

Orleans Central Supervisory Union Act 46 Study Committee Report

Presentation to
State Board of Education
June 8, 2018

Orleans Central SU

Seven towns:

Albany

Barton

Brownington

Glover

Irasburg

Orleans

Westmore

Orleans Central SU

- Unified preschool program with 2 sites (Albany and Barton)
- 6 elementary schools (K-8)
- 1 town that offers choice for K-8 (Westmore)
- 1 union high school (9-12) (Lake Region)

Orleans Central SU

Unified Preschool Program - 2 Sites

- Collaborative with Head Start
- Albany site (based at Albany School) – 20 student capacity
- Barton site (COFEC) – 80 student capacity

Orleans Central SU

6 Elementary Schools (K-8)

- Albany – 80 students
- Barton – 154 students
- Brownington – 105 students
- Glover – 115 students
- Irasburg – 126 students
- Orleans – 112 students

Orleans Central SU

Westmore

- School choice for K-8 (22 of those 27 students attend OCSU schools)
- Westmore belongs to the Lake Region UHS (4 students)

Orleans Central SU

Lake Region Union High School

379 Students:

- 325 from OCSU towns
- 22 school choice students
- 32 tuition students

Orleans Central SU

Mileage Between Schools

	Albany	Barton	Brownington	Glover	Irasburg	Lake Region	Orleans	Central Office
Albany	0	16	11	18	7	11	12	15
Barton	16	0	8	4	10	4	6	1
Brownington	11	8	0	13	8	7	5	9
Glover	18	4	13	0	12	7	9	4
Irasburg	7	10	8	12	0	4	5	8
Lake Region	11	4	7	7	4	0	3	3
Orleans	12	6	5	9	5	3	0	5
Central Office	15	1	9	4	8	3	5	0

OCSU Study Committee

- Orleans Central Supervisory Union (OCSU) formed an Act 46 Implementation Study Committee during the 2015-16 school year
- The committee worked with consultant, Wayne Gersen, and decided to go forward with a preferred structure
- A vote was held on June 7, 2016 (results on next slide)

OCSU Study Committee

- Albany: Yes = 33, No = 36 (vote Failed)
- Barton: Yes = 56, No = 35 (vote Passed)
- Brownington: Yes=22, No = 45 (vote Failed)
- Glover: Yes = 37, No = 74 (vote Failed)
- Irasburg: Yes = 27, No = 62 (vote Failed)
- Orleans: Yes = 31, No = 41 (vote Failed)
- Westmore: Yes = 21, No = 32 (vote Failed)

OCSU Study Committee

- Orleans Central Supervisory Union (OCSU) formed a new Act 46 Implementation Study Committee in Feb. 2017
- The study committee spent considerable time debating the best course for OCSU and ultimately decided to proceed with a preferred structure.

OCSU Study Committee

Adopt Unified Union Governance Structure

WHY? Three Major Reasons

1. We have a 50-year history of successful collaboration and shared governance at SU level, and at HS level
2. A unified union governance model will offer **ALL** students more learning opportunities
3. A unified union model will provide opportunities to save money, assure OCSU communities receive Act 46 incentives, and avoid the impact of losing small schools grants

OCSU Study Committee

- **We have a 50-year history of successful collaboration and shared governance at SU level, and at HS level**
 - Orleans Central Supervisory Union has common pay schedules, common calendars, common special education services, and operates a prekindergarten program for all students... ***and these initiatives were put in place without undercutting local control.***
 - Lake Region Union High School, which is governed by a regional board, provides a high quality program to ALL students in the district. ***LRUHS is recognized by US News and World Report as one of VT's best!***

OCSU Study Committee

- **A unified union governance model will offer ALL students more learning opportunities**
 - Our K-8 Districts do not provide comparable learning opportunities or support services
 - Sharing staff will enable OCSU K-8 schools to offer more specialized instruction (*e.g. accelerated math and science programs; reading and math intervention; technology support*)
 - The unified union governance model provides an opportunity for K-8 choice and an opportunity to reconfigure schools to optimize staffing and save money without closing schools

OCSU Study Committee

- **A unified union model will increase the opportunities to save money, provide tax reduction incentives, and avoid the impact of losing small schools grants**
 - Bulk Purchasing opportunities (*e.g. food services, technology, heating oil, cleaning materials, etc.*)
 - Administrative overlaps (*moving from nine budgets to one reduces audit costs, staff time*)
 - Sharing staff and resources among schools

OCSU Study Committee

A unified union model will avoid the impact of losing small school grants:
The table on the right shows the amount each of the districts currently receives for small school grants.

District	FY 18 Small School Grant
Albany	\$114,120
Barton	\$34,515
Brownington	\$98,436
Glover	\$90,407
Irasburg	\$81,168
Orleans	\$101,772

What Will Change in OCSU?

Current Status

- **Contracts**: Employees covered by OCSU negotiated agreements
- **Budgets**: 9 budgets developed, adopted, voted on individually; budgets voted on in town meeting format; each board oversees budget.
- **Boards**: 9 Boards, 32 members

Unified Union

- **Contracts**: New Board will negotiate with employee groups within 90 days
- **Budget**: One budget; voted on by Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day; budget oversight determined by board policy
- **Board**: One Board with 17 members; representation based on 2010 census

What Will Change in OCSU?

Current Status

- **Facilities**: Each district owns and is responsible for school buildings and grounds; each is responsible for maintenance and custodial services
- **Personnel management**: 8 separate Boards hire **all** staff members for their district
- **Curriculum oversight**: 7 boards responsible for assuring schools meet the Vermont Quality Standards.

Unified Union

- **Facilities**: New district owns and is responsible for school buildings and grounds; it is responsible for maintenance and custodial services
- **Personnel Management**: One Board hires **all** staff for **all** schools
- **Curriculum Oversight**: One board accountable for meeting Vermont Quality Standards.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- **ASSUMING State Board approval in June**: A round of public forums/hearings to inform public of governance vote on Nov. 6th.
- **Nov. 6th**: The proposal to adopt the Articles of Agreement goes to voters in each OCSU town along with a slate of candidates to serve on the Unified Union Board. The vote will be done by Australian ballot. ALL towns must vote to adopt the Articles of Agreement.
- **After the Vote**: If the electorate of each member district votes in favor of the proposal, the Town clerks will notify the Agency of Education of the vote tallies in their community.
- **Nov. 30th**: If the electorate of each member district votes the proposal down, the Secretary of Education will notify us of where we fit into the state plan.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- **Jan. 2019:** The Agency of Education will convene an organizational meeting.
- **Following Organizational Meeting:** Newly elected Board begin transition to controlling operation of all existing OCSU schools. The new board will:
 - negotiate contracts to go into effect after July 2019
 - develop new policies
 - develop a budget for 2019-2020 to be voted on by Australian ballot.
- **July 1, 2019:** The unified union school district will be fully operational and the district boards elected for 2018-19 will no longer be in place.

Questions?