

**UNAPPROVED**

**CABOT/DANVILLE/TWINFIELD Act 46 Study Committee (706)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Chris Tormey, Jack Hoffman, Scott Harris, Ian Covey, Ry Hoffman, Lauren Cleary, Sarah Watkins, Tim Sanborne, Dave Towle, Sandy Hauserman, Peter Mcalenney, Bruce Melendy  
**Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent WNESU; Mathew Forest, Superintendent CCSU

**Call to Order:** Nancy Thomas (Superintendent WNESU) called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Organization of the Committee-**

- Sandy Hauserman nominated Chris Tormey as committee chair. Ry Hoffman seconded the motion. Chris Tormey elected chair of 706 Committee.
- Sandy Hauserman nominated Peter Clarke to be the consultant for the 706 Study Committee. Lauren Cleary seconded the motion. Chris Tormey then opened the floor up for discussion. Peter Clarke was the facilitator for the ACT 46 Study Committees between Danville and Cabot and Twinfield and Cabot. He has also been hired as a consultant by schools being considered as part of the side by side with Danville, Cabot and Twinfield. These schools include: Walden, Barnett and Waterford and possibly Peacham,
- Peter Clarke approved to be the consultant for the 706 Study Committee with Cabot, Twinfield and Danville.
- The next meetings will be at Cabot on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm and then October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Hopes and Concerns for Schools and Communities:**

a. Cabot

- There is a great amount of pride in what Cabot does well and the hope is to maintain sense of community. But there is also hope to provide more opportunities for students in the area in a fiscally responsible way.
- Cabot is currently struggling to provide the same quality programming with dwindling numbers.
- The hope is to improve what Cabot currently has without losing pride and sense of community.
- The hope is to combine the strengths of each school.
- There is concern with being the smallest among the schools and later on losing any sense of power in what happens with Cabot School.

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### b. Twinfield

- The hope that from this process better paying jobs will be created for teachers and there will be less turn-over. The shared resources within the district will offer more opportunities for students.
- Community involvement should be a big piece of this, so that there is more understanding among community members.
- Shared resources would be a huge benefit.
- The possible loss of the Pre-k – 12 program is a concern as well as the loss of community and sense of belonging.
- A larger supervisory union may allow for more options/support in the area of special education.
- Making sure that the community is informed so that misinformation isn't circulated.
- There is a large sense of Community (family). The hope is to not lose that in this process.
- How will geography effect parent involvement in a new configuration?

### c. Danville

- Danville is a rarity in that it is surrounded by towns that offer school choice.
- The hope is to offer more opportunity to students.
- The members value the International Baccalaureate Program, one of two schools in the state who offer these courses.
- There is a fear that by forming the 706 committee the plan/energy to rejuvenate the high school and bring in new students might be lost.
- Danville hopes to bring in students from other communities/ tuition students to help increase population.
- This is a great opportunity to share ideas and find out what is working at each school. This is also a great opportunity to come together as a community and strengthening everyone's programming.
- There is a strong tradition in each school and many community members may resist change.
- The most important thing in this whole process to do what is best for the kids.

### **Next Steps:**

- Communication Plan- post information from meetings in each location, have minutes available from all discussions prior to forming the Act 706 study committee. Create an Act 706 committee webpage; a link to this website will be on each school's website. Mathew Forest will look into creating a website.
- There will be an Act 46 update at each school board meeting.
- There will be 15 minutes at the beginning of each future meeting for public comment.

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- Upcoming meetings will be posted on front porch forum.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber