

Welcome

The purpose of tonight's forum is to share the merger proposal and for the Act 46 Committee members to gather questions and concerns to bring back to the full Committee for their consideration before the Report is finalized. We will share the process and the timeline.

Ground Rules

- All ideas get a fair hearing
- Share "air time"
- It's ok to disagree, but stick to the issues.
- Don't make it personal
- Other?

Meeting Overview

- The context. How did we get here?
- The merger proposal
- The timeline
- Governance Roles of the Committee and the new Board
- Gather input and questions
- Outline next steps

The Goals of Act 46

- *To provide substantive equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities statewide.*
- *To lead students to achieve or exceed the State's Educational Quality Standards.*
- *To maximize operational efficiencies through increased flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources, with the goal of increasing the district-level ratio of students to full-time equivalent staff*
- *To promote transparency and accountability.*
- *To achieve these goals at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value.*

The Timeline

- 2015 – 2016 Cabot and Danville Boards and Cabot and Twinfield Boards each convene Exploratory Committees
- March 30, 2016 – Cabot, Danville and Twinfield Boards meet to begin 706 process
- September 14, 2016 - 706 Committee is formed and begins regular meetings
- January, 2017 – Committee holds forums to share 3 options and get feedback
- April 6, 2017 – Committee determines the option to put forth to voters
- Week of April 10, 2017 – Forums at the 3 schools
- April 18, 2017 – Committee Meeting: Finalize Report
- April 19 – 23, 2017 – Report sent to School Boards
- April 24, 2017 – Report sent to Agency of Education
- May 5, 2017 – Written Report sent to State Board of Education to preview
- May 16, 2017 – Committee Representatives present proposal to the State Board of Education
- May 17 – June 14 - Information distribution and district forums
- June 20, 2017 - VOTE on proposed district merger and Election of new district Board members, should

Key Themes from January Forums

- **1. Cost is a key consideration.**
 - People hope for cost savings
 - They are worried that costs could go up
- **2. There is a hope that students will have more options.**
 - More academic options for high school students, including a variety of learning opportunities that work for students with different learning styles
 - Expanded extracurricular options
 - Broader social network and diversity of peer group.
- **3. Community members express concern about change and the unknown.**
 - Would this really increase opportunities?
 - How would offerings be distinctive enough to offer students diverse options?
 - Could this stabilize the system over time, allowing our high schools to be viable?
 - Impact of statewide policy on budgets and other district issues
- **4. There is concern about the loss of town identity and voice.**
 - What would the impact be on our civic life?
 - Right now there is competition and misperceptions across schools.
 - How would decisions be made moving forward?
- **5. Transportation is a key concern and people need more information about it.**
 - Distances, and visualization of the distance
 - Costs
 - Implications for the length of the school day

Declining student numbers

K-12 Enrollment From FY04 to FY17 (September 6, 2016) (13 Years)

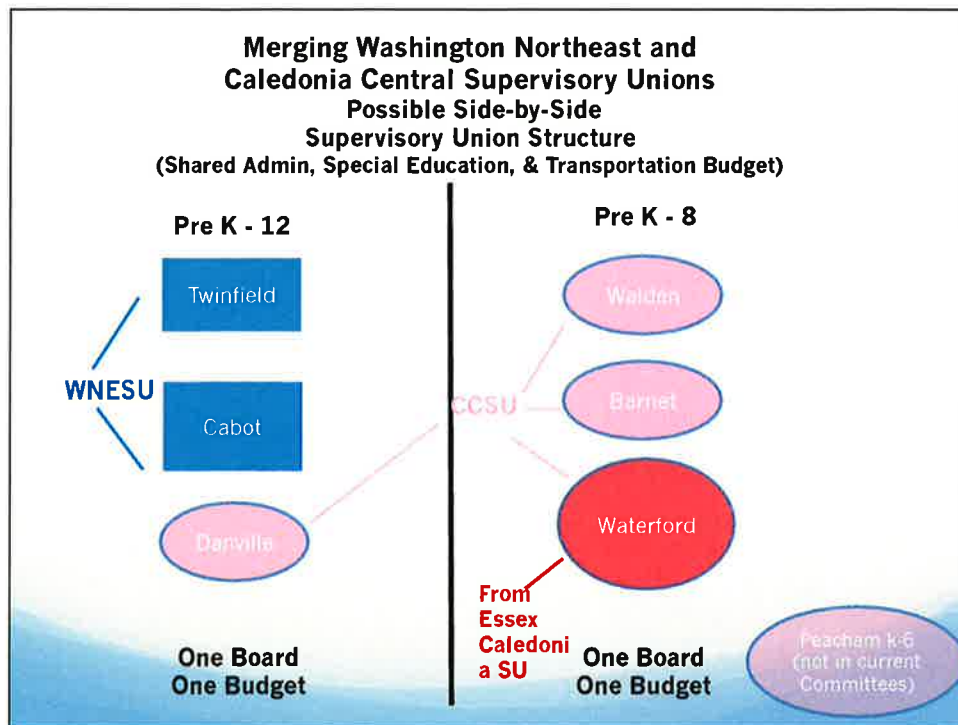
	2003-2004	2016-2017	% Change
Cabot	222	166	-25.2%
Danville	457	318	-30.4%
Twinfield	491	342	-30.3%

