings as an example of how merging three schools could increase opportunities. Issues of creating and maintaining school culture as well as transportation were discussed. Many other options could be explored.

Future Meetings:

- For next steps Peter will meet with each School Board on their regular scheduled meeting nights, then there will be a decision regarding next meeting time.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber