



ANWSD-MAUSD Merger Study Committee Recommendation

Vermont State Board of Education
July 20, 2022 Meeting



Presentation Goals



1. Why is a Union between ANWSD and MAUSD is recommended?
2. About the Articles of Agreement: School Closure
3. About the Articles of Agreement and Withdrawing Districts
4. Preference for Supervisory District
5. Questions



ANWSD



Towns:

Addison

Ferrisburgh

Panton

Schools:

Ferrisburgh Central - 145 students

Vergennes Union Elementary - 268 students

Vergennes Union High - 449 students

Vergennes

Waltham



MAUSD

Towns:

Bristol

Monkton

Lincoln*

Schools:

Beeman Elementary - 78 students

Bristol Elementary - 251 students

* Lincoln Central - 76 students

Monkton Central - 125 students

Mount Abraham Union High - 667 students

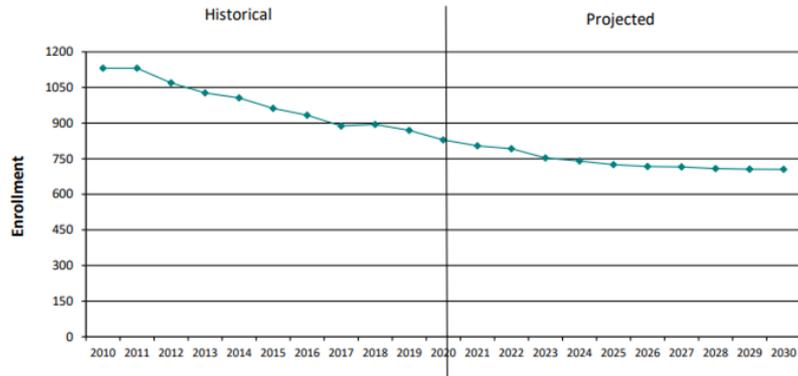
Robinson Elementary - 118 students

New Haven

Starksboro

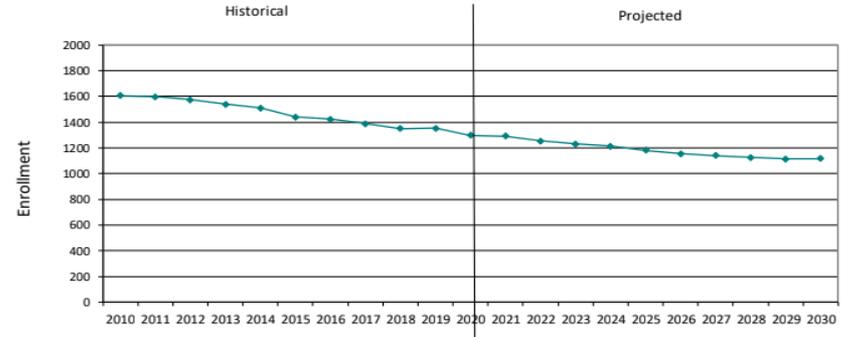
Addison Northwest SD, VT Historical & Projected Enrollment

K-12, 2010-2030



Mt. Abraham USD, VT Historical & Projected Enrollment

K-12, 2010-2030



K-12 Enrollments

	2011	2021	2031
ANWSD	1131	829	705
MAUSD	1607	1298	1117

Since ANWSD and MAUSD were formed in 2017



ANWSD:

- Partially or fully achieved 19 of 23 projected outcomes of forming a union
- Reduced 32 positions, mostly through attrition
- Centralized Addison Central at Vergennes Union Elementary
- Maintained overall budget within 1% of FY17 levels

However, Education Spending Per Equalized Pupils is over 121% of average statewide spending per pupil, \$19,175

MAUSD:

- Partially or fully achieved 29 of 30 projected outcomes of forming a union
- Maintained property tax rates that are 33 cents, or 17% lower than was projected without the union
- Reduced 29 positions, mostly through attrition
- Avg. overall budget increases at 1.7%

However, Education Spending Per Equalized Pupils is nearly 121% of average statewide spending per pupil, \$18,634

Continuing in the status quo:



To maintain current levels of spending per pupil,

- ANWSD will have to reduce 40 more positions or 21% of current staff
- MAUSD will have to reduce 66 positions or 23% of staff



or

Tax rates are projected to increase of 13% & 15% by FY27



With current per-pupil spending rates and declining enrollments, we know the biggest question is not what can we create, but what can we preserve?

If the Addison North School District is formed:



The ANWSD-MAUSD Merger Study Committee believes that, if we work together and merge ANWSD and MAUSD into one union, we can:

- Sustain and expand programming for middle and high school students;
- Sustain and protect high-quality education in elementary schools;
- Increase cost-effectiveness and slow tax rate growth; and
- Increase equity, ensuring all students have access to engaging, relevant, and high-quality learning opportunities.

