

**CALEDONIA CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
BARNET, PEACHAM, AND WALDEN BOARDS
AND
MEMBERS OF THE WATERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
Monday, May 16, 2016, 5:00 p.m., Walden School**

Attendees:

Barnet: Board Chair Louis Bushey, Board Members Robert Farlice-Rubio, Sue Roberts, Jim Schenck, and David Warden; Principal Shawn Gonyaw

Peacham: Board Members Mike Heath and Jess Philippe

Walden: Board Chair Ray Lewis; Board Members Judy Clifford and Rusty Shedd; Principal Liz Benoit

Waterford: Board Chair Heather Gonyaw; Principal Kelley Brooks

CCSU: Superintendent Dr. Mathew Forest, Consultant Peter Clarke

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by CCSU Board Chair Louis Bushey.

Act 46 Discussion

The meeting began with a recap of the last meeting from Peter Clarke. The program opportunities for students and ideas on things that could be done in a better way all relate to what could be gained from a regional delivery model and one Board. There are two levels of this. One level would be to change the governance and keep the rest as is and the other would be to look at having just one Board and how that one Board might work. What would be the benefits and the challenges? What are the concerns and can those concerns be dealt with? One concern is loss of the school and that a regional Board would eliminate schools. There is also the possibility that regionalizing might be the only way to keep the school in a community. The next step is to discuss the benefits and challenges of having one Board for the four campuses.

There was discussion regarding Peacham's involvement in the process. Three Boards are ready to move to the next step but one is not and is doing something in addition to these discussions that could factor in to any final decision. If moving forward does not include Peacham, other options need to be explored. The Peacham self-study group is discussing options that involve other schools without including those schools in the discussion. Peacham is trying to preserve their 7/8 choice. Some people are saying that 7/8 choice is a big issue for the town. There is a survey planned to see if this is the case. The Barnet and Walden Boards do not like the options being discussed by the self-study group that involve them. Mr. Clarke said Danville is in a similar place with their side of the RED and no one is sure how that will work out yet.

Because of the geographic location of the schools, would it be possible for Peacham to keep 7/8 choice, and Barnet stay the same, and Walden stay the same? Mr. Clarke said the law is clear on the issue of equity of opportunity. Within a district, you cannot give one school and those families an opportunity that is not given to the other schools and families. Allowing Peacham to keep 7/8 choice and not offering that to the other schools would not work. Inter-district choice

for 7/8 could be offered but it would not include the private school that some Peacham families use now.

Peacham could stay with choice, and their own Board, and not join a district, but once the dust settles, the Peacham School would be assigned to the closest district. The Peacham School District would still have its own budget and Board and would have representation on the merged Board. The State cannot force Peacham to give up 7/8 choice.

Mr. Clarke gave the group an update on the K-12 side of the proposed RED. The study group is finished and financial gain was found at about 3% savings. Cabot is ready to move forward with the 706 committee. Mr. Clarke is meeting with Twinfield next week to see what they want to do. Danville is unsure about moving forward at this moment because they are holding elections this week and there will be new Board members elected. Without Concord on the K-8 side or Danville on the K-12 side, this group could form a side by side with Twinfield and Cabot and leave Danville out. Superintendent Forest said another option, which has been discussed with the Agency of Education, is to have the three schools on the K-8 side and Danville could stand alone.

Mr. Clarke asked if the group was ready to move ahead with a 706 committee. Walden, Waterford, and Barnet said they were ready. Peacham and Concord could be invited to be informal/advisory members of the committee. Peacham could be forced to join a 706 committee if 5% of voters in the town signed a petition to do that.

Superintendent Forest asked Mr. Clarke if he would assist Peacham in collecting the necessary data, then it would be known data. Superintendent Forest suggested clearing up the 7/8 choice issue, find out if it is a large stumbling block, and address it to get it off the table and move forward to the 706 committee.

If it is time to move forward with the 706 committee, a vote would be needed from the Boards involved to form that committee. The vote would need to be warned. Mr. Clarke will provide more information on the make-up of the committee; representation is based on the student count for each town. Before moving ahead, Louis Bushey requested that financial information be presented and that Concord be invited again to be involved in the discussions. Mr. Clarke will work on financial information for the next meeting. He will put together models for the four groups at the table, for the four groups at the table plus Concord, and for three of the four groups at the table, excluding Peacham.

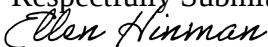
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at the Barnet School beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ellen Hinman, Meeting Recorder