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Topics of Discussion for Act 46 Section 10 Conversations

Topics of Discussion

1. How does the proposal support your ability to “provide substantial equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities” in a “sustainable” manner?
 - a. In re: students within the district(s) (e.g., chronically underserved versus not cu?)
 - b. In re: district’s students versus other districts in the region / State?
2. How does the proposal support your ability to “lead students to achieve or exceed the State’s Education Quality Standards” in a “sustainable” manner?
 - a. In re: students within the district(s) (e.g., chronically underserved versus not cu?)
 - b. In re: district’s students versus other districts in the region / State?
3. How does the proposal support your ability to “maximize operational efficiencies through increased flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources, with a goal of increasing the district-level ratio of students to full-time equivalent staff?”

What “detailed actions” will you take to “continue to improve” in re: this goal?

4. How does the proposal support your ability to “promote transparency and accountability” in a “sustained” manner?
5. How does the proposal support your ability to “deliver[education] at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value” in a “sustained” manner?
6. If there is another nearby district with the same o/t structure – then
 - a. Why is merger not “possible?”
 - b. Why is merger not “practicable?”
7. If not proposing SU enlargement/merger – then
 - a. Why not?
 - b. If SBE redraws SU boundaries per 16 VSA § 261, where should boundaries be?

“Alternative Structure” Includes

- A supervisory union “composed of multiple member districts, each with its separate school board.” (Act 46, Sec. 5(c) and 10(a)(2))
- A “unified union school district with [an] average daily membership” of less than 900 (Act 46, Sec. 10(a)(2))

Act 46, Sec. 5(c), as amended by Act 49, Sec. 7

SU with multiple member districts “*may meet the State’s goals, particularly if:*”

- Consider selves to be *collectively responsible* for PK-12 students
- SU *complies* with SpEd, transportation, etc requirements of § 261a
- SU “has the *smallest number of member school districts practicable*, achieved wherever possible by the merger of districts with *similar operating and tuitioning patterns*”
- SU “has the smallest number of member school districts practicable after consideration of *greatly differing levels of indebtedness* among member districts”
- Combined ADM 900+

Proposal (Act 46, Sec. 9(a)(3))

- “demonstrate[] through reference to enrollment projections, student-to-staff ratios, the comprehensive data collected pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 165, and otherwise, *how the proposal ... supports the district’s or districts’ ability to meet or exceed each of the” Goals*
- “*identify[] detailed actions* it proposes to take to continue to improve its performance in connection with each of the” Goals

Statewide Plan (Act 46, Sec. 10)

- “provide educational opportunities through *sustainable governance structures* designed to meet the” Goals of Act 46
- “*If it is not possible or practicable* [for the Statewide Plan to merge Remaining Districts, where necessary, into a Preferred Structure] in a manner that adheres to the ... protection for tuition-paying and operating districts[] or that otherwise meets all aspects of Sec. 5(b), then the [Plan] *may also include alternative governance structures as necessary, such as a supervisory union with member districts or a unified union school district with a smaller average daily membership.*”

(Act 46, Sec. 8(b))

“State Board shall approve the *creation, expansion, or continuation* of a supervisory union *only if* the Board concludes that this alternative structure:

- (1) is the *best* means of meeting the [Goals] in a particular region; and
- (2) ensures *transparency and accountability* for the member districts and the public at large”