

MINUTES

Essex North SU/SAU 7 Governance Study Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

6:00 PM, Colebrook Elementary School Library – Colebrook, NH

Attendees: John Facloner, Colebrook Board; Eldonna Brooks, Colebrook Board; Greg Placy, Colebrook Board; Megan Prehemo, Pittsburg Board; Bob Ormsbee, Pittsburg Board; Michael Pariseau, Canaan Board; Dan Wells, Columbia Board; Lisa Placy-Brooks, Columbia Board; Carrie Rancourt, Clarksville Board; Katie Collins, Stewartstown Board; Kim Sweatt, Canaan Board; Steve Thibault, Norton Board; Jennifer Turner, Lemington Board; Angela Flanagan, Canaan Board; Chris Masson, ENSU Superintendent; Bob Mills, SAU 7 Superintendent; Cheryl Covill, SAU 7 Business Manager; Debbie Lynch, Canaan School Principal; Mary Jolles, Colebrook Elementary School Principal; Wayne Gersen, VSBA Consultant; 7 members of the public.

1. The meeting convened at 6:00 PM. VSBA Consultant Wayne Gersen reviewed the materials emailed in advance of the meeting, emphasizing that he prepared the eight alternatives based on enrollment figures and without having visited the schools.
2. Following an overview of the eight alternatives, one of the alternatives involving the expansion of the Stewartstown School was eliminated because the school's site was too small. Several in attendance expressed reservations regarding the alternatives based on K-4, 5-8, 9-12 grade configurations. Those in attendance expressed support for an analysis of the following proposed alternatives:
 - K-5, 6-8, 9-12 configurations instead of K-4, 5-8, 9-12 configurations
 - The assignment of all SAU 7 students to "Canaan Middle School"
 - The assignment of all students in SAU 7 and ENSU to Pittsburg
 - The creation of an Alternative School with the proposed "Canaan Vocational Center"
 - Combining the "Canaan Vocational Center" concept with a K-6, 7-8 configuration
 - Merging K-8 students in Stewartstown and Canaan and having some grade levels assigned to Stewartstown and some to Canaan (*i.e. grades Pre-K through three assigned to Canaan and 4-8 assigned to Stewartstown*)
 - Merging K-8 students in Pittsburg, Canaan, and Stewartstown and assigning different grade levels to different schools as above.
 - Building a new high school instead of assigning students to "Colebrook Academy", which is an outdated facility.
 - Merging students in Stewartstown, Canaan, and Pittsburg into a separate district.
3. Wayne Gersen reported that he planned to complete program and facility analyses for each of the schools in the district in the coming days and would share written drafts of those prior to the next meeting of the group. All of those in attendance believed that several of the alternatives would likely be eliminated once that review was completed.
4. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 26, at 6:00 PM at the Pittsburg School.