

Act 46 Cabot/Twinfield Study Committee
Thursday, January 14, 2016
Cabot Library

Minutes

Attending: Consultant: Peter Clarke; Representing Cabot School: Jackie Folsom, Lisa Olson, Chris Tormey; Representing Twinfield Union School: Patrick Healy, Jack Hoffman, Jill Wilson; Administrators: Nancy Thomas, Pat Knoerl, David Schilling, Mark Mooney

Discussion:

Peter reviewed the structural options available under Act 46 merger.

Responding to the question: What would be the direction of the schools IF the members of these boards were ONE Board responsible for the operation of both the Twinfield and Cabot campuses?

Challenges:

- Cabot Facilities
- Twinfield Facilities
- Declining enrollment
 - Extra curricular, class sizes, per pupil costs
- Breadth of offerings
- Collective Bargaining agreement /Salary scale different between the two buildings
- Distance between the schools: transportation for students going back and forth, time on buses, \$ and efficiency
- Different schedules
- Sharing staff
- Different student cultures, perceived/real/athletics
- Communities would have a hard time, feeling attached to their community school
- Maintaining opportunities at co-curricular level with existing team structure
- Communities come out for their own town teams
- Maintaining and expanding curricular opportunities
- Poverty and associated issues
- Act 77
 - Personalization with declining resources
- Professional Development Support – time
- Community culture/buy-in to shared responsibility
- Community participation change, new culture, develop identity/ownership
- Town meeting vs Australian ballot
- Debt and future facility liabilities

- Representation on the Board/Trust that each board member is looking out for both schools' interests

Decisions that we wish we wouldn't have had to make

- 30 kids in 9/10 Humanities
- reducing high school staff to .6
- reduction of design tech
- reduction of foreign language options

The Committee discussed what needs to be prepared to demonstrate to the benefits to both schools.

Needs to be of benefit to both communities.

It was suggested considering pre-k 5 at each campus. Combined Middle School at Cabot. Combined High School at TUS. As a new entity, the name of the secondary school would be changed: "Tri-Town"? "Onion River"?

What are the strengths that could be shared?

TUS

Renaissance
80 acres/Brook
Eco Program
Intervention Block
Integrated curricula 7/8 9/10
Design Tech
Pre-K
Elementary looping (2 year teams)
WCMH Analyst
June Term

Cabot

Performing Arts
AP offerings
MS Leadership Program/canoe/DC
Integrated curricula 7/8
3/4 Project Based
Town based, community center
Pre-K
Health Center collaboration
Guidance program
June Term

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Twinfield's Library.