

Joint Public Workshop between the Penn Yan Central School District Board of Education and the Dundee Central School District Board of Education – July 19, 2017

Call to Order at 6:30 p.m., Dundee Central School District Public Meeting Room, 55 Water Street, Dundee, NY; President Laurie Richer presiding

Penn Yan Board Members Present: Jeff Morehouse, Kathy Guenther, Robin Johnson, Renee Bloom, Liz Warren, Loni Terpolilli, Nancy Scher, David Willson

Dundee Board Members Present: Laurie Richer, Wendy Gibson, James Koehler, Robert Neu, Andrew Simmons

Others Present: Superintendent Howard Dennis, Superintendent Kelly Houck, Cathy Milliman, Greg Baker, Becky Perrault, Kelly Dalles, Stacey Barden, Dave Pullen, Dave Mulberger, Tina Webber, Katie Dean, Jill Denmark, Laurie Hopkins-Halbert, Chris Arnold, Community Members, Parents, Media Representatives

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by DCS President Laurie Richer.

Kelly Houck and Howard Dennis thanked the community for attending the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to hold a conversation regarding creating student opportunities and experiences for current and future students in both districts. Students should be prepared and be competitive with all other schools in the nation.

Schools are facing increasing challenges such as the tax cap, state mandates, lack of funding, reduced enrollments, etc. The meeting will explore solutions and ideas from the members of the Board, community members, students and parents on how to deal with the challenges and to collaborate on resolving the challenges so that all students are prepared and competitive with students around in the nation. All ideas are welcome and encouraged.

Board Member Comments:

Loni Terpolilli would like to continue to offer educational opportunities for students in the trades. (PLTW, etc.) She would like to maintain and expand the current offerings and to be assured current offerings are not lost.

Nancy Scher appreciates the A/P and Gemini offerings and would like to see more intense programs offered.

Jim Koehler would like the public to offer suggestions for student opportunities and collaborative partnerships. He indicates some things work well such as P-Tech and combining the programs would be outstanding.

Laurie Richer stated that NYS offers incentives for combined services and district mergers. She would like to see both districts maximize the incentives.

Jeff Morehouse indicated the two districts would not need to necessarily merge to take advantage of shared services. He would like all possibilities explored.

Kelly Houck reported that Regional High Schools are not legal to exist in NYS. Shared management offers no state incentives. Mrs. Houck indicated there are significant financial incentives and support if district merge.

Laurie Richer reported due to declining enrollment, neither district is of optimal size to offer as many programs as they would like. Combining services or merging would offer students a wider variety of course offerings.

Wendy Gibson suggested some areas of cooperative services may include information technology, maintenance, purchasing, and food service purchases.

David Willson asked if video conferencing of classes would be a possibility. He indicated class start times are different at each district building; the times would have to be altered to accommodate both districts.

Public Participation

Donna Eighmey asked if the two districts are merging. She is concerned for the students and the community. She asked how the voting procedures work and if two boards will disseminate additional information regarding meetings, committees, etc.

Kelly Houck indicated both boards would need to approve the merger proposition. If both boards approve, voters in both communities would hold a "straw vote." If both propositions are approved, the final vote would take place in both communities, with a date set by SED. If any of the votes do not pass, the process halts.

Laurie Hopkins-Halbert reiterated that merging does not mean that DCS would move to PYCSD nor would PYCSD move to DCS. Discussions would need to take place regarding all aspects of a merger.

Rhonda Underhill is concerned that much discussion pertains to high school needs and she is concerned that more enrichment needs to happen at primary grades. A merger would offer more opportunities to all grades at both districts.

Kristen VanValkenburg urged board members to make an informed decision and to weigh all benefits while maintaining identities of both districts.

Gretchen Pratt encouraged the boards to provide information to the public regarding the shared services and information regarding a possible merger. She agrees that more opportunities should be offered to younger children at the primary grades. She indicated that education has changed and new ideas should be considered.

Jim Koehler would like to hear additional ideas and about any fears people have regarding merging or collaborating. He asked how the boards should proceed in the process of discussions.

Kathy Guenther asked for information on the savings the districts would have with collaborating or merging and what services do we currently share?

Renee Bloom suggested committees be formed in each district involving board members, administrators, parents, teachers, students and community members.

Nancy Scher suggested Facilitator Marla Iverson or Kathy Wegman be present at the next meeting to assist with the discussion process.

Laurie Richer suggested, prior to another meeting, concrete ideas of possible shared services be brought to the table.

Deb Bassett is concerned that the benefits of small classes will be lost if the districts merge.

Jeff Morehouse asked if both districts have the same priorities.

Tina Webber thanked the board and community for the input and encouraged everyone to talk to teachers and students prior to the survey being available.

Gwen Chamberlain believes both schools are strong and, combined, would make each other even stronger. She indicated the Agriculture program at PYCSD is outstanding and if the two districts shared services, DCS could benefit from the program at Penn Yan.

Kelly Houck is encouraged by the discussion tonight and concurs the focus is on the students and student needs.

Maura Wolverton supports having a survey available and is interested in the results.

Gretchen Pratt is concerned about the loss of the tax base in both Dundee and Penn Yan. She asked about the job loss, possible empty buildings and the loss of work for the community.

Kelly Houck indicated research has shown staffing increases if district merge. She reported more opportunities would be available for students and the incentive from SED is approximately \$28 million over 15 years.

Jim Koehler does not think it would be realistic to close one district. A merger would most likely utilize both campuses.

Jeff Morehouse stated SED funds 98% of new construction for schools.

Mrs. Houck and Mr. Dennis encouraged anyone with questions, comments or concerns to call or email one of them. Further discussions will be held in September or October, 2017.

There being no other comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Ideas, thoughts, comments shared at the joint BOE meeting with Dundee CSD and Penn Yan CSD on 7/19/17

Student Opportunities	Shared Services	Merger	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Education • Extended School Day (how can we ensure that working together it remains beyond the grant) • Coordinate Schedules to allow shared classes via technology to be provided (all levels) • Create Academies around specific areas of study/interest • Increased enrichment opportunities at younger ages • STEM enrichment at young age • Continue to maintain/expand tech. opportunities (trades) • Sports how to maintain all levels • Create best practice scenarios here, together that are too expensive to maintain out of the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing (supplies, materials, food etc.) • Maintenance Staff • We need to maximize incentives from the state • Sports how to maintain all levels and other extracurricular activities such as art, drama, music • Transportation • Start with committee work, what is needed in both districts (admin., students, staff) • Put together a tangible list of things to explore • IT Services • Don't be afraid to explore all possibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to maximize incentives from the state • Create best practice scenarios here, together that are too expensive to maintain out of the district (P-Tech) • Optimal size • Start with committee work, what is needed in both districts (admin., students, staff) • Put together a tangible list of things to explore • Act don't wait • If we don't get ahead of this we will be forced eventually • Don't be afraid to explore all possibilities • Be aware of the "fear" of loss of employment • 28 million dollars over 15 years • New construction-high state aid 98% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to explore all options • Both communities want to maintain identities • Don't get too big (we don't want to lose children) • We need to make this work for our students • Expand beyond what we are currently offering-create the "Jewel" • Our AP, Gemebi and other advanced courses have small numbers how can we maintain/sustain • We need to look at all possibilities beyond merger even • Optimal size • What are the savings? • Start with committee work, what is needed in both districts (admin., students, staff) • Talk with graduates-

<p>(P-Tech)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declining student enrollments • Inequities in student opportunities that exist across state due to differences in resources • Not afraid of the "M" word 	<p>what should we have done?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share all notes with BOE, what resonates • What works should be done before the next combined meeting/ • Put together a tangible list of things to explore • Marla Iverson as a facilitator • Each district should prioritize this list • Survey community, students and staff • Act don't wait • Don't be afraid to explore all possibilities • Inform public what we already share
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