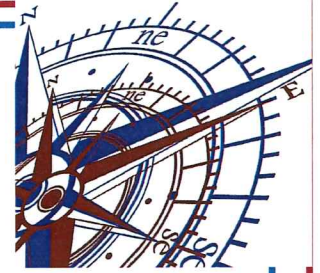


Proposed Centralization Update Clymer CSD & Panama CSD

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Where we are...

After much discussion, the Boards of Education of both Clymer and Panama Central School Districts held a joint meeting on October 18, 2016.

At the meeting the Boards voted to commission a feasibility study for centralization of the two school districts. As the NYS Education Department Commissioner's representative, Dr. David O'Rourke assisted the boards in developing a request for proposals for a consultant group to conduct a study. The study will describe how a specific combination of districts may operate if reorganization were to be implemented.

In proposed centralizations, the District Superintendent acts as an informed neutral party that provides information, support and assistance. Dr. O'Rourke will serve in this capacity throughout the study and time of public consideration.

In a joint meeting of the Boards of Education on January 18, 2017, the proposals for a feasibility study were considered, and two firms were invited to present their proposals.

At a joint meeting on February 8, 2017, it is anticipated that the two presentations from consultants will occur in public session. The Boards will likely enter into executive session to discuss the selection of a firm and then reconvene for the appointment of a consultant group to conduct the study.

What is a feasibility study?

The study provides information to several audiences that include current and projected: enrollments, professional staffing plans and housing configurations. It also addresses plans for educational programs and curricula in the proposed district, transportation recommendations and fiscal projections in state aid, expenditures and local taxes. The Commissioner requires a study whenever a reorganization is considered.

What is a centralization?

Through centralization, two or more districts may vote to "merge" to become a new school district, encompassing the entire area of the former school districts. The Commissioner will only authorize a centralization after: a comprehensive study of the reorganization of the districts is completed; there is evidence of support in the districts (approval of both an advisory referenda and a statutory referenda) and there is a recommendation of the respective Boards of Education and/or the District Superintendent.

What happens next?

Education law provides for referenda in the communities affected by reorganization; the communities need to be engaged and informed throughout the process of the study and final recommendations. For this reason, a joint plan and calendar will be developed for the community to allow voters to make informed decisions.

Tentative timeline

February-June 2017: Appointment of Joint Districts' Advisory Committee, data gathering, focus group meetings, 3-4 meetings of the districts' advisory committee, and public progress reports to the districts' Boards of Education.

Additional dates will be confirmed by the New York State Education Department and published on both the Clymer and Panama School Districts' websites.

*Please visit the Clymer and Panama
School District websites for
more information.*

www.clymercsd.org

www.pancent.org