

CSSU Act 46 Study

Community Presentation for Residents of
Charlotte, Hinesburg, St. George, Shelburne and Williston

Spring 2016

CSSU Act 46 Study Committee

- (2) Charlotte: Erik Beal (Charlotte/ CSSU), Mark McDermott (Charlotte/ CSSU)
- (2) Hinesburg Colleen MacKinnon (HCS/ CSSU), Keith Roberts (HCS / CSSU)
- (3) Shelburne Dave Connery (Shelburne/CSSU), Russ Caffry (former Shelburne/CSSU)
Tim Williams (Shelburne Board)
- (4) Williston Kevin Mara (Williston/ CSSU), Jeanne Jensen (CVU/ CSSU Boards),
Karen Maklad (Williston), Gene McCue (CVU Board)
- (1)_St. George Kelly Bowen (St. George/ CSSU Boards), Eric Hunter (alternate)

Act 46 Implementation Project Consultant:

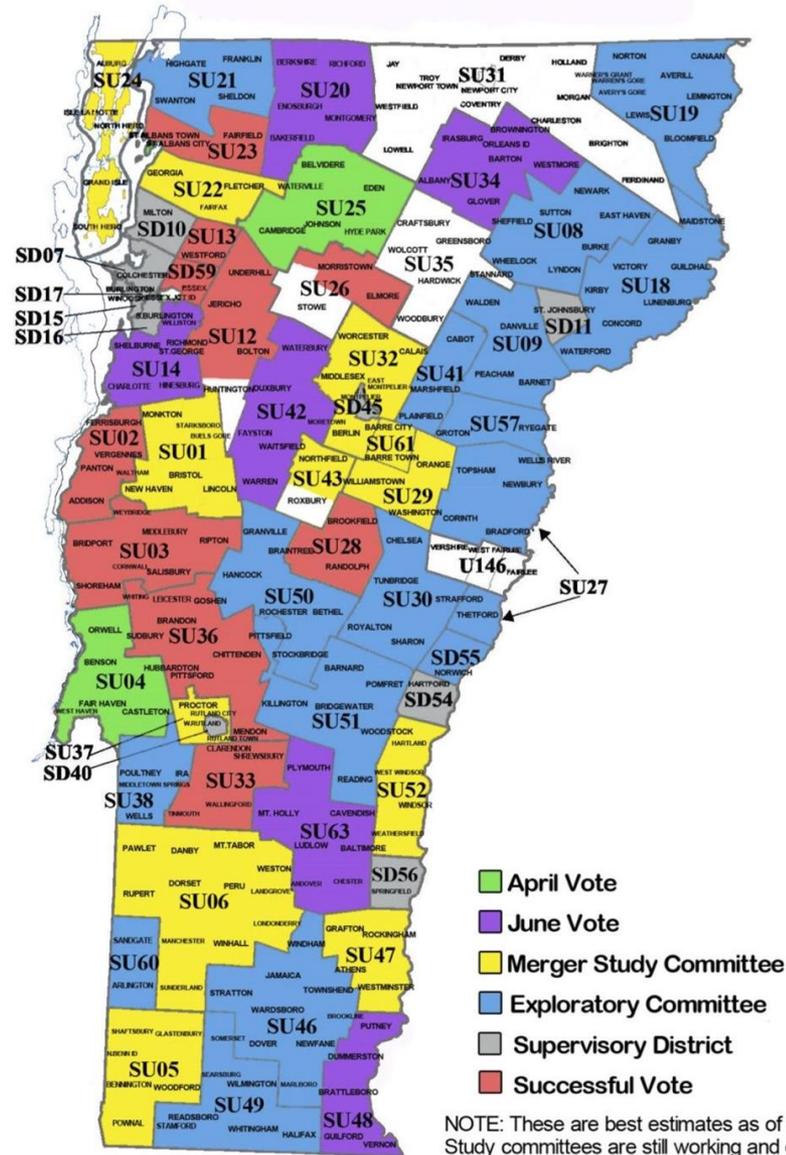
- Michael Deweese
- Committee Chair Colleen MacKinnon
- Administration/ Ex Officio Elaine Pinckney (Superintendent)
Bob Mason (Chief Operations Officer)
Megan Roy (Director of Student Support Services)
Sandy Raymond (Executive Assistant to the Superintendent)
- Legal Counsel Christopher Leopold

Act 46 Study

- *State Goals:* equity, quality, efficiencies, “preferred structures” of at least 900 students, PK-12
- *CSSU Study Committee agenda:* “Accelerated Merger” to maximize incentives with vote by July 1, 2016
- *Other Options:*
 - “Conventional Merger” – vote by July 1, 2017
 - Alternative / Non-preferred structure – districts must submit a plan to state by November 2017
 - Do nothing - Secretary of Education to submit plan to the State Board of Education by November 2018 for “sustainable” governance models in the state

Merged Governance Progress Across Vermont as of 3/9/16

- 282 school districts (organized into ~60 SUs and SDs)
- of SUs eligible for mergers, 9 mergers approved by voters to date (~40 districts)
- Up to 6 more merger votes before July 1, 2016



NOTE: These are best estimates as of 3/9/16. Study committees are still working and dates are subject to change.

