

**Connecticut River Collaborative Exploratory Committee  
July 5, 2018 Session Highlights**

We began the session by conducting introductions and reviewing the Code of Ethics that was agreed to during the initial session:

- Respect
- Open-minded
- Trust
- No side conversations or interruptions
- Listen and ask questions
- No ideas are bad
- No questions are dumb
- Keep it to the committee
- Support committee
- Regular attendance at meetings
- Right to voice opinion

We reinforced our agreed-upon priorities: Doing what is best for students while bearing in mind taxpayer considerations and related efficiencies.

Next, we discussed the potential of a field trip for the Committee so that all are familiar with all school buildings. The options for this are being investigated.

**Clarifying the Array of Options Under Consideration**

We discussed the array of approaches to collaboration, as outlined in the chart. We noted:

- Significant collaboration is underway already. Most of it falls into the “Coordination” category, with a few clear examples of “Collaboration” - including the reciprocal agreements for high school student class enrollment, combined athletic programs and the option of requiring a teacher from any of the schools to teach at another school.

**The Collaboration Continuum**

| Cooperation  | Coordination   | Collaboration   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>lower intensity</b> -----> <b>higher intensity</b>  |  |   |
| Shorter term, informal relationships<br><br>Shared information only<br><br>Separate goals, resources, and structures | Longer-term effort around a project or task<br><br>Some planning and division of roles<br><br>Some shared resources, rewards and risks | More durable and pervasive relationships<br><br>New structure with commitment to common goals<br><br>All partners contribute resources and share rewards and leadership |

*(From Collaboration Handbook, by Michael Winer and Karen Ray)*

The desired outcome from this portion of the session was to reach agreement on the array of options the Committee would consider during its exploration. Agreement was reached that the following would be explored for their collaboration potential:

- Student schedules
- Student opportunities (variety of class/program offerings)
- Common curriculum
- Trade programs
- Extracurricular activities
- I.T. and communications among the schools
- Sharing teachers/recruiting talent
- Transportation – busing
- Policy and procedures alignment
- Building utilization
- The number of SU/SAUs – the potential for consolidation into one unit

This array of topics suggests openness to both student services and administrative collaboration – a wide spectrum of options across the collaboration continuum.

Once the focus of the exploration was determined, we turned our attention to information needs. The following information is being compiled by the designated Committee member(s):

### **Determining Information Needs**

- The following information will be gathered by these people:
  - Student to guidance counselor/principal/nurse/school staff ratios – Dan (Canaan), Toby (Pittsburg, Stewartstown, Colebrook)
  - Student to teacher ratios, by class – Karen and Bruce
  - Course options, by school - Melissa
  - Feasibility study on building conditions – Karen
  - Total number of students, by school, by SU/SAU, by class (including out of district – home schooled and private school) – Dan and Bruce
  - Enrollment trends – Dan and Bruce
  - Graduation requirements for each of the three high schools – Melissa
  - Policy/procedure comparison via student handbooks – Bruce
  - Transportation – travel distance by bus route and by town – Dan and Brian
  - Financials/budgets, including cost per pupil by town, and tax rate – Kyle, Rob

### **Next Steps**

- Karen and Bruce will investigate options for school tours and formulate a recommendation for the Committee to consider.
- Tamy, Richard, Kristin, Dan, Brian and Skip will work with Carole to determine the sequencing of the array of options we will explore and bring a recommendation to the August meeting.
- All who are listed in the notes above as having data and information gathering roles will provide Carole with an update on their efforts by July 23<sup>rd</sup>.