

UNAPPROVED

CABOT/DANVILLE/TWINFIELD Act 46 Study Committee (706)

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 5, 2016

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Ian Covey, Ry Hoffman, Dave Towle, Jack Hoffman, Bruce Melendy, Sarah Watkins, Sandy Hauserman **Consultant/Coordinator:** Peter Clarke **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent WNESU; Kerin Graham Hoffman, Danville Principal; Mark Mooney, Twinfield Principal; David Schilling, Cabot Principal **Absent:** Scott Harris, Dave Towle, Peter McAlenney, Lauren Cleary, Tim Sandborn, Matt Forest

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

Approval of Minutes- November 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes, tabled due to lack of quorum.

Public Comment: None

Discussion:

a. Presentation of high school highlights by school principals

Twinfield (Mark Mooney): Twinfield is working toward personalizing students' education, providing multiple flexible pathways for students as well as proficiency based grading system/graduation requirements. The high school is 1 to 1 with computers and students receive a MacBook for use during the school year. Twinfield has a flexible schedule with varied length blocks. Teachers and administration has Twinfield have worked to establish 28 content proficiency-based graduation requirements. There is also "Habits of Work." rubric used to grade student work. X Day allows students the opportunity to be involved in off-campus learning activities without missing class time. Dual enrollment courses, Renaissance courses, internships, work-study programs and field trips are just a few of the many learning opportunities available to students on X Day. Through the "callback" system teachers can meet one-on-one or with small groups of students to allow needed academic support or enrichment. Class meetings and student groups such as student council, the Green Team or YATST will also meet on X Days. This year there is an extended block for chorus and band to meet. Whole school assemblies and other special events are also planned for X Days.

Danville (Kerin Graham Hoffman): At the High School level Danville currently offers a wide variety of classes including many AP classes. Danville High school has many dual enrollment courses on campus and students receive credits through CCV. Teachers at Danville teach these courses and are adjunct staff for CCV. A Habits of work rubric is used for proficiency based

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grading. This rubric includes 25 proficiencies that consist of both content areas and transferrable skills. LiFT platform is used to create personalized learning plans. In 8th grade and 11th grade students do a presentation of their LiFT Portfolio. As seniors students create and present a senior service learning project. This year long project encompasses service and new learning. Middle school and High School Advisory meets twice per week. Various club activities take place during the day so that students who may have transportation difficulties or play sports are able to participate. Students receive extra help during tutorial time. Danville is working toward implementing an International Baccalaureate Program.

Cabot (David Schilling): David shared information from the Cabot School profile. While Cabot is a small school there are still many opportunities to personalize learning for students which occurs through Project Based Learning. While Cabot's transcript shows most students taking the same courses and teachers guide individual student paths within each course topic. Off-site learning is integral and classes travel frequently to study curriculum topics in the working and natural world. Cabot seniors participate in "Senior X" - a project-based capstone course. Students design a wide array of projects that push them to engage in extensive inquiry and product development. Two Advanced Placement classes in math and science are offered annually. Cabot students may also take advantage of Vermont's statewide dual enrollment option and take 2 college courses free of charge. Access to the regional technical center is another way Cabot School is able to offer multiple pathways to graduation while maintaining our small community school structure. June Term begins after Memorial Day with high school students choosing from a selection of expeditions that may include travel, ethnic activities, dance, visual arts, hiking and many other activities that students or teachers propose. Grades are currently reported as percentages on a 100-point scale though the transition to proficiency-based assessment is underway.

b. Continue Review of Options

After a conversation about the 5 proposed merger options, committee members decided to vote on which merger options to present to community members.

- Sandy Hauserman moved to eliminate options 2, 3 and 4 from the merger options and go to the Danville, Cabot and Twinfield communities with options 1 and 5 for feedback. Ian Covey seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6 to 1 to go out to the communities with 2 options for merger for discussion and feedback.
- The two options summarized are:

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- 1. Continue with Danville and Twinfield High Schools building on their current program strengths and close Cabot High School. Students from all communities could choose which high school to attend. Transportation would be provided at the beginning and end of the day.
 - 2. Continue with Danville and Twinfield High Schools and also hold a Project Based Learning Program at Cabot School that would be available to students from all communities. The program would be a full day program and could be accessed for a semester, a full year or more. The administrators and committee members discussed a focus on performing arts and use of CSPAC and one of the satellite building as desirable, flexible space. This option could also allow for a district wide drama/music co-curricular afterschool program.
- The community discussions will also include the “no” option and what would be required for an “alternative structure” under the law.
 - Community Forum Proposal
 - As committee members prepare to go back to their communities with merger options for discussions and questions, Nancy shared that “Everyday Democracy” has offered to hold a facilitator training for students and community members.
 - The facilitator training would teach students as well as community members how to hold meaningful conversations about Act 46. There will be one training held for all three communities. The hope is to do the training in December or early January and schedule community forums in mid-January with the Committee coming back together in late January with the input from the forums.
 - Website Update
 - The Act 46 website is up and running. Chris Tormey, Chair volunteered to answer questions that are submitted to the website.
 - Set Future Meeting Dates
 - The next Act 46 Study Committee Meeting is scheduled for December 12th at 6:00pm and will be held in the Cabot School Library. At this meeting Peter will share some example articles of agreement and will familiarize the committee with the process of developing the Articles.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber