

August 1, 2019
Session Notes

Updates Pertinent to Our Work

- We welcomed new Committee Members and acknowledge the departure of others. Skip Covell and Tami Frechette resigned from the Committee – Skip, for health reasons; Tami, for a too full calendar. New members include:
 - Laurent Giroux – Canaan
 - Sandra Cabrera – Columbia
 - David Covill and Lindsay Gray – PittsburgOur contact sheet will be updated to reflect these changes.
- Rivendell and Dresden are willing to host visits so long as they occur after August. Karen asked them for potential dates and representatives from our team will accommodate what works for them, schedule-wise. Kyle offered to serve as team driver to the site visits.
- There is a \$ 2,800 credit remaining from the last Tillotson Fund grant cycle. We can roll this forward for future use. This, combined with the recent \$ 60,000 award, is the existing fund balance.

Team Updates

- Curriculum (see template handout)
 - The team created a template that captures the curriculum offerings, the current number of FTEs by curriculum area in high and middle schools, the projected FTE under consolidation, the number of blocks that could be offered, and the overall budget impact of the changes. The next step is to fill this out, using total average compensation actuals for budget projections.
 - Middle school and high school grade clustering (middle school 5-8 or 6-8) will be determined during this process.
 - Since k-8 teaching certifications are less specific/exacting than the advanced grade certifications, the degree of flexibility about what is taught by whom will vary.
 - Drivers ed is required in Vermont and will be added to the curriculum layout.
 - Co-curriculars will be added.
 - The goal is to have the initial draft of the template completed for our September meeting, during which we will review it. Feedback will then be sought from a wider audience, including students.
- Governance and Financials
 - The Team reviewed its work, to date, focusing most heavily on preparation with the joint commission on August 15th.
 - Black River Designs, a firm that specializes in school building projects, did a preliminary review of the Canaan high school. They are generating a proposal for renovations, etc., and we will receive it in one week. The cost for the initial work is \$ 1,500; it will cost between \$ 10-15,000 to receive a detailed analysis from them of student space ratios, building modification recommendations, and so on.

Grant Funding

- The group decided that available funds will be used to:
 - Pay for session facilitation

- o Work on curriculum
- o Secure a CPA for detailed financial projections and analysis
- o Receive a renovation cost detailed understanding of options
- o Pay legal fees (as needed, after consultation with Sandra)

Other

- Karen will circulate the report generated in 2009 that outlines governance model options for an interstate agreement.

Preparing for August 15th Session with the Join Commission

- Dan Wade will make provisions for the session to be videotaped.
- The session runs from 11:30-3:00 at the library in Canaan.
- Lunch will be served at 11:30.
- Karen and Bruce will represent our group and pose all questions to the Commissioners. All others from this team, and anyone who joins from the wider public, are observers and note takers.
- Kyle will send out a summary document of the questions we would like to pose to the Commissioners. Any additional questions that arise during the session will be provided to Karen and Bruce on index cards so that they can determine if/when to pose them.
- Our desired outcome is to have the Commissioners declare this work as that of an Interstate Committee.