

**DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
JOINT MEETING
Thursday, March 3, 2016
Cabot School Library**

Attendees:

CABOT: Chris Tormey, Board Chair; Jackie Folsom; Lisa Olsen; Isabelle McCallum, student representative; Megan Walker, student representative; Dave Schilling, Cabot Principal

WNESU: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent

DANVILLE: Sandy Hauserman, Board Chair; Peter McAlenney, Walter Smith, David Towle; Kerin Hoffman, Danville Principal; Patrick Pennock, Danville Dean of Students; Matthew Hauserman, student representative

CCSU: Mathew Forest, Superintendent; Peter Clarke, consultant

Members of the public: Twinfield Board Chair Patrick Healy, Twinfield Board Member Jack Hoffman, Mr. McCallum

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Cabot Chair Chris Tormey and Danville Chair Sandy Hauserman. Introductions were made.
2. Act 46 Discussion
Peter Clarke led discussion on options for a merger. Mr. Clarke said there is nothing in Act 46 that requires a change of configuration at all. Options should be considered on educational merit alone. If there is an option that does not fit into the Legislative structure, an alternate structure can be proposed. Tax incentives may not be available but if a structure is in the best interest of students, it should be proposed.

Options that were outlined at the last meeting were reviewed. Option 1, the magnet school option, is not viable as it does not provide any efficiencies or increased value to students, although Cabot and Twinfield are still looking at this option. Options 2 and 3 are basically the same and leaves the elementary school at the Cabot campus and high school at Danville. Option 4 is to build or renovate buildings.

Tasks that were outlined at the last meeting were discussed.

- Compare the teacher contracts for the three schools
- Look at adding Cabot high school students to Danville's high school and see what that might look like
- Preliminary review of transportation issues
- Talk to Cabot high school students about moving to Twinfield or Danville

Principals Hoffman and Schilling discussed staffing and what would be needed to combine Cabot and Danville students. The course catalog for both schools was discussed. There was discussion on the Place Based (PBE), International Baccalaureate (IB), and AP programs. Elective offerings were discussed.

APPROVED MINUTES

The student representatives offered their feelings about Cabot students going to Danville. They had similar concerns – mainly class sizes and sports – and also felt the opportunity to meet new people and the possibility of having clubs were advantages.

The comparison of teacher contracts was discussed. The differences of bringing Danville teacher salaries up to the level of Twinfield and Cabot was looked at. While salaries are a bit lower at Danville than Twinfield and Cabot, Danville offers different stipends that Cabot and Twinfield do not, and the health care benefits are better at Danville. This comparison is based on a configuration of a unified pre-K to 12 district with one budget, one Board, one equalized cost per pupil for the district, and two campuses with pre-K to 8 at each campus and high school at Danville.

Superintendent Thomas looked at transportation. If Cabot had students go to Cabot School, and then had a bus to run from Cabot to Danville, the cost would be about \$30,000 to get the students to Danville. The cost would depend on whether the bus stays at Danville during the school day.

Different options for the three campuses were looked at and discussed.

Summary of Discussion:

- There are many educational possibilities in moving forward with this merger
- There is no staff savings for the elementary school
- Potential staff savings at the high school level
- Even without staff savings, the educational opportunities that open up are substantive and real
- The future of Danville School is a bit of a “field of dreams”, trying to stop students from driving by to school in another town by making a more competitive program
- Savings from a merger have not been looked at but there would be savings by combining the two supervisory union offices. There is another side of the proposed RED that will be contributing to the combined budget as well.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cabot School. This will be a meeting of the Cabot, Danville, and Twinfield school boards.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Hinman

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Meeting Recorder