

November 7, 2019
Session Notes

Updates Pertinent to Our Work

- The Interstate Agreement
 - The New Hampshire attorney declared the weighting of the votes structure outlined in our October 2019 session notes inadvisable. Equal representation is the recommended approach. The Committee understands and agrees to accept this approach, designating the following as voting members with all other members in an advisory capacity:
 - Clarksville – Michael
 - Colebrook – Brian
 - Columbia – Chris
 - Pittsburg – Lindsey
 - Stewartstown - Phil

Additionally, if a vacancy arises on the Committee, the nominee will have to be approved by the Commissioners.

All the above modifications were approved by the Committee.
- The “Portrait of a Graduate” approach is one the curriculum sub-group is considering as the approach for our consolidated vision. Many public schools are using this approach, successfully: <https://portraitofagraduate.org/>
- Black River Design is still working on cost estimates – doing additional analysis on the ADA-accessible alternatives. They will present to us in December.

Committee Work – What Lies Ahead

See shared document titled “Connecticut River Planning Committee – Outline of Work Ahead” and accompanying documents.

- A consulting team has been identified for recommendation to this group. The combined work covers the following areas:
 - Project Management
 - Financial Study/Analysis
 - Legal Counsel on Articles of Agreement
 - Transportation Study
- A team was formed to define the scope of work for each of these, interacting with the consultants to better understand cost and scope of work options. This team will present their findings to the Committee. The team includes Dan Wade, Kyle Daley, Don Tase, Karen and Bruce.
- Funding must be secured for this work to be undertaken. A cost estimate and proposal will be prepared to submit to the Tillotson Fund. Karen and Bruce will contact the program officers at the fund to seek advice on when to submit the proposal.

Timeline

- All work outlined above will be completed by June 2020, with recommendations fully formed.
- Preparation to support the public in understanding the recommendations and how they were arrived upon will be done in July and August 2020.
- The recommendations will be shared in entirety in September/October 2020.
- A public relations/communications firm will be hired to assist with clear communication of the Committee’s work and its aspirations. Jaime at Louis Karno works on education-related matters and has done a good job in Gorham/Berlin: <https://www.lkarno.com/>
- Once the Committee has Interstate Agreement approvals, Sandra will write a press release that explains the Committee’s progress.

Curriculum Sub-Group

- In addition to what is outlined, above, the group is working on laying out teacher roles for the high school, middle school and elementary schools. With this in mind, each board will be asked for approval at its next meeting to create a master schedule for 2020. A written statement of the case to be made will be created by Dan, Brian and Phil – and the explanation offered to each board will follow this case outline. The big question is “Do you support a north country master schedule being created at this time?”. This will allow for reasonable assessments of compensation needs.

Governance and Finance Sub-Group

- Identifying a Planning Committee Chairperson and Clerk/Treasurer is required by the Interstate Agreement. Utilizing the criteria outlined in the earlier referenced document “Outline of Work Ahead”, all will contemplate who is well suited to these roles. One must be held by a Vermont member – the other, by a New Hampshire member.
- Proposed grade distributions by site:
 - Four models were shared for Committee review and eventual narrowing to one. This discussion will continue in December.