

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and School Board Chairs
FROM: Krista Huling, Chair, State Board of Education
SUBJECT: School districts that Submitted Section 9 Proposals; Regional Meetings
DATE: July 11, 2018

Act 46, Sec. 10(b) *requires* the State Board of Education to:

- “review and analyze the Secretary’s proposal under the provisions in [Sec. 10 (a)]”
- “approve the proposal either in its original form or in an amended form that adheres to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section;” and
- “publish on the Agency’s website its order merging and realigning districts and supervisory unions where necessary.”

Section 10(b) *authorizes*, but *does not require*, the State Board to “*take testimony or ask for additional information from districts and supervisory unions.*” Note that this is in contrast to the statutory *requirement* that the State Board “provid[e] notice” and “an opportunity to be heard” to each § 706 study committee before the Board makes a decision on any proposed merger. 16 V.S.A. § 706(c). It is also in contrast to the Act 46, Sec. 10(a) expectation that the Secretary have a “conversation” with each district or group of districts that submitted a Section 9 Proposal.

I. Pursuant to its authority to “take testimony or ask for additional information from districts and supervisory unions:”

1. The State Board of Education requests that the elected representatives of each district or group of districts that submitted a Section 9 Proposal provide written responses to the questions on Appendix A to this memorandum.
2. The State Board of Education will provide the elected representatives of each district or group of districts that submitted a Section 9 Proposal with a period of 20 minutes to give testimony *and* respond to questions from the State Board. Plan on no more than 10 minutes for the presentation to ensure that at least 10 minutes are available for questions. Due to the volume of proposals and in the interest of fairness, the allotted 20 minutes is the maximum possible time available for each proposal. The time will not be extended beyond 20 minutes for any proposal.



The State Board will not schedule time for testimony from the 10 proposals for which the Secretary determined merger was neither “possible” nor “practicable” under heading VI(C)(b) (decisions #34-43), but the boards of these districts are welcome to provide written testimony at any time and/or to testify orally during the “Public to be Heard” portion of each regional meeting (see part II below).

A *draft* agenda for each meeting is attached as Appendix B.

Please advise Maureen.Gaidys@vermont.gov and Suzanne.Sprague@vermont.gov if the board of any district does *not* wish to use its allotted time.

The State Board has read each Section 9 Proposal and does not need to have the proposal restated in either the responses to the questions or in testimony.

II. The draft agendas for each regional meeting (attached as Appendix B) provide two periods of 30 minutes each for public comment from anyone who wishes to testify. The time will be divided based upon the total number of people who sign up that day to testify.

III. The boards of districts that submitted a Section 9 Proposal may “add to or otherwise amend their proposal” at any time prior to the State Board’s issuance of the final statewide plan. Act 46, Section 10, as amended.

The State Board also welcomes written commentary from members of the public at any time.

Please submit all such additions, amendments, and comments electronically to aoe.section9proposals@vermont.gov or Krista.Huling@vermont.gov and Heather.Bouchey@vermont.gov to ensure that all Board members receive them.

APPENDIX A

Questions for school boards/groups of school boards that submitted Section 9 Proposals

1. If you do not agree with the Secretary's recommendations regarding your district(s) as set out in the proposed statewide plan:
 - a. Why is the Secretary's proposal not "possible" per Act 46, Section 10?
 - b. Why is the Secretary's proposal not "practicable" per Act 46, Section 10?
 - c. Why is the proposal you presented the "best" way to meet the Act 46 goals per Act 46, Sections 8(b) and 10?

Provide specific data and references to the requirements of Act 46 to support your contention.

2. What did the Secretary's analysis and recommendations omit or misunderstand about your proposal? Why should the State Board find that information compelling?

*Please send responses electronically in pdf format to Krista.Huling@vermont.gov and Heather.Bouchey@vermont.gov at least **48 hours** prior to the regional meeting at which the State Board will consider the district or districts.*

Please confine the responses to one single-sided 8½" by 11" page.

The State Board has read each Section 9 Proposal and does not need to have it restated.

APPENDIX B

Agenda for July State Board Meeting
and DRAFT Agendas for August & September State Board Meetings

July 18, 2018 – Newark School, Newark
AGENDA

- 8:30-9:45 Opening
 Panel Presentation
- 9:40-10:00 Missisquoi Valley UHSD and Franklin, Highgate, and Swanton School Districts
- 10:00-10:20 Cambridge Elementary School District
- 10:20-10:40 North Country UHSD and 11 member districts
- 10:40-10:55 Break
- 10:45-11:15 Enosburgh School District and Richford School District
- 11:15-11:35 Montgomery School District
- 11:35-11:55 Sheldon School District
- 11:55—12:25 Public to be Heard *on previous six* Section 9 Proposals
- 12:25-12:55 Lunch
- 12:55-1:15 Hazen UHSD and Lakeview UESD and Greensboro, Hardwick, Stannard, and Woodbury School Districts
- 1:15-1:35 Craftsbury School District
- 1:35-1:55 Elmore-Morristown UUSD and Stowe School District
- 1:55-2:15 Fairfax, Fletcher, and Georgia School Districts
- 2:15-2:45 Public to be Heard *on previous four* Section 9 Proposals
- 2:45-3:00 Break
- 3:00-4:40 Other Business before the State Board
 Adjourn

August 15, 2018 – State House, Room 11, Montpelier
DRAFT AGENDA

- 8:30-9:30 Opening
 Panel Presentation
- 9:30-9:50 Oxbow UHSD and Bradford School District
- 9:50-10:10 Newbury School District
- 10:10-10:30 U-32 HSD and Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester School Districts
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-11:05 Barnard Elementary School District
- 11:05-11:25 Huntington Elementary School District
- 11:25-11:45 Orwell Elementary School District
- 11:45-12:15 Public to be Heard *on previous six* Section 9 Proposals
- 12:15-12:45 Lunch
- 12:45-1:05 Blue Mountain UUSD
- 1:05-1:25 Cabot School District
- 1:25-1:45 Danville School District
- 1:45-2:05 Twinfield School Districts
- 2:05-2:20 Break
- 2:20-2:40 Pittsfield School District
- 2:40-3:00 Hartland School District and Weathersfield School District
- 3:00-3:20 Waits River Valley UUSD
- 3:20-3:50 Public to be Heard *on previous seven* Section 9 Proposals
- 3:50-4:00 Break
- 4:00-5:00 [*tentative –Barre City / Barre Town § 706 study committee – merger proposal*]
 Other Business before the State Board
 Adjourn

September 19, 2018 – Green Mountain High School, Chester
DRAFT AGENDA

- 8:30-9:30 Opening
 Panel Presentation
- 9:30-9:50 Brattleboro School District
- 9:50-10:10 Dummerston School District
- 10:10-10:30 Guilford School District
- 10:30-10:50 Putney School District
- 10:50-11:05 Break
- 11:05-11:25 Windham Elementary School District
- 11:25-11:45 Winhall School District
- 11:45-12:15 Public to be Heard *on previous six* Section 9 Proposals
- 12:15-12:45 Lunch
- 12:45-1:05 Bennington, Shaftsbury, and Woodford School Districts
- 1:05-1:25 North Bennington School District
- 1:25-1:45 Pownal School District
- 1:45-2:00 Break
- 2:00-2:20 Bellows Falls UHSD and Athens, Grafton, Rockingham, and Westminster Districts
- 2:20-2:40 Sandgate School District
- 2:40-3:00 Searsburg School District
- 3:00-3:20 Stratton School District
- 3:20-3:40 Stamford School District
- 3:40-4:10 Public to be Heard *on previous eight* Section 9 Proposals
- 4:10-5:00 Other Business before the State Board
 Adjourn