



LAMOILLE SOUTH SUPERVISORY UNION

46 Copley Avenue
Morrisville, VT 05661
(802) 888-4541

July 13, 2018

State Board of Education
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641

Dear State Board of Education Members,

The purpose of this letter is to affirm that the districts of Elmore-Morristown Unified Union (EMUU) and Stowe (SSD) appreciate and support the Secretary's recommendation for our respective school districts as outlined in the state plan. Recognizing that the Secretary indicated that this was a difficult decision, EMUU Board Chair Stephanie Craig and SSD Board Chair Cara Zimmerman are attending to answer any questions you may have.

To assist with our conversation, we have attached updated pages from Appendix G of the Proposed Statewide Plan for School District Governance (June 1, 2018) which note FY19 Education Spending, Ed Spending per Equalized Pupil and District equalized tax rate for both Elmore-Morristown and Stowe (noted in the right hand margin). Also attached is an update submitted to the AOE in May, 2018 which provides evidence of continued collaboration across a growing body of stakeholder groups. This update has been supplemented for Summer, 2018 to include some additional artifacts and evidence of the ongoing collaborative work to further advancing the goals of Act 46 regionally. Lastly, we have attached a reference which highlights some of the priorities of the EMUU board specific to the ongoing work needed to help the communities of Elmore and Morristown work and think of themselves as a single entity.

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you, your thoughtful consideration of our proposal and the Agency of Education's thorough and thoughtful recommendation for EMUU and SSD.

Sincerely,

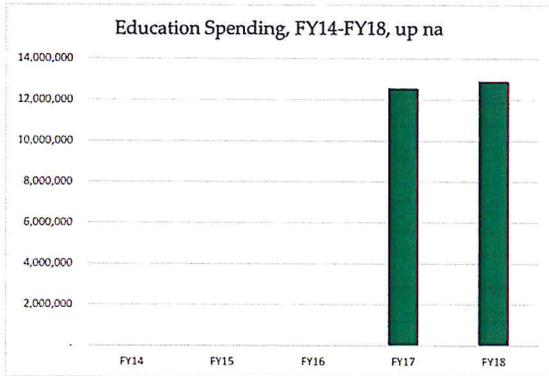
Tracy Wrend
Superintendent of Schools

Attachments

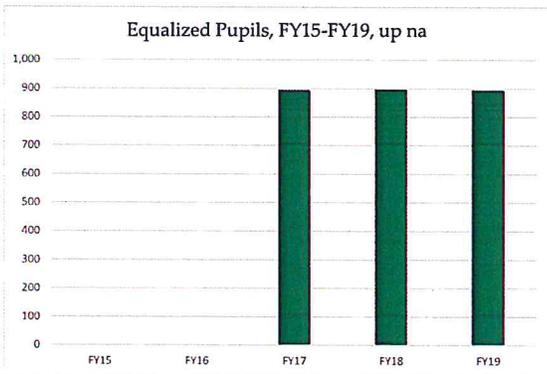
Elmore-Morristown USD Financial Data

2A

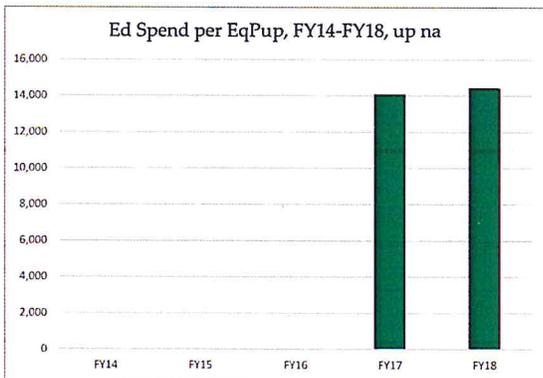
u050 Elmore-Morristown USD



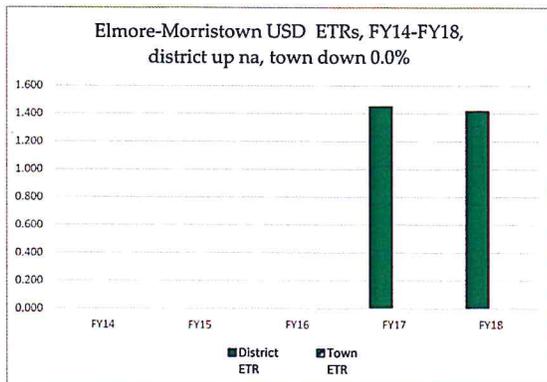
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Education Spending	-	-	-	12,521,850	12,859,175	12,890,750
Annual change		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	2.7%	0.2%
Change from FY14 to FY18	na					



	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Equalized Pupils	-	-	892.12	893.70	891.45
Annual change		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	0.2%	-0.3%
Change from FY15 to FY19	na				



	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Education spending per equalized pupil	-	-	-	14,036	14,389	14,460
Annual change		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	2.5%	0.5%
Change from FY14 to FY18	na					

