



# MMMUSD - CESU

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February 8th, 2018

Dear Community Members:

On Town Meeting day, Huntington will vote on merging the Huntington School District into the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District (MMMUSD). For 50 years we governed our children's education with a union middle and high school district plus six separate elementary school districts. Then, in 2014, the voters of Bolton, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill voted to form the MMMUSD, merging our separate school boards into a single board. Huntington chose to retain its board for students at Brewster Pierce Elementary.

The intent of the merger was to benefit our students, taxpayers, and community. For half a century we had been able to provide an excellent education in a district that included two middle schools and a high school. We believed combining governance for our elementary schools would result in financial savings and better educational delivery. A single system focused on continuous progress of students would provide equity for all our schools, allow us to more wisely use precious resources, allow our administration to focus more on education, and better enable us to innovate. The merger has exceeded our expectations. Last year we began to offer an innovative foreign language immersion program to kindergarteners, the first such program in Vermont.

The Mount Mansfield Modified Union School School Board, administration, and school personnel have been consistent and clear in their strong support and desire to have the Huntington School District unify with MMMUSD. Sharing resources and eliminating the remaining artificial boundaries will allow our schools to grow, improve, and prosper. Our unified mindset and perspective have grown from the rich relationships that have been established over several decades, and from our collective focus on meeting the needs of students and providing a quality education.

Sincerely,

Andrew Pond, Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District Chair



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