

## UPPER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Planning Committee Review and Approval Process Outline:

- 1) **VOTE to APPROVE:** Planning Committee meets and votes to recommend formation of the Upper Connecticut River Valley Interstate School District. See the text of the email this is sent in, which helps us understand how we can take this vote.
  - a. Entire Committee votes, but only the votes of the following “Voting Members” will be counted towards reaching the majority needed to pass the motion:
    - i. Counting Votes (or their replacement):
      1. Vermont Members:
        1. Frank Sawicki, community member from Canaan, Vermont;
        2. Daniel Wade, Board Chairman for the Canaan School District;
        3. Laurent Giroux, community member from Canaan, Vermont;
        4. Sharon Ellingwood-White, Board Member for the NEK Choice
        5. Miles Etter, Board Chairman for the NEK Choice School District.
      2. New Hampshire Members:
        1. Michel Dionne, Board Chairman for the Clarksville School Board;
        2. Brian LaPerle, Board Chairman for the Colebrook School Board;
        3. Chris Brady, Board Chairman for the Columbia School Board;
        4. Lindsey Gray, Board Member of the Pittsburg School Board; and
        5. Phil Pariseau, Board Chairman of the Stewartstown School Board
- 2) **FINALIZE REPORT and ARTICLES of AGREEMENT:** Planning Committee as a whole develops a Report and Articles of Agreement.
- 3) **HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS in NH and VT:** Planning Committee holds a public hearing in NH and VT and presents Report and Articles of Agreement.
  - a. Notice of Public Hearing: 15 clear days notice in newspaper of general circulation.
  - b. Planning Committee can revise Articles of Agreement after such public hearing.
  - c. Additional public hearings are not necessary, but may be held, if the Planning Committee determines that material changes were made to the Articles of Agreement after the first public hearings.
- 4) **STATE BOARD APPROVAL:** After the hearings, the Planning Committee submits the signed and approved Articles of Agreement (signed by the majority of the planning committee -- voting and non-voting members) to the State Boards in NH and VT.
  - a. Letter to State Boards on behalf of all of the Districts contains:
    - i. Cover letter asking for approval
    - ii. Copy of Articles of Agreement
    - iii. Copy of Planning Committee minutes as evidence of process and majority vote of Voting Members approval of Articles of Agreement
    - iv. Copy of Newspaper Notice of Public Hearings
    - v. Copy of Public Hearing Agenda and Minutes
    - vi. Attach required Warrant Article language
    - vii. Request specific time and dates and location for the special meeting in each member district

- b. Planning Committee confirms presence on State Board Agenda
- c. State Boards votes at their next scheduled meeting and approve Articles of Agreement and Plan or may refer back to the committee for further study.
- d. Planning Committee attends (Zoom?) State Board meeting to confirm approval and answer any questions.
- e. If approved, each State Board forwards the Articles of Agreement to the members districts' school boards and directs each member district to place the Warrant Article on their warrant for a special meeting.

5) **VOTE at SPECIAL MEETING**

- a. Articles of Agreement filed with Clerk: Upon receipt of Notice of Approval from the State Boards, each member district must file the Articles of Agreement to their district Clerk.
- b. Special meeting in each member district: within 10 days of receipt of notice from the State of approval of the Articles of Agreement, the school boards in each district shall issue a warrant for a Special Meeting in each district – the warrant form, and the time and place of the meeting prescribed by the State Board.
- c. Warrant Article:
  - 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?”
- d. Special Meeting – voting is done by Ballot in each member district.

6) **VOTING OUTCOMES:**

- a. 100% Approval: if the majority of the voters from ALL OF THE PROPOSED member districts approve the warrant article, the results are sent to the State Boards, which issue certification of the establishment of the new interstate school district.
- b. Partial Approval: if one or more member districts approve the warrant article, but other member districts reject the warrant article, the State Board may (3 option):
  - i. Resubmit the Warrant Article to those member districts that voted no for a revote on the question.
  - ii. Refer the Articles of Agreement back to a reconstituted planning committee (likely made up of the member districts that voted no).
  - iii. Discharge the planning committee (likely if there were not enough member districts in favor of formation, if the plan would not make sense due to any number of factors, or some other reason)

7) **Election of Board Members (directors)**

- a. \*The Articles of Agreement should have an Appendix which contains the names of individual school directors (Board members) to serve on the Interstate School Board until the first annual meeting when new Board members can be elected.
- b. The list of those members must be included on the ballot and voted on at the Special Meeting.

**Key Dates and Timeline:**

- Vote to Approve – February 2022
- Finalize Report and Articles of Agreement for Public Hearing – February 2022
- Public Hearings in NH and VT – first half of March 2022
- Articles of Agreement Sent to State Board for Approval – late March/early April 2022
- State Board Approval at monthly meeting: NH – April 14, 2022; VT – April 20, 2022.
- Special Meeting in May/June 2022