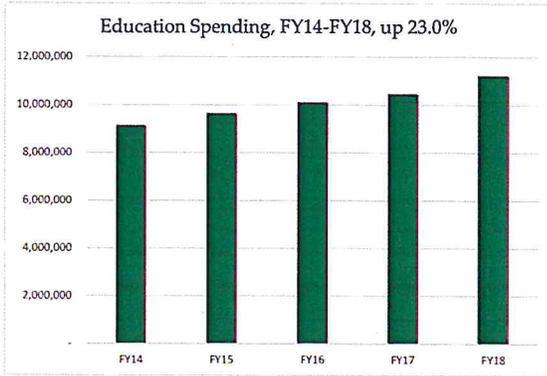


	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
District ETR	-	-	-	1.447	1.416	1.415
Annual change		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-2.1%	-0.1%
Change from FY14 to FY18	na					
Town ETR	-	-	-	-	-	-
Annual change		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Change from FY14 to FY18	0.0%					

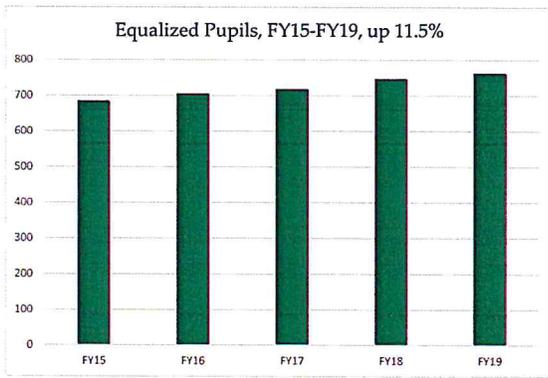
Stowe Financial Data

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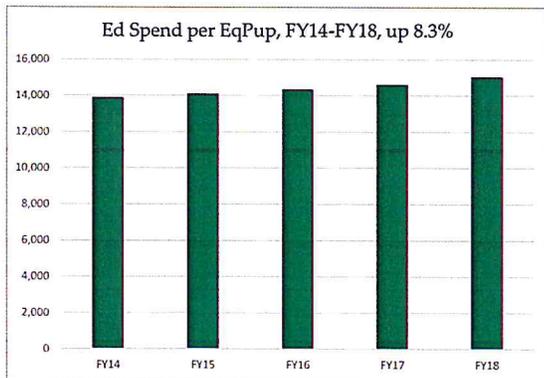
T198 Stowe



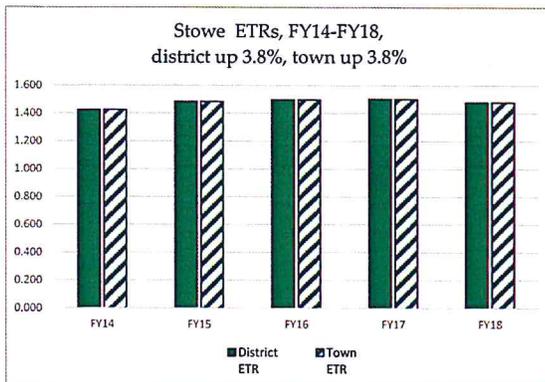
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Education Spending	9,098,450	9,601,550	10,059,425	10,423,975	11,187,075	11,379,675
Annual change		5.5%	4.8%	3.6%	7.3%	1.7%
Change from FY14 to FY18					23.0%	



	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Equalized Pupils	683.24	703.13	715.63	745.45	761.73
Annual change		2.9%	1.8%	4.2%	2.2%
Change from FY15 to FY19					11.5%



	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Education spending per equalized pupil						
Ed Spend per EqPup	13,852	14,053	14,307	14,566	15,007	14,939
Annual change		1.5%	1.8%	1.8%	3.0%	-0.45%
Change from FY14 to FY18					8.3%	



	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
District equalized tax rate						
District ETR	1.423	1.483	1.497	1.502	1.477	1.462
Annual change		4.2%	1.0%	0.3%	-1.6%	-1.0%
Change from FY14 to FY18					3.8%	
Town ETR	1.423	1.483	1.497	1.502	1.477	
Annual change		4.2%	1.0%	0.3%	-1.6%	
Change from FY14 to FY18					3.8%	

Lamoille South Supervisory Union Collaboration Updates Spring, 2018

As part of the conversation with the former Secretary and AOE staff, the board chairs in attendance were asked about the ways in which EMUU and SSD have continued to expand collaborative efforts to advance the goals of Act 46, subsequent to the submission of the proposal. As a follow up to examples discussed in the meeting, below are links and artifacts provided to the AOE which reflect evidence through May of 2018 of continued and new collaborative efforts between and among key stakeholder groups within LSSU.

Faculty

- IFR Promising Practices Videos - LSSU's Curriculum Camp:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLaXzAQwtzpj7ci5Qc2D-tQmEIfyZx6pq&v=oJXlejAk1NU>

Students

- Cooperative Hockey program:
http://www.stowetoday.com/news_and_citizen/sports/rivals-then-teammates-then-rivals-again/article_ee1448fc-17e3-11e8-96f2-67df633a60c9.html
- Cooperative Track and Field:



Track and Field is a new cooperative program this spring, and the team, hosted by Peoples Academy, includes about 20 Stowe High School students.

