

From: Will Eberle - PMSD Brd Member <weberle@cvsu.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 10:29 AM
To: French, Daniel <Daniel.French@vermont.gov>; Samuelson, Jennifer <Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov>
Subject: Opposition to Lincoln School District/CVSU merger

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Dear Secretary French and Chair Samuelson,

I am writing you as a member of the Paine Mountain Supervisory Union School Board to express my strong opposition to the proposed merger between Lincoln School District and CVSU.

Our Superintendent Mathew Fedders, articulated the primary deficiencies with the proposed merger in his letter of 11/9/22:

“Merging LSD and CVSU would not realize any new efficiencies given the negative effects the merger would have on travel, curriculum planning, salaries, and taxes.”

The significant travel time between LSD and CVSU makes it preposterous to imagine students would be traveling to our schools to engage in our academic or extra curricular offerings and would subsequently not enjoy any new or expanded opportunities by virtue of joining our learning community.

Conversely, our administrative leaders would be required to devote a significant portion of their time to traveling to LSD to attending to the needs of their buildings, staff, and students. This would stretch their capacity far beyond sustainability and dilute their impact across both districts.

Managing these geographies and engaging in the Herculean task of aligning the very different processes, systems, and mission critical activities utilized in both districts would be so onerous and protracted it makes the notion of achieving efficiencies through a merger farcical.

Finally, it seems clear that students matriculating into the high school grades would choose to engage in that part of their education in high schools much closer to Lincoln, at our expense.

If this proposed merger presented real opportunities for expanded opportunities or increased efficiencies in either or both school district I would be happy to seriously consider it. Sadly, it is clear no such opportunities would emerge from this merger for any party involved and I cannot support it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Will Eberle
Paine Mountain School Board member