K-12 Enrollment From FY13 to FY17 (September 6, 2016) (4 years)

	2012-2013	2016-2017	% Change
Cabot	173	166	-4.0%
Danville	339	318	-6.2%
Twinfield	394	342	-13.2%

Act 46 Merger Plan

- Three options were considered. Option one was chosen.
- **OPTION ONE**
- The three schools continue to operate pre-k through grade 8 schools as they are now.
- **Twinfield Union and Danville High Schools continue to operate, building on the existing strengths of those high schools (more Advanced Placement and college credit bearing courses at Danville High School; more integrated, proficiency based and self-designed courses at Twinfield Union High School).**
- Cabot High School, grades 9 – 12, would no longer operate.
- High school students from all three communities/four towns would be able to attend either Danville or Twinfield Union High Schools and could choose to move between the high schools on a semester-by-semester basis.
- Transportation to and from each of the schools would be offered in the morning and afternoon.
- Co-curricular options, such as track, cross-country, skiing, drama, chess could expand at Danville and Twinfield.
- Includes tax incentives, transition grant of \$150,000 and continuation of small schools grant of \$151,000.



More Options for Students

- Twinfield Union and Danville High Schools continue to operate, building on the existing strengths of those high schools
- Such as Danville having more Advanced Placement and college credit bearing courses and Twinfield having more integrated courses and self-designed, community supported "Renaissance" courses. More options will be created together between the leadership and staffs of the two high schools
- High school students from all three communities/four towns would be able to attend either Danville or Twinfield Union High Schools and could choose to move between the high schools on a semester-by-semester basis
- Co-curricular options, such as track, cross-country, skiing, drama, chess could expand at Danville and Twinfield
- Transportation to and from each of the schools would be offered in the morning and afternoon.

Cabot Program of Studies

- HUMANITIES
 - AMERICAN STUDIES, Grades 9 & 10
 - CIVICS, Grade 10
 - FINANCIAL LITERACY, Grade 9
 - LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, Grades 11 & 12
 - LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE, Grades 11 & 12
- SCIENCES EARTH SCIENCE, Grade 9
 - PHYSICS, Grade 9
 - BIOLOGY, Grade 10
 - AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, Grades 11 & 12
 - MARINE BIOLOGY, Grades 11 and 12
 - MAKER SCIENCE, Grades 10- 12
- MATHEMATICS
 - GEOMETRY
 - ALGEBRA II
 - PRECALCULUS
 - AP CALCULUS

- WORLD LANGUAGE
 - ESPAÑOL 8-9
 - ESPAÑOL 10/11
 - ESPAÑOL 11/12
- ARTS
 - STUDIO ART 1
 - STUDIO ART 2
 - AP ART
 - CREATIVE MUSIC ENSEMBLE
 - INTRO TO GUITAR
 - WORLD MUSIC ENSEMBLE
 - DANCE

- PHYSICAL EDUCATION PHYSICAL FITNESS FOR LIFE
 - SPORTS OPTION
- COLLEGE, CAREER and EXTENDED LEARNING
 - COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPLORATION - GEAR UP
 - DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS (a.k.a. free college courses!)
 - EARLY COLLEGE
 - VTVLC ONLINE CLASSES
 - HEALTHY START and JUNE TERM

