

January 2, 2020
Session Notes
(there was no December 2019 meeting)

Black River Design Canaan Building Evaluation – Rick Burroughs

See separate report and financial analysis documents for detailed information. Presentation highlights:

- The purpose of Black River’s work was to evaluate the two school buildings – understand the deficiencies and do a program overlay.
- A team of engineers visited the schools. Overall, the school conditions are solid, but outdated, especially in terms of systems – heat, ventilation, light, handicap accessibility, sprinklers.
 - The buildings are well built. The high school has good space at the foundation and top floor levels (attic).
 - It is not possible to ascertain proximity to flood plain since Vermont does not have this information.
 - There are some current code violations. Once certain types and magnitude of improvements begin, compliance to current code becomes a broader issue with cost implications and should be considered as such. Vermont has more rigorous standards, overall.
 - An important consideration with program overlay: Whether the buildings will be schedule-driven versus each teacher having a classroom.
 - A first step is to determine use and to clarify what the top priorities include, and why.
 - The elementary school roof was not properly engineered at the time the pitch roof was added on top of the existing flat roof. As a result, structural repairs are needed.
 - It is important to differentiate between “broken” and “in need of repair” and “nice to have”. All things considered, much of what could be done falls into the “in need of repair” – not urgent nor such that it would prevent use of the buildings for consolidation purposes.
 - Connecting the two buildings would be a “nice to have”.
 - All things considered, it is a wise investment to upgrade the existing buildings versus build new ones.

Tillotson Fund Grant Application

The grant application filing deadline is January 16th. The Advisors remain supportive of this exploration and funding to continue to support it is probable. If awarded, the funding would be available beginning in March 2020. \$4,700.00 contribution from each the ENSU and the SAU school budget was included in the proposal. The funds exist to do this.

Master Schedule Exploration

- The administrative collaboration team is working to sort out the potential for students to remain in their schools with teachers traveling to teach classes. This is one approach to sharing instruction. While it will not increase class sizes – a priority – it will reduce the need for teachers, in the long run. The current thinking is to be super- intentional about backfilling any openings that arise through retirement or changing jobs to outside the SAUs and instead, look to share teachers. The work is partly done to analyze the information and identify plausible options.

Reintroducing and Completing the Class Schedule Model

- The Curriculum Sub-Group will complete the Class Schedule model and present it at our February meeting.

Options for Middle School Class Distributions

- Each board member is charged with reviewing the options with their boards prior to our February 6th meeting.
- Brian Laperle and Dan Wade are creating a handout outlining the pros and cons of each model, setting the stage by reminding everyone that the focus is on what is best for students. Brian and Dan will complete this task by Tuesday, January 7th, and circulate the document they create. Each board member is expected to utilize this document when initiating a conversation about future middle school options. They will ask their board members:
 - Which options can you live with?
 - Which is your favorite, and why?
 - Which ones are you unwilling to consider, and why?

All board chairs will bring the results of their discussion to our February 6th session.

Annual Meeting Preparation

- At the February meeting, we will outline a series of talking points about this exploration. These will be used at each community's annual meeting.

Electing the Connecticut River Collaborative Committee's Leadership Roles

- Kyle Daley was unanimously elected Chair – nominated by Brian, seconded by Don.
- Laurent Giroux was unanimously elected Clerk-Treasurer – nominated by Kyle, seconded by Dan.