

## 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. 21<sup>st</sup> 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