

Lamoille North

Benefits and Challenges of an Act 46 Merger

Benefits: **Creating a K-12 Single Educational Community with Shared Services**

Curricular Efficiencies

Shared specialists, coaches and professional development

Continuity of guidance services

Seamless K-12 curriculum

Consistency of quality instruction

Possible magnet programs

School choice with-in district

Instructional Equipment and resources shared among schools

Operational Efficiencies

Single treasurer

Single contract with one salary schedule

Better integration of sports, recreation, and extra-curricular activities

Stable leadership

Mobility of staff between schools

Increased efficiencies at central office

Consolidated busing contracts

1 budget, not 9

Cost Savings

Small schools grants retained

Save on a single audit

Tax incentives for five years

No penalties for lack of action

Misc.

Articles of agreement could offer protections

Greater input from multiple school leaders

More competition for board seats (better quality)

Local advisory committees

Possibility of equal representation on boards

Could resolve Hyde Park building issues

Challenges: Loss of Local Control and Fear of the Unknown

Operational Challenges

Loss of local boards

Loss of transparency

More power at the state level (state control)

Wasted building space

Increase in individual town liability

One contract for all busing

Schools feel disenfranchised

More control to fewer people

Unification of salary contracts

Stronger union

Curriculum Challenges

Difficulties in creating a seamless curriculum

Teacher mobility causes instability

Student movement could cause problems

Equity becomes the “lowest common denominator”

Fiscal Challenges

Sharing capital improvement costs

May increase total costs

Different tax rates

Movement from “my school” to “ours”

Misc.

State may decide to change again