Danville Program of Studies

- ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
 - American Literature
 - World Literature
 - Creative Writing
 - Building Better Essays
 - 21st Century Literature
 - The Classics
 - A: Ancient
 - B: Modern
 - Introduction to Poetry
 - British Literature
 - A: Pre-19th Renaissance Literature and the Romantics
 - B: Post-19th Century Victorians to the Modern Era
 - SAT Prep
 - English Composition
 - Advanced Placement English: Literature and Composition

- MATH DEPARTMENT
 - Algebra I
 - Algebra II
 - Geometry
 - Personal Finance
 - American Math Competition
 - SAT Prep
 - Pre-Calculus
 - Statistics
 - Calculus

- GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP DEPARTMENT
 - American History Post-Bellum
 - Modern American History
 - World History and Geography
 - Course A
 - Course B
 - Genocide Studies
 - Ted Talks! Inquiry
 - Criminal Justice
 - Global Social Problems
 - Public Speaking
 - Research Topics in American History
 - Intro to Economics
 - Ethnicity and Diversity in America
 - Psychology: Social Research (B)
 - Theory of Knowledge
 - Intro to Psychology (A)
 - Sociology
 - Foundation of Education

- SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
 - Integrated Science I
 - Integrated Science 2
 - Biological Engineering
 - Engineering Sustainable Solutions
 - Human Biology
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics

- VISUAL ARTS
 - 2D Media
 - Painting
 - Pottery
 - Stained Glass
 - Sculpture
 - Printmaking
 - Digital Photography
 - Independent Art
- PERFORMING ARTS
 - High School Band
 - High School Jazz Ensemble – two semesters
 - High School Chorus
- DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
 - Maker Space
 - 3D Computer Design and Printing
 - Machines and Mechanisms
 - Robotics
 - Geology and Field Mapping

- FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT
 - Visual Art A
 - Visual Art B
 - Concert Band/Jazz Band
 - Chorus
 - Guitar
 - Level 1
 - Level 2
 - French 1
 - French 2
 - Spanish 1
 - Spanish 2
 - Architecture
 - Stained Glass
 - International Film
 - Music Theory and Composition 1, 2
 - Photography
 - Ceramics
 - Studio Art/Advanced Art

Twinfield Program of Studies

- INTEGRATED STUDIES
 - Synapse 9 – Combines Science and Humanities: Topics: Revolution, Evolution, Innovation, Global Issues
 - Synapse 10 – Science and Humanities: Topics: Human impact on the Biosphere, Identity and Genetics, WWII and the Holocaust, What is Truth?, Engineering our Future
 - American Studies
 - Bioethics and Science through Literature
- RENAISSANCE: Personalized Learning through creating your own study or studies based on interests and learning style
- ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
 - Senior Honors English
 - Honors American Literature
 - Independent English

- MATHEMATICS
 - Algebra 1
 - Algebra 2
 - Geometry
 - Pre-Calculus
 - AP Calculus
 - Applications of Probability and Statistics
 - Financial Literacy
- SCIENCE
 - Biochemistry
 - Physics-Explorations
- HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
 - Physical Education Class
 - Outdoor Adventures
 - Health

- SOCIAL STUDIES
 - Honors U.S. History
 - Psychology
 - Projects in Social Justice
- WORLD LANGUAGE
 - French/Spanish 101/102
 - French/Spanish 201/202
 - French/Spanish 301/302
 - French/Spanish 401/402
- PERFORMING ARTS
 - High School Band
 - High School Jazz Ensemble – two semesters
 - High School Chorus

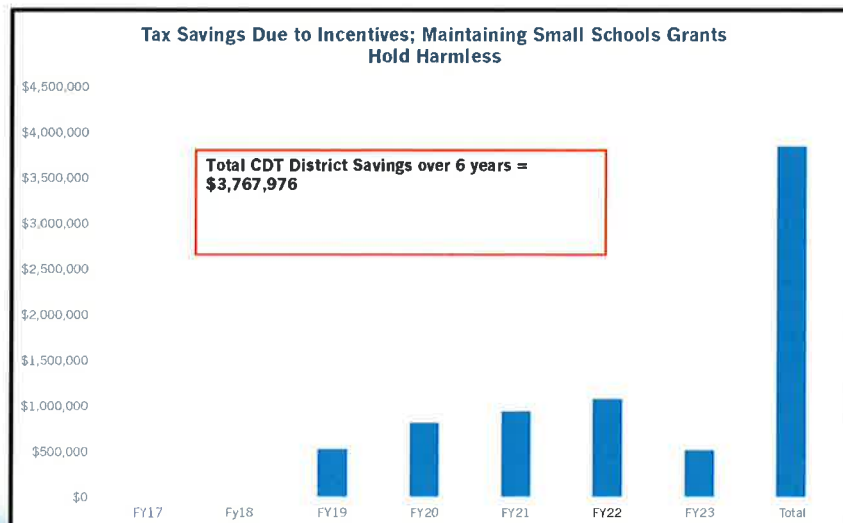
- Foreign Language
 - French 3 / 4
 - Spanish 3 / 4
- Building Trades
 - Design and Technology
 - Part 1: Welding
 - Part 2: Woodworking
 - Sustainable Agriculture
- Teen Health
 - Planning for Lifelong Fitness

