

# Grand Isle Supervisory Union

Act 46 Study Committee Report

# CONTEXT

Geography

History

Economics

Timeline



## GEOGRAPHY OF THE ISLAND:

Grand Isle County is 29 miles long and surrounded by water on three sides and Canada on the other

There two access points to mainland Vermont: Alburgh to Swanton and South Hero to Milton

Isle La Motte and North Hero operate schools PreK-6 with 7-12 choice

Alburgh, Grand Isle and South Hero operate schools PreK-8 with 9-12 choice

Alburgh secondary students access Franklin County High Schools and Rouse's Point NY (4 miles away)

No North Hero or Isle La Motte 7 /8 students choose an in county middle school

Alburgh and South Hero are closer in Proximity to mainland communities than they are to one another

# HISTORY

The islands have very little history of working together and recent efforts have been made, but were rejected to consolidate:

Churches

Town Services

Water Districts

Fire Departments

Libraries

# ECONOMICS

## Median Family Household Income: (2010 census)

Alburgh      \$39,783

South Hero   \$61,198

## Free and Reduced Lunch Rate Variability:

Alburgh      60%

South Hero   29%

# Timeline

- August 2015, Committee Formed
- August-December 2015, Exploration of student opportunities in SU and surrounding districts
- December 2015, Committee tentatively commits to a 5 town union with school choice for grades 7-12
- December 2015-February 2016, Public pressure begins to mount in South Hero around changing current grade structures
- February-April, Committee begins deeper exploration of both k-8 and k-6 models, South Hero announces its intent to leave the committee and pursue a study with Georgia
- April-May, South Hero recommits to committee, South Burlington is engaged to discuss the idea of a side by side that would merge some towns with South Burlington and allow existing k-8 schools to retain their structure in the other side.
- May 2016, At a public forum in Grand Isle residents declare a strong preference for a k-6 model that includes school choice over a side-by-side. At a similar forum in South Hero residents decline side-by-side and k-6 merger
- May 2016, The committee approves a motion to create a k-6 district with choice for 7-12 with Alburgh and South Hero being recommended as advisable. The motion carries 15-0