Act 46 Independent School Governance Study

MVU E-Pod Room 4 (Theater area)
Act 46 Committee Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2016
7:00 PM

Committee Members and Staff:
Bob Berger - Chair, Connie Beyor, Toby Maguire, Bob Irish, Jason McConnell, Terri O'Shea, and Winton Goodrich

Visitors: Jim Jewett and Jay Denault

Agenda:

7:00 Call to order 7:06 moved adoption of 8/24 com. Minutes Bob and Connie

Question about community feedback

a. Post notice in newspaper inviting community members to attend
b. Encourage reach out to community
c. Time for community voice at beginning of meeting and time to weigh in before decisions are made
d. Win post all meetings in newspapers, on all school web sites, and posted on bulletin boards

Begin reviewing data outlined in an AOE Act 46 Alternate Structure Guide

a. Describe why an alternative structure will be better than a preferred merger

- Concern about potential loss of an elementary school, value local accountability, equal board reps, and ability to vote on local budgets
- Concern about community impact with potential loss of school choice
- Didn't allow MVU to participate in a 706 committee
- Further separation of governance from each school – bigger governance is seldom better
- Little chance that a merger would be supported by voters
- MVU already engaged 2 to 5 years using data teams that focused on quality improvements in education
- Already working on right-sizing school operation
- Curriculum 95% articulated across all schools
- Identify cultural barriers
- Merger takes the community out of the school
- Equal representation on school board
- Loss of some floor budget votes at Town Meeting
- 2012 Picus finance equity report appears to reinforce that equity is already in place without merging

7:30 Start assessing the SU's current ability to meet or exceed each of the Act 46 goals

(1) Provide substantial equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities statewide;

(2) Lead students to achieve or exceed the State's Education Quality Standards, adopted as rules by the State Board of Education at the direction of the General Assembly;
(3) Maximize operational efficiencies through increased flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources, with a goal of increasing the ratio of students to full-time equivalent staff;
(4) Promote transparency and accountability; and
(5) Delivered at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value.

8:00 Decide on components of an internal Levenson DMC type school/SU efficiency study
- Establish reading assignment for Smarter Budgets, Smarter School book

8:30 Provide direction on research needed for the Sept. 21st Study meeting

8:45 Other

9:00 Adjournment

Future Study Committee Meetings - MVU Library from 7:00 to 9:00 PM:
- Sept. 21 - Oct. 3 - Oct. 17 - Nov. 3 - Nov. 16 - Nov. 29 - Dec. 14

Act 46 Independent Study Time Line
- August through December – Research Study options
- December 14, 2016 – Complete Study draft
- December, 2016 - Provide draft Study recommendations for local school board review
- January 4, 2017 - Present Study recommendations to SU Board
- January 20, 2017 – Include Study recommendations in Town Reports
- February, 2017 - Information meetings
- March, 2017 - Community vote on Study recommendations at Town Meetings