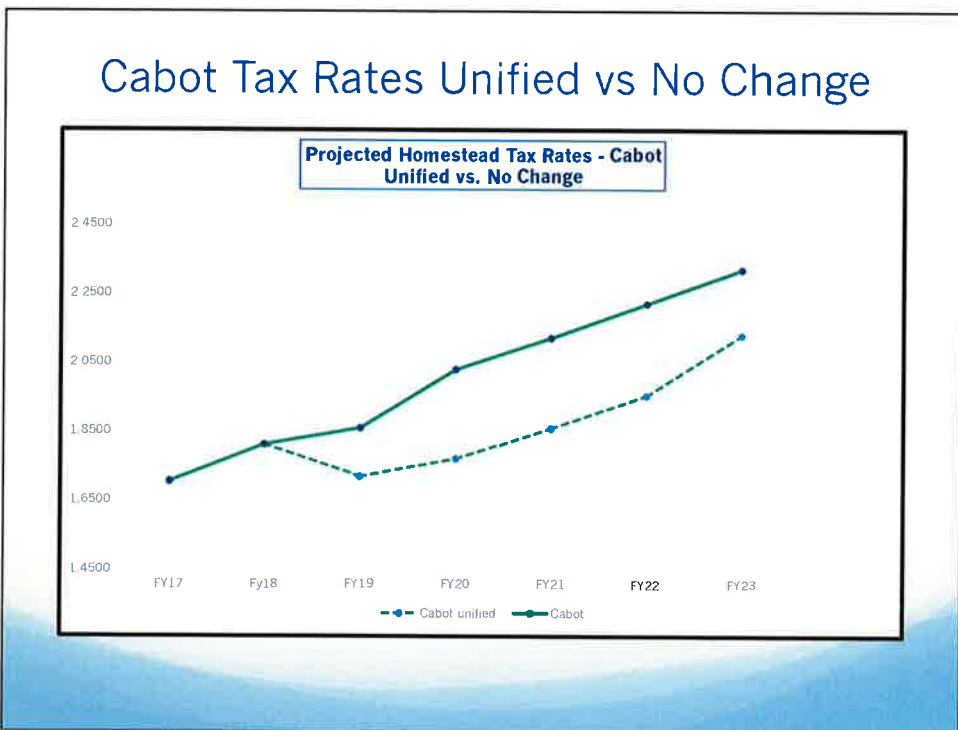
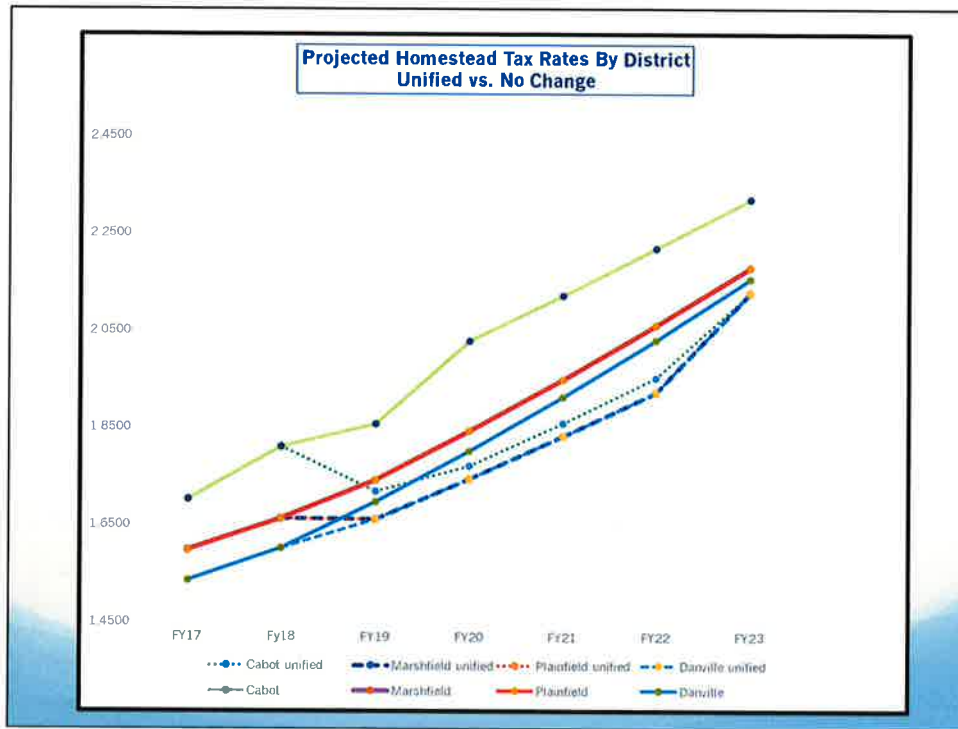
Small Schools Grant Incentive

