

**June 6, 2019**  
**Session Highlights**

**Updates Pertinent to Our Work**

- The Collaborative welcomes Billie Paquette to the team; she has a son in third grade in Pittsburg.
- Options are being actively explored for repurposing the Colebrook Academy building. A privately-owned intermediate care facility is one of the options.
- The transition to one school in Colebrook is also actively underway; it is time-consuming. Procedures are being put in place and the new principal is meeting with staff next week. She will be on site full-time beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- In both Canaan and Colebrook, staff resignations are happening and some of the positions are especially difficult to fill. The belief is that a consolidated district would help make the school a more attractive employer.
- The interstate agreement communities exploration, including site visits, have been initiated and dates will be scheduled for visits. All Collaborative members are welcome to join the visits.
- The commissioners who oversee the interstate agreement process for the states are scheduling a visit to the area to host the signing committee and to answer questions about the process. The secretaries of education are supportive of this process and the formalization of the committee. All will be invited to this session, as well.
- The Tillotson Fund request outcome will be known next week.

**Curriculum Team Update**

- See handout (copy of shared google drive document).
  - A survey was developed for gathering information from high performing school districts about curricular priorities and approaches. It was distributed to several districts in and out of New Hampshire and Vermont. Four responses have been received, to date.
  - A second meeting of this team is scheduled – the initial focus is on the middle school curriculum.

**Governance and Financial Team Update**

- Governance - See handout
  - An exploration is underway of schools with interstate operating agreements with other schools. Part of the exploration is review of their operating agreements – both the terms included in them and how they have changed over time. There is also interest in lessons learned. To this end, the group will schedule site visits/information exchanges with these communities. All are welcome to attend. This includes Norwich/Hanover. So far, what is known is that there are challenges but the conditions are workable. Revendell and Dresden visits are part of this exploration plan.
- Financials
  - At this point in our process, all financial analysis will be based upon actuals; the two school business administrators will work on the analysis over the summer. The approach is to create ten or so categories of existing financials and to lay out the information in a manner that can be easily understood by residents.
  - The focus between now and our August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is to identify the financial categories/template for the analysis. Essentially, establish the baseline expenses and budgets, by town.
  - Outside guidance – a CPA – will be engaged. We will seek the services of someone who is skilled at consolidation analysis and projections for modeling purposes.
  - The Collaborative understands that cost savings are unlikely as an outcome of consolidation – rather, a higher quality education with a wider array of offerings is the point, along with more efficiencies across the schools.

**Other**

- A Colebrook community member guest expressed concern that only one model was being rigorously developed by the Collaborative. He stated that the community wants to choose among options. Collaborative members explained why this approach is problematic and unlikely to result in a workable outcome; the community

member emphasized the importance of being able to demonstrate why the chosen model is the preferred one, and without options, the plan is likely to be rejected without consideration of its merits. The Collaborative is taking this under advisement.

**Next Meeting**

- The next meeting is scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no July meeting.
- The governance/finance team will meet Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at Colebrook.