

ANESU Act 46

Community Forum
May 9, 2016

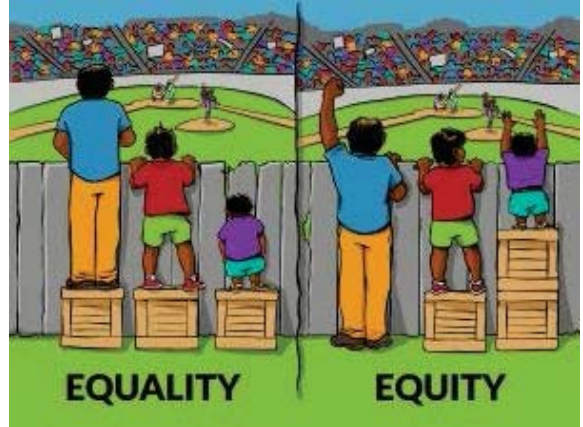
About Act 46

2015 VT law that requires VT school districts and supervisory unions to **consider unifying** current governance structures into sustainable models.

About Act 46

Act 46 is designed to encourage and support local decisions that:

- Provide substantial equity
- Help students meet or exceed the State's Education Quality Standards
- Maximize operational efficiencies
- Promote transparency and accountability; and
- Are delivered at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value.



Act 46 Timeline

June 2015	Bill signed into law
June 30, 2016	Accelerated merger vote deadline
June 30, 2017	Conventional merger vote deadline
Nov. 30, 2017	Districts without an approved merger plan must submit a proposal to Secretary of Education
June 1, 2018	Secretary submits proposed realignment to State Board of Education
Nov. 30, 2018	State Board plan adopted
July 1, 2019	Implementation

ANESU Act 46 Study Committee



Bristol:

Kate Heath, Elin Melchior, Allison Sturtevant (Vice-Chair),
Michaela Wise II



Lincoln:

Mike Fisher, Rebecca Otey



Monkton:

Dawn Griswold, Steve Pilcher, Jennifer Stanley (Chair)



New Haven:

Sarah LaPerle, Ed McGuire



Starksboro:

Nancy Cornell, Caleb Elder, Herb Olson (Clerk)

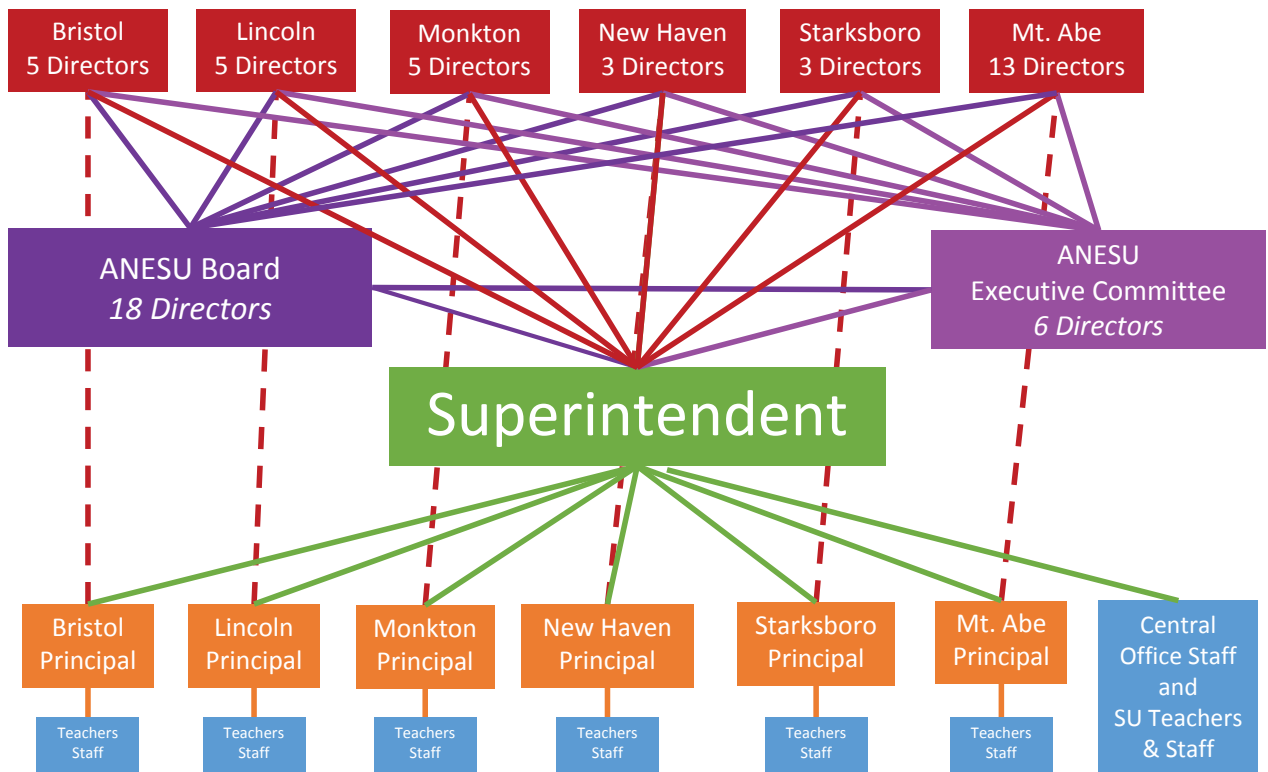
Our Work to Date

- Evaluated advantages and disadvantages of forming a unified union
- Conducted a community survey to collect input
- Investigated equity and quality of current educational ANESU offerings
- Reviewed examples of Articles and Reports from other communities
- Explored an alternative structure proposal
- Considered different merger options and chose to pursue a Unified Union merger structure