- Cabot School currently receives a small schools grant from the State of \$151,000
- The newly merged district would keep that grant going forward if Cabot School is part of the merger
- If Twinfield and Danville merge, but not Cabot, neither Cabot School nor the new district would get the small schools grant after FY 2018 (next year)

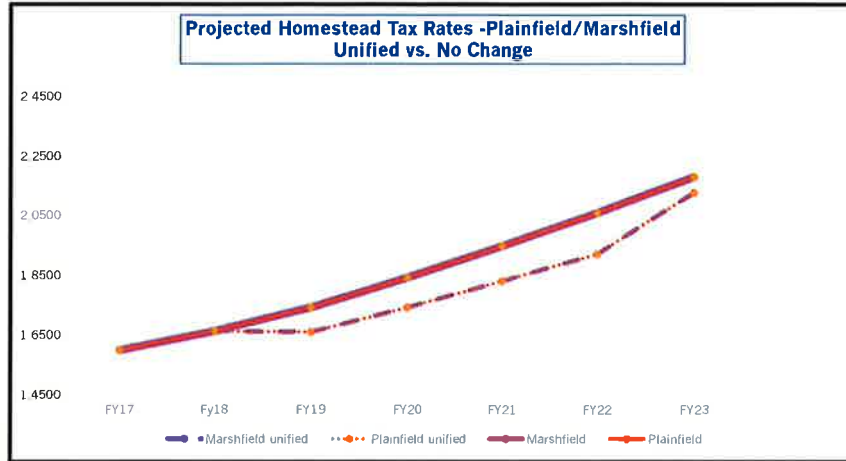
Unified Union; Model 1	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Total
Cabot								
Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.7018	\$1.8088	\$1.7184	\$1.7720	\$1.8606	\$1.9536	\$2.1334	
Tax \$ (homestead)	\$2,638,416	\$2,881,194	\$2,737,198	\$2,822,576	\$2,963,705	\$3,111,843	\$3,398,242	
Tax savings due to unification	\$0	\$0	\$219,658	\$406,651	\$413,192	\$419,404	\$294,523	\$1,753,438
Tax \$ on \$150K home	\$2,553	\$2,713	\$2,578	\$2,658	\$2,791	\$2,930	\$3,200	
Tax savings on \$150K home	\$0	\$0	\$207	\$383	\$389	\$395	\$277	\$1,651
Marshfield								
Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.5976	\$1.6626	\$1.6613	\$1.7444	\$1.8316	\$1.9232	\$2.1334	
Tax \$ (homestead)	\$1,892,749	\$1,988,142	\$1,986,588	\$2,085,959	\$2,190,233	\$2,299,768	\$2,551,126	
Tax savings due to unification	\$0	\$0	\$96,382	\$116,830	\$139,311	\$163,825	\$54,170	\$570,518
Tax \$ on \$150K home	\$2,396	\$2,494	\$2,492	\$2,617	\$2,747	\$2,885	\$3,200	
Tax savings on \$150K home	\$0	\$0	\$121	\$147	\$175	\$206	\$68	\$716
Plainfield								
Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.5976	\$1.6626	\$1.6613	\$1.7444	\$1.8316	\$1.9232	\$2.1334	
Tax \$ (homestead)	\$1,837,010	\$1,934,831	\$1,933,318	\$2,030,025	\$2,131,503	\$2,238,101	\$2,482,719	
Tax savings due to unification	\$0	\$0	\$93,797	\$113,697	\$135,575	\$159,432	\$52,717	\$555,219
Tax \$ on \$150K home	\$2,396	\$2,494	\$2,492	\$2,617	\$2,747	\$2,885	\$3,200	
Tax savings on \$150K home	\$0	\$0	\$121	\$147	\$175	\$206	\$68	\$716
Danville								
Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.6349	\$1.6012	\$1.6613	\$1.7444	\$1.8316	\$1.9232	\$2.1334	
Tax \$ (homestead)	\$4,477,170	\$4,695,149	\$4,871,378	\$5,115,050	\$5,370,744	\$5,639,340	\$6,255,703	
Tax savings due to unification	\$0	\$0	\$102,829	\$165,673	\$235,461	\$312,287	\$63,751	\$878,801
Tax \$ on \$150K home	\$2,302	\$2,402	\$2,492	\$2,617	\$2,747	\$2,885	\$3,200	
Tax savings on \$150K home	\$0	\$0	\$53	\$85	\$120	\$180	\$32	\$450
CTD TOTALS								
Tax \$ Raised in Town	\$10,845,345	\$11,499,316	\$11,528,402	\$12,053,610	\$12,656,184	\$13,289,052	\$14,587,789	\$0
Tax savings due to unification	\$0	\$0	\$512,466	\$802,862	\$923,540	\$1,054,948	\$464,161	\$3,757,976

