

Alternative Education Plans for ENSU, SAU 7 Schools

Presentation given to ENSU/SAU 7
Steering Committee
Thursday, January 26, 2012

Findings to Date: Program

- Variances exist among schools in instructional practices K-12
 - Multi-age groupings
 - Special Education
 - Compartmentalization/Departmentalization
 - Elective scheduling K-8
 - High School Scheduling
- High School electives limited
- Vocational Education is valued and needed

Findings to Date: Program

- Running Start available in all High Schools
- Provision of counseling, student services (*e.g. health, SAP, guidance*)
- The teachers are dedicated to making the school a better place for students, and dedicated to helping each student succeed.
- The Principals are insightful and forward thinking



Findings to date: facilities

- **Colebrook Elementary School** is soundest and most up-to-date facility
 - Good Pre-K, art, music, PE, science media spaces
 - All classrooms meet minimum s.f. requirements
 - 18+ acre campus with playing fields
 - Cafeteria, gymnasium used extensively by town and community
 - Lots of office, small instruction, storage space- designed in anticipation of HS addition

Findings to date: facilities

- **Colebrook Academy** is inadequate *at best*
 - Undersized campus: no fields; insufficient parking
 - Insufficient instructional spaces: no gym; no art or music room; undersized media center; outdated technology facility
 - Insufficient cafeteria space
 - Inadequate technology infrastructure
 - Not fully accessible
 - Poor storage
 - Facing multiple repairs requiring the outlay of at least \$500,000
 - Etc., etc., etc.....

Findings to date: facilities

- **Pittsburg School** is sufficient for current use
 - Sufficient campus size, auxiliary fields close
 - Some classrooms and media center are undersized... but sufficient for current school population
 - Technology infrastructure lacking
 - New addition well designed
 - Facing gym roof repair, underground tank replacement in near future

Findings to date: facilities

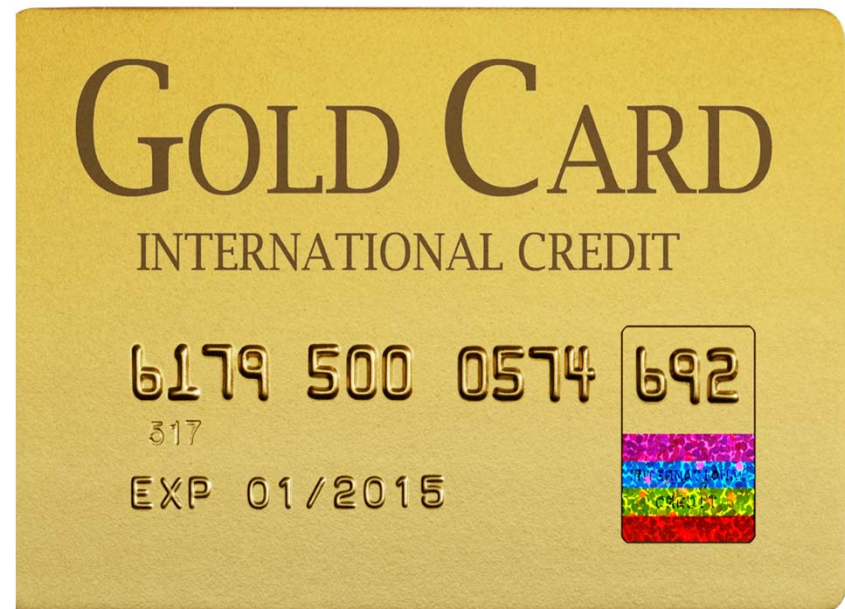
- **Stewartstown** has limitations for future use
 - Undersized campus: no fields; insufficient parking; does not own ROW
 - Insufficient instructional space: no gym; no art or music room; undersized media center; no room for program expansion (*e.g. Pre-K or departmentalization*)
 - Many services share small instructional space
 - Inadequate storage space for supplies, students
 - Anticipating repairs to roof, windows (?) in near future

