

# CSSU Study Committee

February 7, 2011

# Study Committee Agenda 2/7/11

- Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
- Committee Purpose
- Overview of Act 153 and RED's; Current Status of RED Discussion Statewide
- Tentative Timeline for Study Committee Work
- Review of Financials:
  - Sample RED budget relative to CSSU: Expenditures, Revenues, Tax rates
  - Capital Assets and Long-term Debt Review
  - Other
- Discussion
  - Identification of Questions/Additional Information for future discussion
  - CSSU Board Meeting; Common Topic Discussion 2/9
    - Issues of importance for Board discussion
  - Next Meeting Date
- Adjourn



# CHARGE TO COMMITTEE

- Conduct a more comprehensive analysis of potential merger – including financial and opportunity to learn impacts
- Report results to CSSU board and member districts at February and April CSSU meetings
- Report results to the commissioner of education and the voters of each member school district

# Status of Known Current Merger Activities (29 SUs/1 SD and 87 Boards)

- **RED Articles Approved / Scheduled by State Board** (2 SUs and 13 Boards)

- Addison Northwest [5 bds.]
- Chittenden East [8bds.]

- **Local Boards Voted to Undertake RED Study** (5 SUs and 20 Boards)

- Addison Central [8 bds.]
- Fairfax and Fletcher [2 bds.]
- Chittenden South [6 bds.]
- Mountain Towns (Flood Brook) [4 bds.]
- Lamoille South [3 bds.]

- **Preliminary RED Research Under Way** (9 SUs and 51 Boards)

- Caledonia North [8 bds.]
- Orange Southwest [3 bds.]
- Bennington Rutland [7 bds.]
- Orleans Southwest [6 bds.]
- Franklin Central [4 bds.]
- Orange Windsor [5 bds.]
- North Hero and Isle la Motte [2 bds.]
- Southwest Vermont & Arlington [6 bds.]
- Windham Central [10 bds.]

- **SU Joint Agreement Study w/ Board Votes** (3 SUs)

- Rutland South/Rutland Windsor/Windsor Southwest

- **SU Joint Agreement Preliminary Research** (7 SUs/1 SD)

- Blue Mountain and Caledonia Central
- Blue Mountain/Orange East/Rivendell
- Montpelier and Washington Central
- Washington Northeast
- Windsor Northwest (exploring SU options with Orange Windsor and Orange Southwest)

- **State Board Directed SU Studies Triggered by Superintendent Resignations** (3 SUs)

- Battenkill Valley
- Washington South
- Rutland Windsor

## § 706b

### Contents of study committee report.

- (a) Study committee. When a study committee is appointed, the members **shall elect a chair** who shall notify the commissioner of education of the appointment. The commissioner shall cooperate with the study committee and may make department staff available to assist in the study of the proposed union school district. The committee is a public body pursuant to
- (b) Decision and report. The study committee **may determine that it is inadvisable to form a union school district or it may prepare a report in the form of an agreement between member districts for the government of the proposed union school district.** In making its determination, the committee may contact additional school districts it believes may be advisable to include within a new union school district. If the **committee decides to recommend** formation of a union school district, its report shall specify:

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- (1) the names of school districts the committee considers necessary to the establishment of the proposed union; provided, however, only districts named in the warning for the vote under section 706a of this chapter may be identified as necessary;
- (2) the names of additional school districts the committee considers advisable to include in the proposed union school district;
- (3) the grades to be operated by the proposed union school district;
- (4) the cost and general location of any proposed new schools to be constructed and the cost and general description of any proposed renovations;



# Study Report Contents

- (5) a plan for the first year of the union school district's operation for the transportation of students, the assignment of staff, and curriculum that is consistent with existing contracts, collective bargaining agreements, or other provisions of law. The board of the union school district shall make all subsequent decisions regarding transportation, staff, and curriculum subject to existing contracts, collective bargaining agreements, or other provisions of law;
- 6) the indebtedness of proposed member districts that the union school district shall assume;
- (7) the specific pieces of real property of proposed member districts that the union shall acquire, their valuation, and how the union school district shall pay for them;
- (8) the allocation of capital and operating expenses of the union school district among the member districts.

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- (9) consistent with the proportional representation requirements of the equal protection clause of the Constitution of the United States, the method of apportioning the representation that each proposed member district shall have on the union school board. The union school board shall have no more than 18 members, and each member district shall be entitled to at least one representative;
- (10) the term of office of directors initially elected, to be arranged so that one-third expire on the day of the second annual meeting of the respective districts, one-third on the day of the third annual meeting of the respective districts, and one-third on the day of the fourth annual meeting of the respective districts, or as near to that proportion as possible;





# Study Report Contents

- **(11) the date on which the union school district proposal will be submitted to the voters;**
- (12) the date on which the union school district will begin operating schools and providing education services, and
- (13) any other matters the committee considers pertinent, including whether votes on the union school district budget or budget questions shall be sett by Australian ballot.



# Financial Review

- Budget Review
- Tax Scenarios
- Capital Assets and Long-term Debt



# Questions and Discussion

- Topics generated
  - Further Financial analysis – tax rates, assumptions
  - Incorporating Act 153 with T16§706
  - Monitoring continued statewide activity
  - A focus on aspirations and fears

# Timeline

- Feb. 7, 2011
  - Review work to date – current work as well as prior work around consolidation
  - Review financial data; cost-benefit analysis
  - Plan for Feb. 9 CSSU Common Topic (Brian O'Regan will facilitate this meeting)
- Feb. 9, 2011
  - CSSU board meeting – Common Topic presentation/ discussion
- March/ April (1 -3 meetings)
  - Debrief Feb. 9 board meeting
  - Identify additional needed information
  - Review programmatic impacts
  - Analyze advantages/ disadvantages of mergers
  - Prepare recommendation to CSSU board (May board meeting Common Topic)
  - **Using the framework of Title 16 Section**
- April 2011
  - CSSU board meeting – Common Topic
- April – August:
  - Development of report to State Board of Education – Articles of Agreement