

School District Merger Study

Schenevus Central School and Worcester Central School



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Why Consider Reorganization?

- ❖ Increase course offerings for students
- ❖ Upgrade facilities and equipment
- ❖ More cost effective administrative structure
- ❖ Eliminate duplication of facilities, equipment, and staff
- ❖ Consolidate and coordinate support functions
- ❖ Reduce taxes



Why Reorganization May be Difficult

- ❖ Fear of losing local identity
- ❖ Perception the communities are incompatible
- ❖ Uncertainty over board representation
- ❖ Less personal attention for students
- ❖ Busing time for some students may be increased
- ❖ Fear of losing job security by employees
- ❖ Natural resistance to change



Purpose of the Merger Study

To paint a clear picture of each district so that its neighbor has a good understanding of the conditions it brings to the merger

To develop a set of recommendations for the new board of education to consider regarding district organization, staffing, finances, transportation, and educational programming should a merger occur.



Parameters for the Study

Scope of the Study: Use data to provide objective information on:

- Adding classes/reducing staff
- Creating building configurations by grade level
- Adding bus runs/drivers
- Calculating potential staffing savings
- Assessing financial impact of the merger

Outside the Study Scope: Decisions left for the merged district:

- Name, colors, or mascot for the new district
- Identifying classes to be added/staff reduced
- Developing bus routes with stops
- Deciding when staff savings might be realized
- Deciding how financial decisions will be made



The Merger Study

- ❖ Provides information for school district officials, the communities, and the Commissioner on enrollments, staffing, program, transportation, facilities, labor contracts, finances, etc.
- ❖ Facilitated by consultants
- ❖ Overseen by school/community advisory committee of 16-18 people
- ❖ Report is the responsibility of the consultants
- ❖ Both Boards of Education decide how to proceed with the final study



The Consultants

- ❖ Bring an outside, unbiased perspective
- ❖ Have no stake in the outcome
- ❖ Will conduct the study in a fair manner
- ❖ Will ensure that the process is open
- ❖ Will maintain contact with the State Education Department and the District Superintendent
- ❖ Will produce meeting notes after each committee meeting
- ❖ Will be responsible for the final report



Recommendations in the Report

- ❖ Will benefit student learning
- ❖ Will be sensitive to the unique cultural contexts of the school districts
- ❖ Will be independent of special interest groups
- ❖ Will be educationally sound
- ❖ Will be fiscally responsible and realistic
- ❖ Will not recommend whether or not a merger should occur



The School/Community Advisory Committee

- ❖ Equal number of people from each school community...for example:
 - ❖ 2 teachers
 - ❖ 1 building administrator
 - ❖ 1 support staff
 - ❖ 4-5 community members
- ❖ Superintendent and business office staff serve as advisors to the committee
- ❖ Function is to advise the Boards and the consultants and to communicate with the public



Expectations of Committee Members

- ❖ Attend all committee meetings
- ❖ Freely express their points of view
- ❖ Be a key communicator with stakeholder groups
- ❖ Be respectful of the committee and the study process
- ❖ Be a positive contributing member in other related committee activities



Committee Meeting Dates in 2020

- April 27 (Schenevus)
- May 18 (Worcester)
- June 15 (Schenevus)
- July 27 (Worcester)
- September 14 (Schenevus)
- October 19 (Worcester)
- November 16 (Schenevus)



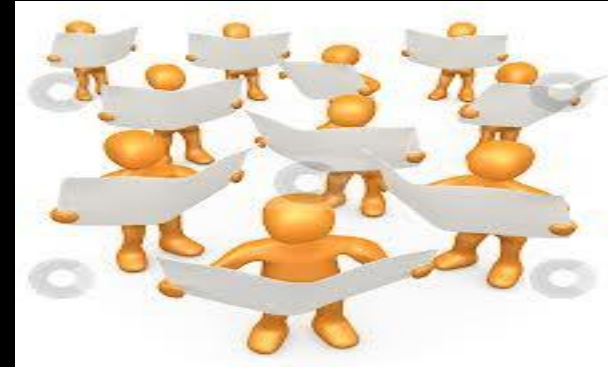
Time Line for the Study/Merger (Draft)

- ❖ January 2020-Boards meet to begin study
- ❖ April 2020-Study begins
- ❖ November 2020-Study completed
- ❖ December 2020-Study reviewed by S.E.D.
- ❖ February 2021-Study presented to Boards
- ❖ March/May 2021-Public information and discussion
- ❖ June 2021-Boards decide to go forth
- ❖ September 2021-Advisory referendum
- ❖ December 2021-Final referendum
- ❖ July 1, 2022-New district begins operation



Informing the Public

- ❖ District newsletters
- ❖ Newspaper articles
- ❖ District web sites
- ❖ Notes from advisory committee meetings
- ❖ PowerPoint presentations from advisory committee meetings
- ❖ Open advisory committee meetings-for observation and limited comment only
- ❖ SOON-Joint press release announcing the study and the advisory committee



Questions????