Findings to date: facilities

- **Canaan School** is sufficient for current use
 - Good playgrounds, athletic fields, parking
 - Recent roof repairs, electrical upgrades, boilers
 - Good technology infrastructure
 - Vocational classrooms meet VT standards
 - Some high school classrooms undersized (*e.g.* <600 s.f.), but sufficient for current population
 - Connector between elementary and high school desirable but costly

Optimal Solution

- Acquire large tract of land in Stewartstown and build a new 7-12 secondary school
- Close Stewartstown Elementary and shift students to Canaan School
- De-commission Colebrook Academy
- Use surplus space in Pittsburg, Canaan, and Colebrook elementary to expand Pre-school programs



Viabile Alternatives

Common Elements: Program

- Expansion of Pre-School programs
- Expansion of vocational offerings in high school
 - Forestry/Agriculture
 - Hospitality
 - Health related occupations
- Expanded use of distance learning, especially in high schools
- Expanded use of common assessments
- Explore addition of adult education

Viabale Alternatives

Common Elements: Facilities

- Retention of school facility in each town
- Limited expansion, renovation of facilities
- De-commissioning of Colebrook Academy by shifting some students out of Colebrook Elementary School
- Cross enrollment of Canaan and Colebrook high school students

Viabile Alternatives

UN-Common Elements

- “Upper Connecticut Lakes Region High School” could have two campuses 13 miles apart
- Vacant buildings could be used for schools
- Student learning can take place off campus
- Schools can be used all day and all year
- Regionalization elements could include other SAUs and SUs

Alternative G: Status Quo with Split High Schools

- Retains schools with existing grade level configurations *with one exception*: placement of some Colebrook elementary in an alternative location
 - Pre-K, Kindergarten to upgraded tech facility *and/or*
 - Pre-K to grade 3 to rehabbed building (*e.g. vacant drug store on Route 3*) *and*
 - Roughly half of Colebrook HS students attend Career/technical education or “alternative learning program” in Canaan

Alternative H: Status Quo with Technology Upgrades

- Retains schools with existing grade level configurations *with one exception*: placement of some Colebrook elementary and/or high school students in an alternative location
 - Pre-K, Kindergarten to upgraded tech facility *and/or*
 - Pre-K to grade 3 to rehabbed building (*e.g. vacant drug store on Route 3*) *and*
 - HS Vocational students tuition to Canaan Campus with career/technical education center, “alternative learning program” *and/or*
 - HS Colebrook art students to rehabbed building for academic and fine arts program

Alternative O: Merge Canaan, Pittsburg, and Stewartstown

- Stewartstown, Pittsburg, and Canaan students cross enroll in grades K-8; attend Canaan High School
- Requires placement of some Colebrook elementary and/or high school students in an alternative location as noted in earlier slides:
 - Pre-K, Kindergarten to upgraded tech facility and/or
 - Pre-K to grade 3 to rehabbed building (*e.g. vacant drug store on Route 3*) and
 - HS Vocational students tuition to Canaan Campus with career/technical education center, “alternative learning program” and/or
 - HS Colebrook art students to rehabbed building for academic and fine arts program

Alternative P: Pittsburg Middle School

- Canaan attends K-2 center in Stewartstown, others as is
- All students attend Canaan Intermediate elementary school (Grades 3-5)
- All students attend Pittsburg Middle School (Grades 6-8)
- All students choose between Canaan campus with career/technical education center, “alternative learning program” or Colebrook campus with academic and fine arts program in **ninth** grade

Alternative Q: Middle School in local school; Vocational options grade 10

- Canaan attends Pre-K to grade 2 center in Stewartstown, others as is
- All students attend Canaan Intermediate elementary school (Grades 3-**6**)
- Pittsburg, Colebrook students attend Middle School (Grades 7-8) in their home town; Stewartstown students attend Canaan MS
- All students choose between Canaan campus with career/technical education center, “alternative learning program” or Colebrook campus with academic and fine arts program in **eleventh** grade

Feedback, Questions

- Which plans warrant further consideration?
- What changes can be made to the plans that would make them more acceptable?
- Are there other plans that should be considered?



NEXT MEETING

- Topics
 - Narrowing the options
 - Providing costs for each option
 - Outlining governance alternatives and implications for each option
- Date, time, and venue?