Tax Savings Due to Incentives

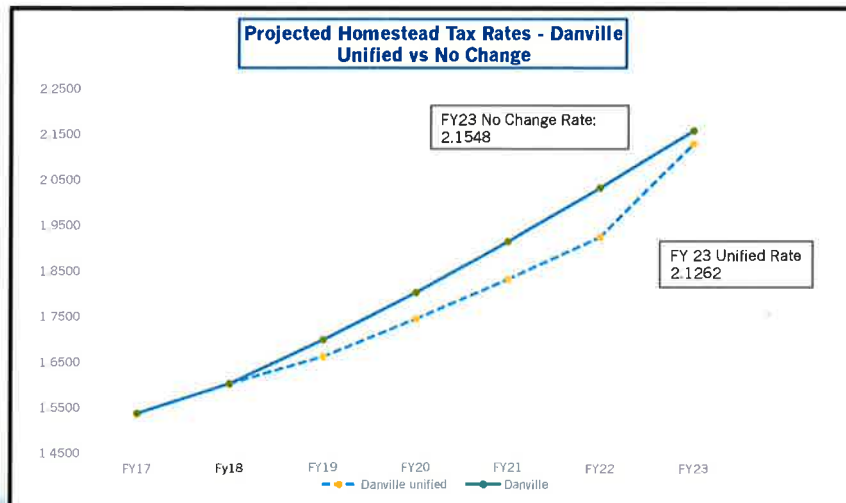




Marshfield/Plainfield Tax Rates Unified vs No Change



Danville Tax Rates Unified vs No Change



Supervisory Union Savings

- The Agency of Education is recommending to the State Board of Education that WNESU combine with another supervisory due to the small size of the district in either 2019 or 2020
- In combining CCSU and WNESU there is an anticipated savings of approximately \$600,000 per year. Of that there would be approximately \$360,000 in savings for the new CDT District with the rest going to the other “side” of the side-by-side and Peacham.

