

Fletcher Act 46 Committee

Work for next meeting (Thursday, April 13, 2017 6-8pm)

Our task:

Ask a set of questions related to the priorities noted by our committee on Thursday evening that we would want to know about from other communities we would consider merging with. The priorities are listed in the draft meeting notes that should be posted to the Act 46 study committee link on the FES website soon.

Questions for other communities:

1. Are you already planning to consolidate with a school district?
2. What is your capacity for each grade level?
3. Is your community ready and willing to accept another school to join you?
4. What types of educational supports and systems are in place?
5. Are you willing to accept change if suggested by new teachers and administrators?
6. What extracurricular activities can your students participate in? How are your sports? Arts? Music? Theater programs?
7. Do students who need extra help or who differently learn feel supported here?
8. What would have to change in our schools to make consolidation feasible as well as acceptable by the state?
9. Have you explored other consolidations with others and they failed? Why did the consolidation fail?
10. Do you have any major modifications/renovations in mind for your current building(s)?
11. Do you offer extra educational challenges for those students who need it? (I'm thinking of Odyssey of the Mind, but not limited to that.)
12. What behavioral supports for students who struggle do you have in place, if any? If so, are you satisfied with your current approach? Are you willing to consider the PBIS approach?
13. What is the student -teacher ratio that we think is best for students?
14. What is the student -teacher ratio that we as a community are willing to accept as providing the best education for our students?
15. For choice communities, where do your students go after graduation and how do they get there?
16. What is your free and reduced lunch population?
17. How do you spend your Title one and Medicaid funds? What do you support with those funds?
18. What training opportunities and professional advancement are available to your staff that related to classroom management and/or subject matter expertise?

19. How many students enrolled at the school take advantage of Vermont's State dual enrollment program? What support or guidance does the school provide to help children access this program?
20. What community partnerships has the school established to increase children's learning opportunities through hands on experience?
21. What is the student teacher ratio parents are willing to accept as good education in Fletcher?
22. And what is the student teacher ratio the community is willing to accept?
23. Preschool program?
24. Has the school passed the budget historically?

Questions for our own Committee:

What is the exact data on how many Fletcher students attend the various middle and high schools?

(I would like to better understand why this information would be helpful; are we trying to determine impact? To me, the bigger question is, why do the majority of students attend BFA-Fairfax? Is it convenience (and could it be convenient elsewhere?) Is it educational excellence? Community alignment?)

Are there specific curriculum/school/administrative changes/additions we would like to see for our "ideal" school?

What advantages are there to getting rid of school choice?

What disadvantages are there to getting rid of school choice?

What advantages are there to consolidation?

What are the disadvantages to consolidation?

What are the economic advantages/disadvantages to consolidation?

What is the average time that students from Fletcher are on the School Bus? And, what is the shortest and the longest time?

Can we stay the same, as is?

What challenges currently face FES i.e. Space issues, cost containment, budget caps?

25. What is the student -teacher ratio that we think is best for students?

Are we currently doing the best we can for our Pre-K - 6th grade students?

How will the chosen path benefit all students or the most students?

Is the educational experience we are providing to Fletcher students equitable to the experience that students have at other schools within the supervisory union?

What are the limitations of proceeding with an alternative structure?