

# Connecticut River Collaborative: Outline of the Process

## Brief Summary: Connecticut River Collaborative's Tasks

1. ~~Create a Planning Committee~~
2. Create a Report
3. Draft Articles of Agreement
  - a. Composition of interstate board
  - b. Grades
  - c. Properties
  - d. Apportioning operating expenses
  - e. Indebtedness being taken on
  - f. Apportioning capital expenses
  - g. Allocating state aid
  - h. Amending Articles of Agreement
  - i. Date to start operations and plan to assume responsibility for education and constructions
  - j. Allocating cost of transportation
  - k. Nomination of initial school directors
4. Hold a Public Hearing
5. Submit the Articles of Agreement to the State Boards of VT and NH
6. (the State Boards and the individual schools district board handle the special meetings/votes)

## Complete Summary: Steps Required to Form an Interstate School District

### A) Steps of the Connecticut River Collaborative

1.  Compact approved by US Congress
2.  Creation of Planning Committee (interstate school district planning committees)
  - a. 2 voters from each member district (one member from each school board)
  - b. Submit to the NH and VT commissioners of education for approval (may consider recommendations and nominations made by the school boards of the member districts)
  - c. Planning committee then must elect a chairman and a clerk-treasurer (each must be residents of a different state)
  - d. Planning Committee can then adopt and ratify the deliberations of the previous informal committee.
3.  Create a Report with Findings and Recommendations, and:
  - a. Recommend (or not) the creation of an interstate school district
  - b. Proposed articles of agreement (signed by a majority of the membership of the planning committee)
    - i. Name of the Interstate School District
    - ii. Member districts
    - iii. Grades of the school district
    - iv. Properties to be acquired initially by the school districts; general location of any proposed new schools

- v. Method of apportioning the operating expenses of the interstate school district among the several member districts & time and manner of payments of such shares
- vi. Indebtedness of any member district that the interstate district is to assume
- vii. Method of apportioning the capital expenses (can be different from operating expenses) & time and manner of payments of such shares
- viii. Manner of allocating state aid from NH and VT
- ix. Method to amend the articles of agreement (amendments must be approved by both state boards)
- x. Date of operating responsibility of the proposed interstate school district – and a proposed program for the assumption of operating responsibility for education by the proposed interstate school district and for any construction needed (dates may be varied by vote by interstate school district as needed)
- xi. Number, composition, method of selection and terms of office of the interstate school board
  - 1. Odd number of members, not less than 5 nor more than 15;
  - 2. Terms of office shall not exceed 3 years;
  - 3. Each member district shall be entitled to elect at least one member of the interstate school board. Each member district shall either vote separately at the interstate school district meeting by the use of a distinctive ballot, or shall choose its member or members at any other election at which school officials may be chosen;
  - 4. The method of election shall provide for the filing of candidacies in advance of election and for the use of a printed non-partisan ballot;
  - 5. Subject to the foregoing, provision may be made for the election of one or more members at large.
- xii. May include other matters, such as,
  - 1. Allocating cost of transportation
  - 2. Nomination of individual school directors to serve until the first annual meeting of the interstate school district

- 4.  Public Hearings (at least one each state)
  - a. Notice – in newspaper at least 17 days before the hearing
  - b. Discuss the report and proposed articles of agreement
  - c. After the hearing
    - i. **May** revise the proposed articles of agreement (then sign by a majority of the committee)
    - ii. **May** hold further hearings with the same manner of notice

#### B) Approval of both (1) NH Board of Education and (2) VT Board of Education

- d. Committee shall Submit the Articles of Agreement to each state board.
- e. The State Board will approve the articles or as for revisions
- f. Once approved:
  - i. The State Board shall (1) submit the Articles to the member district's school boards for their acceptance and (2) designate the form of warrant,

date, time, place, and period of voting for the special meeting of the member districts

### C) Steps of the Individual School Districts

1. NH and VT State Boards send written notice to individual school boards of member districts that it approved the Articles of Agreements
2. Member Districts' school boards must file the articles with its member district clerk.
3. w/in 10 days, the Member Districts' school boards must issue its warrant for a special meeting of the member district, consistent with the form, time, and place provided by the NH and VT State Boards.
  - a. No approval of the superior court shall be required for such special school district meeting in New Hampshire.
  - b. Voting shall be by checklist by ballot in substantially this form:
    - i. "Shall the school district accept the provisions of the New Hampshire-Vermont Interstate School Compact providing for the establishment of an interstate school district, together with the school districts of and etc., in accordance with the provisions of the proposed articles of agreement filed with the school district (town, city or incorporated school district) clerk?"  

Yes (    )                  No (    )
4. If approved, the member district clerk shall send a certified copy of the warrant to the State Board, certificate of posting, and minutes of the meeting of the district.
5. State Board shall issue a joint certificate if
  - a. The state boards find that a majority of the voters present and voting in each member district have voted in favor of the establishment of the interstate school district
  - b. Certificate is conclusive evidence of the lawful organization and formation of the interstate school district

### D) Organizational Meeting after Certificate is Issued

1. w/in 60 days (unless extended) – the commissioners, acting jointly, fix a time and place for a special meeting of the qualified voters in the interstate school district
2. Commissioners prepare and issue the warrant for the meeting after consulting with (a) the interstate school district planning board and (b) the members elect, if any of the interstate school board of directors.
3. Commissioner of Education or his designate presides
  - a. Elect a temporary moderator and temporary clerk
  - b. Moderator, clerk, treasurer, and 3 auditors shall be elected to serve until the next annual meeting
  - c. Unless previously elected, a board of school directors shall be elected to serve
  - d. Date for the annual meeting
  - e. Provide for the payment of organizational or other expense incurred on behalf of the district before the organization meeting
  - f. Any other business
- 4.