

Cabot/Danville/Twinfield Act 46 Study Committee (706)
Wednesday, March 27, 2017
Cabot School Library

Present: Chris Tormey, Ry Hoffman, Robert Edgar, Bruce Melendy, Lauren Cleary, David Towle, Ginni Lavelly, Ian Covey, **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent WNESU, Mat Forest, Superintendent, CCSU; **Consultant:** Peter Clarke, **Absent:**, Sarah Watkins, Tim Sanborn, Scott Harris, Chandra Miller

Call to Order: Chris Tormey, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Public Comment: Dale Newton, a Cabot resident, asked questions regarding the proposed merger.

Consent Agenda:

Approve March 22, 2017 Minutes, - Dave moved to approve the minutes of March 22, 2017 as written. Ginni Lavelly seconded the motion. Minutes of March 22, 2017 approved as written.

Discussion:

- a. Review First Draft of the final Report
Peter reviewed and the Committee discussed the elements. Committee members will be asked to submit more suggestions for the summary. He pointed out that the new district needs a name. The Committee made minor adjustments and completed the review of the draft. More data and details will be added to the report and reviewed at the next meeting. Peter and Nancy shared the schedule of meetings and prospective presentation to the State Board of Education on May 16 with a vote on June 15.

- b. Discuss financial analyses
The Committee reviewed revised costs and savings related to moving salaries to the higher Twinfield salary scale and the savings relative to offering a PBL Academy at Cabot or closing the high school. After accounting for projected transportation costs, there is a small projected savings (\$700 to \$47,000) if there the PBL Academy option is chosen and a slightly larger savings (\$175,000) if the high school were to close. Dave Towle assisted in coming up with a proposed transportation strategy and cost estimate for the options. These savings are in addition to the projected savings of \$360,000 for the new district with the formation of the new supervisory union. Peter also reviewed the long term (5 year) tax saving estimates, given the tax incentives and maintenance of the Cabot Small Schools grant should the merger be formed.

c. Discuss program options.

The Committee discussed whether to endorse the PBL Academy option as part of the proposal. Concerns regarding cost savings, transportation, athletics and other student opportunities as well as likely voter support were discussed. Maintaining a high school presence on Cabot's campus was discussed as an important component to attract Cabot voter support, as well as providing more choices for students. While there was interest in determining which of the three options, including the option of doing an "alternative" plan" would be approved, the Committee decided to wait until the April 5 meeting to come to that decision as there were three members absent today.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thomas, note taker