

## Recap

- 2017 – Collaboration began
  - November – community forum – common goals identified
    - Expand offerings, Increase running start & CTE, align curriculum & regionalize HS
- 2018 – Vote – to look into regionalization in order to focus on the future of education
  - Committee formed – two goals
    - 1-students/education improvement
    - 2-financial responsibility
- 2019 – Vote to look deeper into Model 11
  - Changes made to plan – two middle schools to one middle school
  - Desire for financials to assist in decision making – work began
- 2020 - Covid
  - We continued to meet monthly via Zoom
  - Following the steps outlined in the interstate school district planning compact
  - Name-Northern Borders Interstate School District
  - Research around efficient governance
  - Apportionment of expenses – how the taxes are divided up
  - The models being analyzed
    - MS in Colebrook – HS/CTE in Canaan – Canaan remodel
    - MS and HS/CTE in Colebrook – Colebrook addition
    - New MS/HS – new location
    - MS in Canaan – HS/CTE in Colebrook
  - A reimagined school plan was developed
  - Web site created - [www.connecticutrivercollaborative.org](http://www.connecticutrivercollaborative.org)
  - Financials are currently in process and are applying financials to these models
  - As we learn more in the process we check and adjust, we evolve – that’s why things are changing
- 2021 – Committee Goals
  - Complete the financial analysis
  - Select a model that best achieves the goals
  - Submit to NH + VT commissioners of ed for approval – make adjustments if required
  - Public hearings – further adjustments – re-approval by state
  - Set a voting date – for the participating towns
  - Further public hearings on final recommendation
  - Vote

## As I see it

- This is an old topic – predates my time on the board (2010)
- The current collaborative team works very hard at maximizing each schools opportunities for all our area students. There's a limit to the benefits that can be achieved considering the logistics of making 3 schedules work together while still providing for those students who do not travel to other districts.
- There exists a desire to provide the best education possible
- The current cost of education in our region is very high
  - Especially high considering what we get for the amount paid
  - Increasing value by continuing status quo is not possible
- Options are pooling resources to lower costs, pooling resources to provide more for the same money or some combination of the two
  - That is what this committee is doing - it's the *only* way we can achieve *any* of these options
- I see this as a regional problem with regional benefits
  - Three years ago we were working with 650 students, the 20 year projection was a continued decline in enrollments, that number is now about 600 – less than 50/grade
  - We are serving these 600 kids within 20 miles with 8 school boards including 2 SAU's - h duplication & triplication in so many areas - We have 200 HS students in 3 buildings - this is a cost that is paid by us *and* all surrounding towns – it's just inefficient
  - We struggle to find staff – We cannibalize staff from other local schools and them from us, just transferring (or sharing) the struggle – we are often forced to hire non-certified staff because it's our only option to fill a position
  - From what I can see no other school in our area is without these same struggles.
  - Do you consider the surrounding towns our neighbors or adversaries (enemies)?
  - Do you think we should stay in our silo and deal with these issues on our own or are you willing to work with our neighbors to make the emotionally difficult decisions that are for the best of our current and future generations?
  - Is pride, ego, emotions, power politics and history *more* important than the educational future?
  - If you find yourself unable to consider the betterment of our region's educational system please look inside yourself to see what's keeping you from considering this committee's recommendations intended to provide more for students and increase value to taxpayers.
  - If you are desiring something better and are open to some sacrifice that will inevitably come with it then know there's a group of people working to find a path toward these goals.