

Dear Megan Roy,

Please include this text of my Visitors Business December 2, 2024 testimony to the Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont during its 1:00-4:00pm meeting.
Thanks! Nancy Cornell

I am Nancy Cornell, former Associate Superintendent/Curriculum Coordinator for 23 years in Rutland Northeast SU and Addison Northeast SU; Former ANESU Board Member

We can all appreciate and be concerned about the time constraints under which the Commission is currently working.

I am offering Several recommendations about the draft Preliminary Report and about the Commission's work going forward.:

- Please remove the section on school size, pp 21 & 22. The Commission has NOT done anything near a deep dive into the value that small rural schools can provide to kids and to communities.
- Although Act 46 required it, there has not been any thorough analysis of the effects of school and school district consolidation that have taken place under Act 46. Therefore, the Commission should make no recommendations regarding further school or school district consolidation until that analysis is completed by a recognized independent research team.
- In keeping with Angelo Lynn's recent editorial in the *Addison Independent*, before we go making blanket decisions about closing schools, let's be sure we have a grand plan.
- In not too many years, the many elders in VT towns will inevitably leave this earth, leaving behind a boatload of desirable available housing. Wouldn't it be a shame to discover, at that point, that we need more community schools for the young families who will want to and will be able to settle here! Wouldn't it be great if our state could devise a school funding and administrative system that accommodates the very predictable generational ebb and flow of our population!

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to the Commission.