

**Lamoille South Supervisory Union
Optional Educational Structures Committee**

Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2010

Approval of minutes of May 12, 2010 – Amended, Moved, Seconded, Passed

Election of Chairperson – Continue to put off to future meeting.

Discussion with LSSU Superintendent Tracy Wrend

LSSU district / school status

- Management Issues
- Equity Issues
- Future - Educational vision and curriculum

Management Issues

Morristown maintained educational programs during FY 08 – FY 10. Reductions in programs took place for upcoming FY 11 in many areas including arts, PE, and Tech. Kindergarten was consolidated into the elementary school. Supplies and materials have been level funded for years. This is a consequence of pressure felt from tax payers and declines in enrollments. There has been a decline in tuition students.

Stowe eliminated staff in music, library, languages and PE. Stowe has not experienced any decline in enrollment. There has been an increase in young pupils with learning challenges, putting pressure on resources. The number of tuition students has remained level. The facilities were upgraded recently.

Elmore is impacted by decisions made in Elmore. Facilities are in good condition. The school's foundation was replaced two years ago. The budget and tax rate is affected by the number of tuition students, which are not always known in advance. The budget is currently in deficit due to increased enrollment.

Technology – Director is shared across all districts. Position was eliminated. Need to re-think how technology services are provided with the SU. Path will be bumpy. Library software upgrade has been postponed.

Legislation – Legislature is requiring regional reductions in spending, consolidation of some spec. ed. services at SU level, centralized budgeting / accounting and changes to small school grants. There is more uncertainty than in recent years.

Enrollments – Trend is down, but choppy across different cohorts.

Present: Jeff Abbie
Reeve Ray
Penny Kate
Olivia Susan

Efficiency – Stowe is experiencing belt tightening. Stowe is currently in second quintile in per pupil spending. There is tension within the community between ability to pay vs. educational quality. Morristown is a frugal community and has traditionally maintained below average per pupil in the fourth quintile. Does not rely on “income sensitivity reasoning” to boost spending. Low spending not about taxes, more about responsibility / frugality. Elmore also has low spending and has a deep appreciation for Lake Elmore school and school choice. Taxpayer perception is OK. Some are afraid it will be lost in shuffle.

Equity

Each of the districts have particular priorities. Examples are a focus on languages in Stowe, and a focus on technology in Morristown. There are students in each district that this serves well, and underserves.

Morristown has a full day kindergarten, Stowe only has a half day program.

Morristown receives significant statutory funding for various programs due to eligibility, while Stowe receives very little.

LSSU is behind other SU’s in pre-kindergarten programs.

Future

Going forward, the current programs are expected to be maintained at FY11 baseline. Change in certain areas may be required due to external forces such as legislative actions.

LSSU has a sound curriculum development policy that centers on six core strategies as described in handouts.

LSSU adopted a technology plan in July 2009.

Summing it all up, expect CHANGE to take place.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Next meeting Wednesday June 9, Morristown Elementary School

Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua