

Special Meeting of Many Boards Act 46
March 7, 2016 at 6:30 PM

Present: Ann Manwaring, Laura Sibilia, Bill Anton, Cheri Giddings, Susan Edgerton, Rick Thorpe, , Douglas Korb, Celena Romo, Dan MacArthur, Richard Werner, John Cleanthes, Carol Ann Johnson, Karen Atwood, Kimberly Teft, Honer Sumner, Stephanie Amyot, Michael Hebert, Jerry Dyke, Caroline Persson, Nick Zammuto, Lauren Poster.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM

Introductions: Boards represented: Marlboro, Wardsboro, Jamaica, Halifax, Dover, Readsboro, Vernon; everyone introduced themselves.

Identify individual school strengths and needs: Ms. Giddings invited each person to speak about what options have been considered, actions taken, in their districts. The participants spoke in turn, going around the table more than once. Subsequent discussion covered student opportunities and financial implications, and negative outcomes/challenges for towns, as well as potential ramifications and impacts of/on:

- school choice;
- differences in student population;
- uneven distribution of programs, such as foreign language, music, sports, the arts;
- transportation challenges;
- Act 46 incentives/penalties, distinctions between “savings” and "tax reductions" regarding actual funding sources;
- merger grants;
- possible merger configurations for specific districts;
- study grants;
- long range planning (five to ten years out);
- differing educational philosophies of merged schools;
- Property value impacts under different configuration scenarios.

Identify next steps if any

There were further discussions about the Act 46 process time-line and possible next steps.

Adjournment

Ms. Giddings moved to Adjourn, Mr. Werner seconded. All in favor, the Meeting Adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Minutes Recorder, March 7, 2016