CSSU Act 46 Proposal for Merger – *why now?*

- Builds on prior CSSU studies and actions
- Study Grants – up to \$20K for consultants, legal counsel
- Transition Grants – up to \$150K (minus study grant)
- 5-Yr Tax incentives if “fully operational” by July 1, 2017 (.10/ .08/ .06/ .04/ .02)
- 4-Yr Tax incentives fully operational by July 1, 2018 (.08/ .06/ .04/ .02)

Committee's Shared Values

- Use policy to ensure equity, efficiencies, flexibility
- Provide programs valuable to community at costs willing to support
- Ensure transparency in systems for public accountability
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, including local advisory roles
- Support board members with ongoing training for implementing policy governance model

Current System

- Towns: Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George, Williston, *AND* Champlain Valley School District
- One Superintendent
- 7 Schools Boards with 34 total board members
- Supervisory Union board oversees shared services (17-member board appointed by local boards)
- 6 School Buildings: ~4,000 students, ~ 900 employees
- Combined budgets of over \$70 million

Governance Proposal

- “Necessary” districts:
Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, Williston, CVU
- “Advisory” district: St. George
- Grades of operation: PK-12
- One board w/ proportional representation
- One budget, adjusted for local property values
- All property transfers to new district

Board Composition for new “Champlain Valley School District”

12-Member Board. Board members elected by town based on 2010 census:

- Charlotte: 2
- Hinesburg: 2
- St. George: 1
- Shelburne: 3
- Williston: 4

11-Member Board, if St. George votes to remain independent.

Ensuring “Local Voice”

- Budget development processes
- Use of local advisories for principals and board (e.g., facilities improvements)
- Adopt plan for coordinated communications
- Annual mechanics for local input (e.g., surveys, budget buddies)
- Currently under shared governance:
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ of \$70 M combined budgets
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ of ~4000 CSSU students attend CVU

Financials

- Single budget based on equity and affordability
- One blended tax rate, adjusted for CLA.
- Financial efficiencies identified: \$1.5M over 5 years
- All assets and liabilities transferred to the unified district
- Tax implications vary by town, but all towns projected to benefit over 5 years

CSSU Student Enrollment

Fall Counts - Includes St. George Students								2015 Projection
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2025
CVU	1408	1350	1355	1301	1272	1296	1221	1155
HCS	474	461	457	444	426	409	380	410
CCS	464	486	481	492	529	530	518	519
SCS	762	762	758	778	765	766	774	837
WSD	1112	1145	1113	1095	1070	1063	1048	950
total	4220	4204	4164	4110	4062	4064	3941	3871

Spending Per Equalized Pupil

	2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017	
	Enrlmnt	Cost per Eq. Pupil (actual)	Enrlmnt	Cost per Eq. Pupil (actual)	Enrlmnt	Cost per Eq. Pupil (projected)
S PK-8	760	\$13,570	778	\$13,988	768	\$14,271
W PK-8	1024	\$13,753	996	\$13,825	959	\$14,277
H PK-8	530	\$15,059	521	\$14,504	536	\$14,783
C PK-8	406	\$15,734	381	\$15,809	371	\$16,058
CVU Gr 9-12	1290	\$13,967	1226	\$14,191	1231	\$14,510
State Avg		\$14,008		\$14,421		na

Merged Governance Opportunities

- Efficiencies: Elimination of redundancies with centralized coordination
- Sharing of resources: Flexibility across PreK-8 schools -- *and* between PreK-8 and 9-12 schools
- Educational Opportunities:
 - Networked structure to allow for local innovations and specializations
 - Creative and innovative staffing: e.g., ability to move for period of time without losing seniority

Educational Benefits

- Centralizing functions requiring specialized expertise and time allows for re-directing resources to classroom
- More time for principals to focus on instructional leadership
- Improved ability to share human and material resources across town lines
- Opportunities for student placement flexibility
- More predictable planning for long-term

Study Committee Recommendations & Next Steps

Committee's unanimous support for merger

- voted on by Committee March 29th

State Board of Education Action

- April 19th State Board votes on recommendations

Getting on Ballots to Run for Board

See Town Clerk for petitions for consolidated board

Communities Vote June 7th

- “Yes” or “No” on Articles of Agreement
- Elect board members for a new unified board

More Info

CSSU Act 46 Study Committee:

<http://act46.cssu.org>

CSSU Act 46 Study Report: <http://tinyurl.com/gvdogcd>

Vermont Agency of Education, Act 46:

<http://education.vermont.gov/laws/2015/act-46>

Secretary of Education's 2016 Report on Governance:

<http://education.vermont.gov/documents/edu-legislative-report-act46-act153-merger-activity.pdf>

Vermont Statutes Online, Title 16: Education

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/16>

Questions and Discussion

Note FAQs, hand-outs and at <http://act46.cssu.org>

Public hearings held in each town prior to vote

Example FAQs follow.

FAQ - local fundraising

Q: How will local fundraising be handled?

A: Two of the guiding principles of the study committee are ensuring student equity and acknowledging the value of local initiatives and culture. Within this framework there would be room for local fundraising activities at each of the schools. Any new policy or structure developed around this issue would be the responsibility of the new school board.

FAQ - local innovation

Q: In what ways will local innovation be allowed in a merged system?

A: A networked system allows for local initiatives that inform the entire system. (e.g., multi-year professional development for math instruction, PBIS, after-school programming, grading systems, use of 1:1 devices)

The board would use measurable outcomes tied to budgeting, policy, and board priorities to ensure equitable opportunities *across* schools - just like we do now for ensuring equity *within* schools.

FAQ - facilities

Q: How would decisions about facilities be addressed? (e.g., maintenance, renovations/construction, fields)

A: Decisions on facilities maintenance, renovations, and construction would belong to a consolidated school board.

Local input would be required to identify needs and assist the board in prioritizing requirements across the system. On articles related to bonding for capital improvements, all votes from across all towns would be co-mingled.

To improve efficiencies, it is anticipated that a consolidated board would present a single general capital improvement bond to voters in all towns on Town Meeting Day to fund required projects (e.g., roofing projects for multiple schools).

More FAQs?

- See <http://act46.cssu.org>