- Genocide study and trip to Rwanda:
http://www.stowetoday.com/news_and_citizen/news/local_news/reporting-from-rwanda/article_77069fbc-3363-11e8-a7c1-5b2ad9034687.html

Parents and Community

- Cooperative youth league baseball:
http://www.stowetoday.com/stowe_reporter/sports/mid-level-baseball-team-for-lamoille-south/article_b70aec26-f6a7-11e5-a619-bbe2b830c76b.html
- Growing Up Stowe Family Education Series:
<https://www.morrisville.org/blog/pahs-growing-up-stowe-family-education-series.php>

Boards

- [Chinese Language and Culture Program](#)

Collaboration Updates Summer, 2018

Since May of 2018, the districts of EMUU and SSD continue to make progress on collaborative goals initiatives. This update has been supplemented for Summer, 2018 to reflect some additional artifacts and evidence of the ongoing collaborative work further advancing the goals of Act 46 regionally.

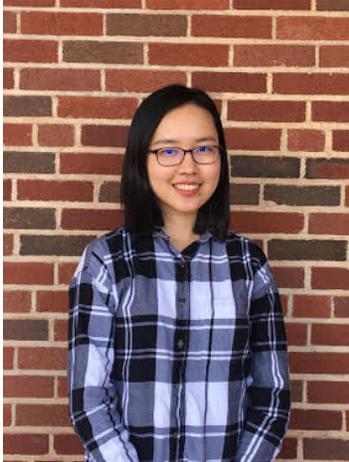
Faculty and Students

- Our first Chinese Language and Culture Summer Camp is underway now, with students from China spending two weeks with Stowe and Peoples Academy middle and high school student. The program is coordinated and taught by a team of teachers from both districts.



- Our first Teaching Intern for Chinese Language and Culture was hired:

time each week at PA, as well. She will be learning the ins and outs of classroom teaching, working alongside other teachers...to help strengthen our curriculum and also gain first-hand experience with direct instruction... Check out Ling's bio & photo.



My name is Huey Ling Yip, and I go by Ling. I was born and raised in Malaysia, and I grew up learning three languages, with Chinese as my mother tongue. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Chinese Studies at University Tunku Abdul Rahman. In May 2018, I graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Master of Science in International Studies with education as my focus area. I have traveled to Beijing, Guangzhou, and Xi'an in China. I am excited to meet everyone in the coming school year...

Parents and Community

- With the announced closing of Wolcott Elementary School's school-based preschool program at the end of the 2017-2018 school year, LSSU invited the students of Wolcott to enroll in our school-based prekindergarten program. (Historically, our school-based programs have only accepted resident students.)
- The Stowe School District Capital Committee was recently appointed and began its work in May, 2018, with the goal of framing a recommendation for facilities improvements for Stowe schools. One consideration the committee has identified is the feasibility of aligning Stowe's middle level grade configuration to Peoples Academy Middle Level's grades 5-8 middle level configuration.

Boards

- At their recent board retreat, the SSD board formally acted to support a shift of primary responsibility for policy development to the LSSU board. Through collaboration on policy, the board believes they can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of board work, strengthen the framework for policy development and implementation, and increase board capacity to focus on priorities related to improving outcomes for all students and closing the achievement gap. A joint board discussion is planned for September, 2018.
- EMUU and SSD boards collaborated on an initiative to improve communications and community engagement at the supervisory union level. This new communications support began on July 1, 2018.

Elmore-Morristown Unified Union
Board Priorities
to bring Elmore and Morristown together

July, 2018

1. Revisit the timeline of the annual meeting. Currently, the Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening before Town Meeting Day. While participation on Town Meeting Day through Australian ballot has been consistent with rates prior to unification, attendance at the Annual Meeting itself has been very low, now that it is separate from Elmore and Morristown's municipal town meetings. In response to suggestions from the community, the board is exploring options and implications for changing the Annual Meeting date. The Monday evening before town meeting day is the preferred option under exploration.
2. Improve communications with the community regarding a budget that looks different from prior years and respond to Town Clerk's suggestion that the annual budget book be published separately from the Annual Town Reports for Elmore and Morristown.
3. Continue to build norms and processes for sustaining the quality and viability of what we believe to be Vermont's last one room school house in the context of a larger system. This spring, for the first time, we developed procedures for Morristown resident students to choose to attend the Elmore School, and this emerging practice needs to be monitored and improved as needed. Also prioritized is improving the integration of safety systems at the Elmore School with the systems in Morristown, in consultation with the Vermont State Police and Morristown Police Department.
4. Increase community awareness of and support for the success of students in the EMUU operating structure with all students attending Peoples Academy Middle Level and Peoples Academy for grades 7-12. The decision to discontinue of school choice for Elmore students in grades 7-12 was significant for the Elmore community, and continued effort to build awareness of the evidence of student success in the unified union is needed.