

School District Merger Study

Crown Point Central School and Ticonderoga Central School



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Why Consider Reorganization?

- ❖ Increase course offerings for students
- ❖ Upgrade facilities and equipment
- ❖ More cost effective administrative structure
- ❖ Eliminate duplication of facilities, equipment, and staff
- ❖ Consolidate and coordinate support functions
- ❖ Reduce taxes



Why Reorganization May be Difficult

- ❖ Fear of losing local identity
- ❖ Perception the communities are incompatible
- ❖ Uncertainty over board representation
- ❖ Less personal attention for students
- ❖ Busing time for some students may be increased
- ❖ Fear of losing job security by employees
- ❖ Natural resistance to change



Purpose of the Merger Study

To paint a clear picture of each district so that its neighbor has a good understanding of the assets and liabilities it brings to the merger, and

To develop a set of recommendations for the new board of education to consider regarding district organization, staffing, finances, transportation, and educational programming should a merger occur.



Parameters for the Study

Scope of the Study: Use data to provide objective information on:

- Adding classes/reducing staff
- Creating building configurations by grade level
- Adding bus runs/drivers
- Calculating potential staffing savings
- Assessing financial impact of the merger

Outside the Study Scope: Make decisions for the merged district:

- Name, colors, or mascot for the new district
- Identifying classes to be added/staff reduced
- Developing bus routes with stops
- Deciding when staff savings might be realized
- Deciding how financial decisions will be made



The Merger Study

- ❖ Provides information for school district officials, the communities, and the Commissioner on enrollments, staffing, program, transportation, facilities, labor contracts, finances, etc.
- ❖ Facilitated by consultants
- ❖ Overseen by school/community advisory committee of 16-20 people
- ❖ Report is the responsibility of the consultants
- ❖ Both Boards of Education decide how to proceed with the final study



The Consultants

- ❖ Bring an outside, unbiased perspective
- ❖ Have no local stake in the outcome
- ❖ Will conduct the study in a fair manner
- ❖ Will ensure that the process is open
- ❖ Will maintain contact with the State Education Department and the District Superintendent
- ❖ Will produce meeting notes after each committee meeting
- ❖ Will be responsible for the final report



Recommendations in the Report

- ❖ Will benefit student learning
- ❖ Will be sensitive to the unique cultural contexts of the school districts
- ❖ Will be independent of special interest groups
- ❖ Will be educationally sound
- ❖ Will be fiscally responsible and realistic
- ❖ Will not recommend whether or not a merger should occur



The School/Community Advisory Committee

- ❖ Equal number of people from each school community...for example:
 - ❖ 2 teachers
 - ❖ 1 building administrator
 - ❖ 1 support staff
 - ❖ 4-6 community members
- ❖ Superintendent and business office staff serve as advisors to the committee
- ❖ Function is to advise the Boards and the consultants, communicate with the public, and prepare informative materials



Expectations of Committee Members

- ❖ Attend all committee meetings
- ❖ Freely express their points of view
- ❖ Be a key communicator with stakeholder groups
- ❖ Be respectful of the committee and the study process
- ❖ Be a positive contributing member in other related committee activities



Committee Meeting Dates in 2013

- January 30 (Crown Point)
- March 6 (Ticonderoga)
- April 17 (Crown Point)
- May 29 (Ticonderoga)
- June 19 (Crown Point)
- July 24 (Ticonderoga)
- August 21 (Crown Point)

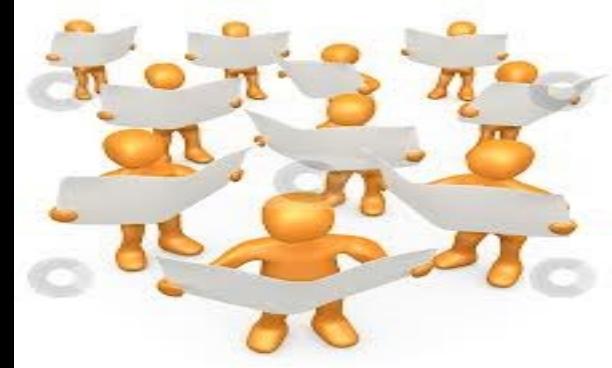


Time Line for the Study/Merger (Draft)

- ❖ December 2012-Boards meet to begin study
- ❖ January 2013-Study begins
- ❖ August 2013-Study completed
- ❖ September 2013-Study reviewed by S.E.D.
- ❖ October 2013-Study presented to Boards
- ❖ October/November 2013-Public information and discussion
- ❖ November 2013-Boards decide to go forth
- ❖ January 2014-Advisory referendum
- ❖ February 2014-Final referendum
- ❖ April 2014-Vote for new Board members
- ❖ May 2014-Budget vote
- ❖ July 1, 2014-New district begins operation



Informing the Public



- ❖ District newsletters
- ❖ Newspaper articles
- ❖ District web sites
- ❖ Notes from advisory committee meetings
- ❖ PowerPoint presentations from advisory committee meetings
- ❖ Open advisory committee meetings-for observation and limited comment only
- ❖ SOON-Joint press release announcing the study and the advisory committee

Questions????