Roles of 706 Committee and new District Board

- 706 Committee roles
 - Study advisability of a merged governance structure
 - Decide, create plan, articles of agreement and report for State Board of Education and communities
 - Determine which districts will be “advisable” or “necessary”
 - CDT has determined “advisable” for all 3 districts.
 - Affirmative vote for 2 districts would allow merger of the 2 to go forward
 - Set up voting process for community consideration of the proposal and selection of new district board representatives
- New CDT District Board roles
 - Establish Policies
 - Negotiate new contracts with all teachers and support staff
 - Prepare and present budget for new district
 - Fulfill all other board roles: goal setting, oversight and support of administration

Options for Cabot

- 1. Approve proposed merger in June 20 vote
If two school districts approve... new district July 2018
- 2. Reject proposed merger on June 20; then....
 - a. Try again w/ Danville and/or Twinfield (by 11/30), or
 - b. Pursue “alternate structure” as Cabot School pK-12,
or...
 - c. Change to be a “tuition town” like Walden:
(maintain preK-8 in Cabot, tuition out HS students)

The HS Tuition Option Roadmap

- 1. Reject proposed merger on June 20
- 2. Hold Town-wide vote to switch from being a preK-12 school district to being a preK-8 district that pays tuition for HS students to be educated elsewhere (Twinfield, Montpelier, U-32, Hazen, etc.
- 3. Have discussions with Walden/Waterford/Barnet (or other preK-8 merged districts about Cabot joining them
- 4. Hold vote among all preK-8 districts considering the addition of Cabot (Cabot, Walden, Barnet, Waterford) as an additional member of the district

Alternative Structures

- An “alternative structure” is an exception under the law to the creation of a “preferred” unified system
- The Secretary of Education *may* (but not required to) consider a district’s proposal. It will be in the context of a statewide governance plan.
- The proposal must be able to show that the district can meet or exceed the goals of Act 46, “through reference to enrollment projections, staff to student ratios and comprehensive assessment data”
- The District must meet with one or more districts to discuss ways to show improvement throughout the region.
- The State Board will approve only if they conclude that this is the best way of meeting the Goals of the Act in a particular region.

- Clarifying Questions
- Reflections
- Most promising aspects?
- Concerns and questions for either 706 Committee or New Board

Going Forward

- April 18, 2017 – Committee Meeting: Finalize Report and Articles of Agreement
- April 19 – 23, 2017 – Final Report sent to School Boards
- April 24, 2017 – Report sent to Agency of Education
- May 5, 2017 – Written Report sent to State Board of Education to preview
- May 16, 2017 – Committee Representatives present proposal to the State Board of Education
- May 17 – June 14 · Information distribution and district forums
- June 20, 2017 · VOTE on proposed district merger and Election of new district Board members
- If voted down S-122 may allow 5 months for reconsideration
- If the merger does not go forward for one or more of the districts, that district must present an “alternative plan to the SBE detailing how it will meet the goals of the Act

Thank you for participating

**ACT 46 CDT SCHOOL MERGER PROPOSAL
PUBLIC FORUM INPUT**

TWINFIELD SCHOOL, APRIL 11, 2017

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- Concern about the length and cost of transportation
- Would there be any savings to tax payers after the incentives run out? Yes, from combining supervisory unions and eliminating grades 9 – 12 at Cabot
- How long before the new merged Board can close a school, specifically Cabot School? 4 years
- Can article of agreement extend the timeline for closing a school?
- How is the representation on the Board determined? Board representation is based on most recent Census
- Is it worth the incentives that disappear after 4 years to give up local control?
- Who decides about curriculum changes and transportation? New merged Board
- Should Twinfield look for different partners?
- By coming together, the newly merged district could offer both more opportunities and savings to our students.

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD APRIL 12, 2017

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- Educationally, bigger isn't always better.
- Sense from other towns' forums, is that there is no agenda to close local elementary schools.
- If we merge, we as a town have 20% representation on new Board. Concern is about other Board members not looking out for Cabot's interests.
- There is a strong desire on the part of some Committee members for all three schools to come together to benefit the students of all towns
- Would Cabot teachers be willing or interested in bringing PBL experience to other schools?
- What happens, even if we merge, if population continues to decline? Another merger?
- If we chose to merge and became a choice town and merged with Walden, would our K-8 be more safe re: closure?
- What happens to the small schools grant? If affirmative merger vote is within the timeline set by the state, the \$151,000 goes to the new district. If not the grant goes away after next year (FY 2018)
- How will building projects be funded? New district. Why would the new Board pay for Cabot facilities?
- Could Cabot meet the criteria for an alternative structure?

- It has been said that PBL can be done anywhere. Do we know if Cabot teachers who use PBL will stick with the new merged district?
- Concern about the cost of transportation in the new district and safety on Route 2
- If Twinfield salaries are higher would there truly be any savings? Yes, that has been figured into the calculations that have been presented.