

**From:** Nancy Cornell <[ncornell7@gmail.com](mailto:ncornell7@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:40 AM  
**To:** Samuelson, Jennifer <[Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** MAUSD-ANWSD Proposed Merger

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Dear Jennifer Deck Samuelson,

I am writing to you because I understand that you will be chairing the July 20 State Board meeting that will hear from the MAUSD-ANWSD Merger Study Committee concerning its recommendation and its report.

I am writing as a concerned citizen living within the Mt. Abraham Unified School District. I am a resident of Starksboro, and I'm the convener of the Starksboro Save Our Schools Committee. I was the Associate Superintendent of the Addison Northeast Supervisory Union for 16 years and have also been a member of the ANESU Board and the Robinson Elementary School Board in Starksboro. Two weeks ago, when I was visiting with my brother, Jim Cornell, he and I got to chatting about local school matters. Jim suggested that I might want to contact you.

Because you will be hearing from the MAUSD-ANWSD Merger Study Committee next week, and because there is a connection between Starksboro's current effort to withdraw from MAUSD and the Merger Study Committee's recommendation and report, I thought you would want to know more about that connection. Specifically, I thought you would want to know that:

- Starksboro voters voted overwhelmingly to authorize our select board to terminate our withdrawal process if the Merger Study Committee would guarantee our right to vote on whether our elementary school would be closed (and the Merger Study Committee refused to that guarantee in its Articles of Agreement) OR if the voters defeat the merger in November.

You will find much more information and background on these matters at the [Starksboro Save Our Schools Website](#). In addition, please don't hesitate to contact me if a conversation might be helpful to the State Board's work related to the proposed merger and to Starksboro's decision to initiate the withdrawal process.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Cornell  
802.453.2681 (landline)

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Nancy Cornell