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Sec. 9 Proposal Process Overview

- January-May 2018:
 - Secretary of Education and Agency staff review all Sec. 9 proposals and other information (e.g., Agency data, community input, earlier merger proposals, etc.)
 - School Board has “conversations” about proposal with Secretary
 - *The Agency will call / send an e-mail to schedule these meetings*
 - *Meetings will occur between now and May 1*
 - *Meetings will occur at the Agency’s Offices in Barre*
 - *Because the Secretary must look at each proposal locally, regionally, and on a statewide basis, it is doubtful that the Secretary will be able to give a final answer during these meetings about whether the proposal will or will not be incorporated into the proposed Statewide Plan*
 - School Board has opportunities to supplement its proposal
 - State Board of Education (SBE) also has copies of all Sec. 9 proposals and each SBE member begins reviewing them
- June 1, 2018 – Secretary presents proposed statewide plan that may incorporate a School Board’s Sec. 9 proposal in full, in part, or not at all
- June-October 2018:
 - SBE reviews all Sec. 9 proposals and other information (e.g., Agency data, community input, earlier merger proposals, etc.)
 - School Board presents testimony to SBE and answers SBE’s questions about proposal
 - *The SBE has tentatively decided to receive testimony on Sec. 9 proposals at its July, August, and September meetings*
 - *It has also tentatively decided, in concept, to divide the state into three regions so that it can schedule those three meetings to occur in each of the three regions*
 - *Because the SBE must look at each proposal locally, regionally, and on a statewide basis, it is doubtful that it will be able to give a final answer during these three regional meetings about whether the proposal will or will not be incorporated into the final Statewide Plan*
 - School Board has opportunities to supplement its proposal
- November 30 – SBE issues the Final Statewide Plan that merges districts and redraws SU boundaries to the extent necessary to achieve sustainable governance structures capable of meeting/exceeding the Act 46 Goals of equity, excellence, and efficiency – the Final Plan may incorporate School Board’s Sec. 9 proposal in full, in part, or not at all
 - *The SBE must: discuss each proposal; give instructions to the Agency regarding what it wants to include in a draft final Plan; review and potentially amend the draft version of its Plan (a public record); and vote on the final Plan prior to the November 30 deadline for issuing the plan – as a result, School Boards will have an indication of the SBE’s actions before the SBE issues the final Statewide Plan*