

APPROVED

CABOT/DANVILLE/TWINFIELD ACT 46 STUDY COMMITTEE (706)
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 12, 2016

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Ian Covey, Lauren Cleary, Sarah Watkins, Ry Hoffman, Dave Towle, Sandy Hauserman, Jack Hoffman, Tim Sanborn **Consultant:** Peter Clarke **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent WNESU; Andrea Wasson, Special Services Coordinator CCSU

Call to Order: Chris Tormey, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Approve September 21, 2016 minutes. Sandy Hauserman moved to approve the minutes of September 21st as written. Sarah Watkins seconded the motion. Minutes approved as written.

Public Comment:

Roz Daniels thanked the committee for the work they are doing. She also briefly talked about how valuable sports have been to the Cabot community.

Discussion:

- Chris Tormey, chair shared a presentation with the committee that reviewed possible merger configurations generated by last year's exploratory committees. Chris also went over goals/improvements that the committee hopes to achieve through a merger.
- Goals: What to improve from September 21 Meeting discussion:
 - Greater access to elective courses
 - Larger peer group (for students and parents)
 - Larger number of teachers in each discipline/grade
 - Sustainable staffing for elementary-grade "specials"
 - Improved school counselor support at HS level
 - Improvements in math/literacy learning
 - Better professional development
 - Support for teachers
- The group agreed that it is a reasonable assumption that it will take some combining of students that are now in three separate schools to reach at least some of these goals.
- As Chris shared the various merger configuration options; he encouraged the group to think about this question, "How well will these configurations support reaching the goals we've identified?"

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- Option 3A: Cabot High School students would go to Twinfield, Cabot would have PK-8, Twinfield would have PK-8 as well as 9-12 students from Cabot and Twinfield, Danville would remain the same PK-12.
 - a) Positive Feedback: Increased course offerings at Twinfield since the Cabot teachers would go with the Cabot students, PK-8 students could use the main building rather than some of the outdated satellite buildings, larger peer groups for both parents and students, could benefit sports teams (having enough players for teams, and sports at all seasons).
 - b) Negative Feedback: Increase transportation costs, burden for Cabot students not knowing peer group well, hardship for Cabot parent bringing child who plays sports to Twinfield, does not benefit Danville,
- Option 3B: Cabot High School Students to Danville, Cabot PK-8, Twinfield PK-8 and 9-12, Danville PK – 8 and 9-12 for Danville and Cabot students.
 - a) Positive Feedback: Increased course offerings at Danville since the Cabot teachers would go with the Cabot students, Pk-8 students could use the main building rather than some of the outdated satellite buildings, larger peer groups for both parents and students, could benefit sports teams
 - b) Negative Feedback: Increase in transportation costs, burden for Cabot students not knowing new group and facility well, hardship for Cabot parents having to travel to events, does not benefit Twinfield, shared curriculums between Twinfield and Cabot may prove to be a difficult transition for Cabot Students to Danville,
- Option 3C: Half of Cabot’s high school (9-12) students would be assigned to Danville and half to Twinfield based on where they live in Cabot. PK-8 continues at all three schools.
 - a) Positive Feedback:
 - b) Negative Feedback: there would not be as much benefit by splitting the students between the two schools, not enough critical mass for added extracurricular activities or electives, sense of community would be lost by splitting students and closing the high school.
- Option 3D: Cabot 9-12 closes and students from all 3 communities can choose between Danville and Twinfield PK-8 continues at all 3 schools. Discussion to be continued.

Next Steps:

- Work has begun on the Act 46 informational website. Included on the website will be meeting minutes, meeting agendas, meeting dates, Study Committee members and contact information, links to Act 46 Informational sites, links to Agency of Education, Frequently Asked Questions and Answers as well as a place to submit questions.
- At the next meeting, the committee will continue to review possible merger configurations and discuss pros and cons.

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- Future meeting dates: 10/19/16 from 6:00-8:00pm, 10/26/16 from 6:00-8:00pm, 11/16/16 from 6:00-8:00pm.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber