

Presentation to the Vermont State Board of Education

July 20, 2022

By: Lamoille South Unified Union and Stowe Self-Selected Representatives



Overview

The Lamoille South Unified Union School District, along with self-selected representatives, are jointly presenting a plan and timeline to request that Stowe is allowed to withdraw from the current district and create an independent school district.

The end goal of this work is to re-establish the supervisory union structure that was in place prior to 2019-20 school year. This supervisory union operated with two independent school districts benefiting from shared services across three towns (Elmore, Morristown, Stowe).



Introduction

2018 Testimony / Secretary of Education Approval

Spring 2021 Vote to Withdraw

Bill H.727

Section 5

Collaboration



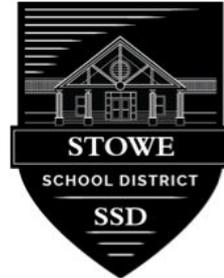
Proposed Governance Structure

The governance structure being proposed represents no change from the Alternative Governance Structure presented to the Vermont State Board of Education in 2018.

- Two side-by-side independent school districts sharing supervisory union services.
- Allows capital improvement needs to be addressed by town.
- Provides for more local control and acknowledges the deep traditions of each high school.
- Recognizes the will of the electorate.



Proposed Governance Structure





Enrollment / Oversight

	LSUU	SSD	LSSU
Schools	Elmore School Morristown Elementary Peoples Academy Middle Peoples Academy	Stowe Elementary Stowe Middle Stowe High	Public and Partner Preschool Programs
2022 Enrollment Grades: PreK - 12	919	848	1767



Plan and Timeline: June 2022

LSUU Board Reps and Self-Selected Representatives prepare plan and timeline for board review and approval.

Special Meeting with the LSUU Board (June 21st) to review and approve plan and timeline.

Location: Morristown Elementary 5:30PM

Informational Meeting held for the public (June 28th)

Location: Stowe Elementary 5:30PM



Plan and Timeline: July 2022

- Submit initial materials and proposal to State Board of Education (July 6th).
- Presentation to the State Board of Education (July 20th).
- State Board of Education approves Stowe withdrawal, creates Stowe Town School District, and creates Supervisory Union structure.
- Discussion at LSUU Board Retreat around reorganization efficiencies and ways to maintain high levels of collaboration across the Supervisory Union.
- Superintendent Ryan Heraty will notify the Secretary of State of the restructuring and election calendar proposed for the new SSD Board of Directors.



Plan and Timeline: August - October 2022

- Certification of new district and governance structure received from the State of Vermont.
- The LSUU School Board will finalize recommendations for the amended LSUU Articles of Agreement.
- Public informational meetings held on recommended amendments to the LSUU Articles of Agreement.
- Election will be warned.



Plan and Timeline: November 2022

- Election will be held for three (3) new board members for the Stowe School District (SSD). (November 8th)
- Morristown / Elmore will vote to approve the amended articles of agreement that will be in place starting July 1, 2023, including a reduction in board seats from 7 to 5.
- An organizational meeting will be held by the new Stowe School District Board of Directors to elect a chair, establish a calendar for future meetings and conduct initial business. (November 15th)



Plan and Timeline: December 2022 - January 2023

Newly elected / existing boards will meet to facilitate the following:

- Negotiation of the proposed financial terms of withdrawal by the board of the new school district (SSD) and the board of the union district (LSUUSD) in order to comply with the requirements of the former 16 V.S.A. Sec 724(c).
- Appointment of the representatives that will serve on the Lamoille South Supervisory Union (LSSU) Board.
- Conduct any other business to ensure the proper operation of the two independent school districts on July 1, 2023.
- Preparation of the FY24 budget for SSD and LSUUSD.
- Negotiation of employee bargaining contracts for Stowe School District in accordance with H.727, Act 176, Section 11.
- Other tasks as identified to ensure the new supervisory union and member districts will be prepared for operations on July 1, 2023.



Plan and Timeline: February and March 2023

- Public informational meetings on proposed school budgets and financial terms of withdrawal and reorganization.
- Town Meeting Day vote on LSUUSD and SSD budgets.
- Election of one (1) new LSUUSD Board Member
- Vote to approve financial terms of agreement for withdrawal. (Town Meeting Day)



Plan and Timeline: April - June 2023

- LSUUSD, SSD, and LSSU Boards meet to conduct any business necessary to ensure the proper operation of the districts and supervisory union on July 1, 2023.
- Transfer of property to the new forming districts. (June 30th)
- LSUU remains operating to address audits and outstanding miscellaneous issues until 12/31/2023.

Summary and Questions