

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

Governance Study Steering Committee Plans Fall Survey

The SAU 7/ENSU Governance Study Steering Committee (GSSC), after reviewing over twenty different consolidation plans presented by VSBA consultant Wayne Gersen in public forums in January and February, is close to identifying an optimal plan for consolidating schools serving the ten towns that comprise their two school supervisory unions. The plan calls for students in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 5 to attend their existing elementary schools but would modify enrollment patterns at the secondary level in an effort to expand opportunities for middle and high school students in the region.

Over the summer, a team of administrators from SAU 7 and ENSU will work with VSBA consultant Wayne Gersen to more clearly define the desired educational programs at the middle school and high school levels. This will help determine the staffing needs at those levels. Once the total costs for the secondary programs are calculated, the team will confer with liaisons from the Vermont and New Hampshire State Departments of Education to determine the means for allocating costs to each town should the proposed consolidation plan be put in place. While the preliminary figures indicate a substantial overall savings in the operating budget, it is unlikely that each town will have equal savings since AREA agreements and tuition agreements vary. At the conclusion of their work, the team will issue an informational flyer that will be shared with the communities later this summer or at the beginning of the school year.

In September the GSSC plans to conduct a survey in the ten towns and five schools in SAU 7 and ENSU to get community feedback on their proposed plan for consolidation. In the coming months, the GSSC representatives and superintendents Bob Mills, (SAU 7) and Chris Masson (ENSU) will provide updates on the planning process at board meetings and discuss questions each town would want to include on the survey.

Before the survey is released, detailed information on the plans reviewed by the GSSC will be found on the school district and school web sites where community members and parents can pose questions about the plan. The GSSC members are eager to receive any feedback from the public on the concept of consolidation in the coming months.