To accomplish these goals, the Unified Union structure will enable the potential for:

- Combined middle and high schools;
- Expanded grade(s) served at the middle level; and
- Cost-effective practices and policies for elementary schools that protect schools and promote collaboration, thoughtful use of resources, and learning opportunities for all students.

Support Students, Support Schools



With a merger, we can save a combined 5 million dollars annually while sustaining or even increasing programs for students by eliminating approximately 42 redundant positions (23 high school teachers, 11 central office positions, and 8 middle school positions).

This proposed future offers significantly more programming, support, and opportunity than an unmerged future, without requiring significant increases in taxes.

Article 14B - Preserving & Supporting Community Schools

Article Fourteen B: Supporting and Protecting Our Schools

It is the intent of the ANWSD/MAUSD Merger Study Committee that the ANSD supports our schools and values strong connections between schools, communities, families, and students. An important goal for the formation of the ANSD is to enable and enhance the capacity to sustain and grow equitable opportunities for all students.

Elementary Schools: It is the intent of the ANWSD/MAUSD Merger Study Committee to enable and encourage the Board of Directors of the ANSD to enact policies at the elementary level that promote collaboration, thoughtful use of resources, and opportunities for all students to preserve and strengthen elementary schools. To protect elementary schools, an elementary school within the ANSD cannot be closed for all grades K-5 without a vote of the electorate as follows:

1. At any time during the first four (4) years of the ANSD's operation, an elementary school for all grades may be closed with a majority of the vote of the towns whose resident students attended that school as of the operational date of the ANSD.
2. After the first four (4) years of operations, an elementary school may be closed with:
 - a. Approval of two-thirds (2/3) majority of a quorum of the Board of Directors of the ANSD; and,
 - b. Approval of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the vote of the ANSD.
3. An elementary school will not otherwise be closed.
4. For the purposes of this section, school closure shall be defined as the District ceases to use the school building for the provision of direct education for a majority of grades operated within the building in the year prior to the first date of operations.

Middle and High Schools: It is the intent of the ANWSD/MAUSD Merger Study Committee to enable the Board of Directors of the ANSD, with input from faculty, staff, the administration, students, families, and the ANSD Community, to operate school(s) at the middle and high school level that will maximize educational opportunities for all.

Working together to protect and support community schools is important because

- Estimated savings from combined middle and high schools = \$2.5M
- Estimated savings from cost-effective policies at the elementary level = \$1.2M

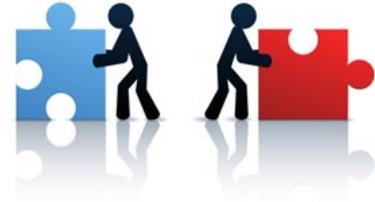
The Committee believes that this is actually the best way to ensure community schools stay strong and vibrant, and withdrawal is more likely to lead to school closure and loss of community voice and continuity for the PK-12 education system.



Withdrawals in Process



Lincoln-Advisory



Starksboro-part of MAUSD or not, depending on August 9 vote and status as of September 12

We believe all would be better together and have crafted the articles to allow for districts to remain, rejoin.

Article 14 C: Preference for Supervisory District

With respect and appreciation for the important role and responsibility of the Vermont State Board of Education for the organization and adjustment of supervisory unions to afford increased efficiency or greater convenience and economy, and to facilitate prekindergarten through grade 12 curriculum planning and coordination, it is requested that the ANSD be designated a supervisory district. Administrative efficiencies are an important and significant benefit of the formation of the ANSD, and these can be best realized in a supervisory district structure.

A Supervisory District Structure:

- Can reduce 11 positions.
- Can save an estimated \$1.3 million dollars can be saved. The opportunity for these savings is important for bending the curve of tax rate increases and increasing efficiency
- Enables more collaboration for equitable access to learning opportunities, resources, and an aligned PK-12 curriculum.
- Streamlines governance and transparency, avoids the “spaghetti map.”
- Ensures equitable representation in governance over all parts of the system.
- Is the preferred governance structure in Vermont law.



16 VSA § 701. POLICY It is the policy of the State to provide substantially equal educational opportunities for all children in Vermont by authorizing two or more school districts, including an existing union school district, to form a union school district for the purpose of providing for the education of its resident students in the grades for which it is organized, and for the new union school district to be a body politic and corporate with the powers incident to a municipal corporation, with all of the rights and responsibilities that a town school district has in providing for the education of its resident students. Formation of union school districts shall be designed to encourage and support local decisions and actions that provide substantial equity of educational opportunities statewide, lead students to achieve or exceed the State's Education Quality Standards, maximize operational efficiencies, promote transparency and accountability, and be delivered at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value.

All children, Students.



Questions