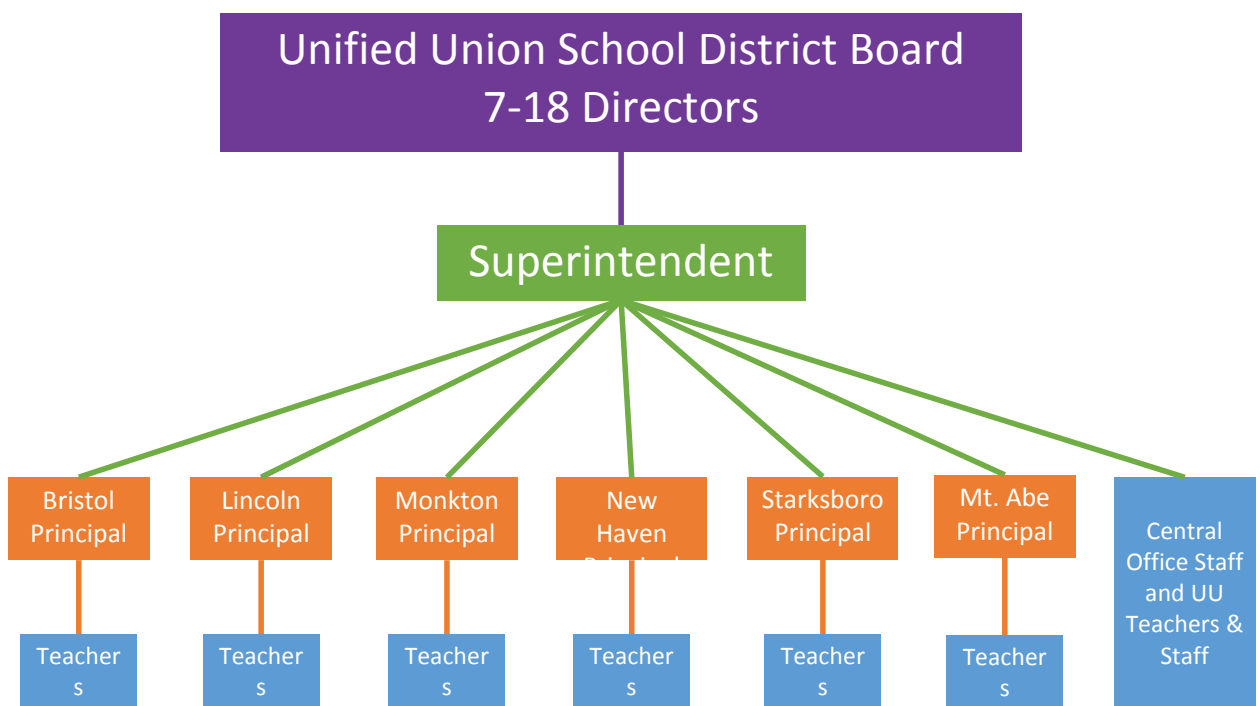
In Process

- Collecting financial and educational quality/equity data
 - Drafting Articles of agreement
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Current Governance Structure



Possible Unified Governance Structure



Act 46 Incentives and Penalties

Incentives for action

(positive vote by 6/30/17)

Transition Assistance Grant AND
4 year Tax Incentives (\$0.08,
\$0.06, \$0.04, \$0.02)

KEEP Small Schools Grant as
“Merger Grant”

KEEP ADM Hold Harmless
provision

WE determine our local
governance structure

Penalties for inaction

- NO Transition Grant OR
tax incentives

- LOSE Small Schools Grant

- LOSE ADM Hold Harmless
provision

- Possible State-imposed
unification

Our recent survey:

Possible benefits and challenges of unification

Highest rated possible benefits (% of respondents)

- More collaboration and sharing knowledge between staff and schools (60%)
- Expanded programs using shared staff and resources across multiple schools (60%)
- Tax rate incentives and financial savings (59%)
- Simplified administration of staff, budgets, and programs

Highest rated possible challenges

- New union may not actually save money or lower taxes (67%)
- Central school board may be less connected to my local school and its unique needs (58%)
- Schools may lose flexibility in adapting to local needs (58%)
- Community may feel less connection with local school board (49%)

Our work from here

Draft Articles of Agreement

Board representation

Provisions for closing a school

Encouraging local input in all schools

Draft Report (Collect and include relevant data)

Submit Report including Articles to review process

Local Boards, Attorney, Agency of Education, State Board of Education

Continue community forums to inform voters

Vote on election day: November 8, 2016

New unified district operational July 1, 2018

Your Turn: Questions and input?

Do you believe a Unified Union is the right direction for ANESU?

What should we include in the Articles of Agreement?

What type of Board representation?

What provisions for closing a school?

How can we continue to encourage local input in all schools?

What else?

What data should be included in the report?

Thank you!