

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**AND**  
**TWINFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ACT 46 STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday March 30, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Cabot School Library**

## Attendees:

**CABOT:** Chris Tormey, Board Chair; Board Members Jackie Folsom and Lisa Olsen; Student Representatives Alisha Celley and Megan Walker; Principal Dave Schilling  
**TWINFIELD:** Patrick Healy, Board Chair; Board Members Jack Hoffman, Scott Harris, Chandler Miller; Principal Mark Mooney; Assistant Vice Principal Bob Gulardo  
**WNESU:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent  
**DANVILLE:** Sandy Hauserman, Board Chair; Board Member Peter McAlenney; Principal Kerin Graham-Hoffman, Dean of Students Patrick Pennock; Student Representative Matthew Hauserman  
**CCSU:** Peter Clarke, consultant  
 Members of the public

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Cabot Chair Chris Tormey. Introductions were made. Birthday wishes were given to Jackie Folsom and Mark Mooney was congratulated for being chosen Principal of the Year.
2. Act 46 Discussions
  - a. Financial. The main categories for the financial discussions are Transportation, Central Office, Facilities, Staffing, Negotiated Agreement, Special Education, and Maintenance. Since financial information from both SUs was not available, the financial discussion was tabled until that information is available.
  - b. Central Office. Information regard the current and merged structure for Central Office was presented by Superintendent Thomas. The total staffing for both Central Offices is 22.5 positions and the projected staffing for the merged Central Office is 18 positions. This would include a math coach and literacy coach. There was a question on where the Central Office would be located and if there might be additional savings from rents, utilities, etc. Superintendent Thomas suggested that discussion would be part of the 706 study and be written into the Articles of Agreement. There was a question whether other staff would be needed in addition to the positions shown. The information presented is a best estimate and covers Central Office staff, not teaching staff, and there should not be a need for additional Central Office staff.
  - c. Financial Model/Tax Rate Projection. The model used in this exercise shows trends; it has some fixed factors and some that can be adjusted. Information from all three schools was collected from FY2012 to present to calculate equalized pupil and education spending costs. Baseline data was used for FY2016. The model provides information assuming the schools have come together by FY2018 and if the schools remain unchanged. Data is projected out until FY2023. The two different scenarios are compared to see if there are any benefits with combining. The projected homestead rate for combined versus separate were projected out and showed a lower rate for the combined district. There was discussion regarding the tax

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incentives and how that was shown in the model. If tax savings are put towards educational opportunities rather than given back to tax payers, the projection would look different. That would need to be decided early on in the district budget process. Tax incentives are gone after five years. Those five years could be used to plan the educational opportunities for students and to explore staffing needs.

- d. **Campus Configurations.** A variety of possible campus configurations were discussed.
- Scenario 1 – Each school remains a pre-K to 12 school; students stay where they are OR the schools could be open to inter-district choice.
- Scenario 2 – The Cabot campus becomes the middle school. Cabot high school students could go to Danville or Twinfield or have the choice to go to either one.
- Scenario 3 – The Cabot campus becomes a pre-K to 8 campus. All students pre-K to 8 go to school in Cabot. The high school campus could be Twinfield or Danville, students could attend high school based on geographical location, or there could be inter-district high school choice.
- Scenario 4 – The Cabot campus houses Cabot and Twinfield high school students. Pre-K to 8 campuses remain at Cabot and Twinfield. Danville stays as it is now. Choice could be decided by geography rather than designated. There could be inter-district school choice.

3. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 11, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Cabot School Library.** Discussion will focus on the configurations and educational opportunities, how the three schools compare (Twinfield, Danville and Cabot), and how the strengths of each could potentially complement each other in some kind of combined arrangement.

4. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Hinman  
Meeting Recorder