

CONNECTICUT RIVER COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE

Official Planning Committee Formation

15 AUGUST 2019 / 11:30 AM / CANAAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Commissioners of Education

Dan French - Vermont Secretary of Education

Frank Edelblut - Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Education

Committee Members (Tentative Attendees)

Karen Conroy - Essex North SU Superintendent

Bruce Beasley - SAU#7 Superintendent

Sharon Ellingwood - NEK Choice School District (Board Member)

Brian LaPerle - Colebrook School District (Board Chair)

Kyle Daley - Stewartstown School District (Community Member)

Michel Dionne - Clarksville School District (Board Chair)

Kristin Brooks - Columbia School District (Community Member)

Dan Wade - Canaan School District (Board Chair)

Frank Sawicki - Canaan School District (Community Member)

Laurent Giroux - Canaan School District (Community Member)

Rob Maxwell - The News and Sentinel (News Reporter)

Agenda

11:30 Arrival - Luncheon provided for meet & greet with introductions and a brief update on the committees work to date.

12:00 Panel Discussion with Questions for Secretary & Commissioner of Education (Tentative Questions Below)

2:00 Creation of Planning Committee Discussion – The New Hampshire & Vermont Commissioners of Education jointly constituent a formal interstate school district planning committee based on existing informal school planning committee membership.

3:00 Adjournment

Questions for the Secretary/Commissioner of Education:

- Do you have an opinion on what form of governance would work best for what we are trying to accomplish?
- What are the possible effects and options for Vermont NEK Choice School District should an interstate district move forward?
- What are the possible effects and options for New Hampshire non-operating school districts Clarksville and Columbia?
- Could you provide any clarity on ownership of buildings for districts that do not currently own one? If you own one?
- What is the legality of assigning kids to particular schools if those grade levels aren't offered....do Vermont and New Hampshire have differing statutes where this is concerned?
- Do the New Hampshire and Vermont Education Departments offer any type of legal assistance or advice to our planning committee during this process?
- How would our consolidation affect the awarding of scholarships with students from Vermont and New Hampshire attending high-school across state lines? For example, the NH Scholars Program...
- How do you handle representation or buy-in from sending districts without a formalized seat on the interstate board?
- In your experience, have consolidated districts used a transition period to handle graduation awards or class honors with newly merged student populations?
- What does it mean if we elect to include elementary schools in our interstate agreement? Are there advantages to leaving elementary schools as a separate entity?
- Is there an ideal way to structure board membership? Have districts encountered a situation where you had to deal with even numbers of representation?
- How does residency affect students with respect to funding? How are the differences in special education funding handled?
- If one or more buildings require capital improvements before consolidation can be considered, how have other districts handled this issue?
- Given the extensive school and district consolidation going on in both states, what lessons have been drawn from the process that we can learn from?

RELEVANT LINKS AND NOTES

- **Link to the text of the Vermont/NH Interstate School Compact to be reviewed by committee members. This document provides the roadmap to**

formation of an interstate school district and lays out the process for our committee to be formalized as a planning committee:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/16/015>

- Links to other interstate agreements adopted by VT/NH districts: SAU 70 (Dresden), first interstate district in the United States
[http://archive.sau70.org/policies/DresPolRegAB/Articles of Agreement revised%2012-17-01.pdf](http://archive.sau70.org/policies/DresPolRegAB/Articles%20of%20Agreement%20revised%2012-17-01.pdf) , Rivendell's articles of agreement have been amended and are also worth a read
[https://www.rivendellschool.org/images/stories/districtinfo/Articles of Agreement Amended 03-26-11 FinalCorrected.pdf](https://www.rivendellschool.org/images/stories/districtinfo/Articles%20of%20Agreement%20Amended%2003-26-11%20FinalCorrected.pdf)