

**March 12, 2020**  
**Session Notes**

**Updates Pertinent to Our Work**

- The visit by the education commissioners and Vermont governor went well. They were provided an overview of the committee's work that was based upon what will be shared at each community's annual meeting.
  - Vermont will not be able to provide financial support for building-related projects for the foreseeable future.
  - New Hampshire is eager to receive a summary overview of building-related projects within the next two weeks. The probability of support is much higher in New Hampshire than Vermont. Kyle drafted and circulated a letter to some members of our committee and submitted it. He will share it with all.
- The Whitefield/Lancaster school bond of six million dollars failed. Some districts voted it down; others did not. There is a question as to whether the state match for this might be repurposed for our project. The commissioners expressed strong support for a CTE center that focused across the age continuum – including re-training adults for workforce development specifically for jobs needed in the region. This will be investigated by Kyle and Bruce.
- The district annual meetings went well, generally.
  - Pittsburg's residents urged caution about committing and some expressed clearly that beyond a shared high school, they are not interested. Some believe that Pittsburg is "wanted for their money". In response to this, the committee expressed strongly that Pittsburg funding has never been the rationale for wanting them included in the exploration. Rather, the well-being of students and the opportunities consolidation presents for them is the focus.
  - Canaan's residents were very supportive of the regionalization. The one million dollar bond passed.
  - Colebrook was supportive, as well. Questions were raised about the condition of Canaan's buildings and a request for better ongoing communication from the committee, including a detailed understanding of what is needed at Canaan, are noted. There was confusion about closing the Academy and the fact that the savings from this decision was a one-time \$ 400,000 – and not an annualized savings. Questions about cost per student and some form of tax stabilization and reduction through consolidation were raised. The committee's financial analysis is designed to accomplish this.
  - Stewartstown's meeting was brief. Interest was expressed about the needs outlined in the Canaan building report. They, too, want to understand the savings consolidation will bring.
  - In Clarksville and Columbia, there was not much feedback or questions. One that was raised was about the ownership of buildings, post-consolidation, and how things would be structured.
- All Area Agreements were renewed and written so that the three year notice threshold has been met. This accommodates any changes that may result from consolidation and related shifts.

The committee went into executive session. Guests and school employees departed.