

April 4, 2019
Session Highlights

Updates Pertinent to Our Work

- Karen and Dan spoke to the Vermont Secretary of Education and learned the following:
 - Their attorneys are willing to provide written clarification of what was discussed. Karen will request this.
 - Canaan can decide to close certain grades and tuition them, offering transportation to one school system to encourage enrollment there. For instance, they could close the middle school and focus on CTE/high school.
 - It is possible to do what is outlined above while simultaneously pursuing an interstate agreement. The process is not difficult – rather, it is complex and laborious but achievable. Taking this approach would allow for deep collaboration among the schools sooner while also piloting its workability.
 - If the interstate agreement is the chosen approach, NEK choice would be governed by a different SAU.
 - Statute protects bargained-for employees from layoffs until the new structure is in place.
 - At this time the Secretary has no funds to assist with this effort until ACT 46 is sorted out.
 - He is very impressed that the community is initiating this.
- Tillotson Fund application is due on April 15th. Sasha Isele, who represents the Fund, said additional needs could be included without impacting the standing of the original request for support. Karen and Bruce are finalizing the application for submission.
- Pittsburg is hosting a public forum at which the community will discuss the future of education of their children.

Reviewing the Options: Modeling and Cost Analysis

- See document titled “CRCC Proposal Comparison”. It outlines considerations, by topic, for strengths and limitations of the options being explored.
- After reviewing the document and offering additions and refinements to it (which Kyle will incorporate into the document), the Committee determined that more information is needed on the following:
 - The governance model that would be adopted for each model and its cost implications.
 - The cost of buildout for both models – for instance, if the high school is located in Colebrook, construction for CTE is needed – either a new building or perhaps the repurposing of the Academy. While the group set a cornerstone agreement that “no new roofs” would be part of this exploration, they are reconsidering.
 - The impact on educators, factoring in contractual obligations, retirements, seniority.
 - Class size and enrollment – using projections for two years from now for all modeling. Also, determine the number of teachers needed based upon these projections.
 - Course and extracurricular offerings – what is concretely possible, factoring in what students informed us matters most to them.
 - The viability of closing Stewartstown and consolidating elementary level grades – class size.
 - Overall financial efficiencies/add-ons for each model.

The work group will continue its work in preparation for our May session.

- At the May meeting, the group will discuss the merits of hosting a community forum to review the two models and seek insights/buy-in before proceeding with further exploration.