

Meeting of the Joint Boards of Education

at Panama CSD

April 20, 2017

Proposed Tentative Timeline

- **March 16, 2017 and April 5, 2017** - Meet with Mr. Lictus and Dr. O'Rourke to review expectations and review data needs.
- **April 27, 2017** - Hold first Feasibility Study Committee meeting
- **May** - Start Staff interviews and focus group meetings
- **March – June** - Conduct on-going data analysis
- **June** – Hold a mid-point meeting in June with joint boards
- **July – August** – Hold final Feasibility Study Committee meetings and complete report writing
- **September 11, 2017** – Submit report to SED
- **Late September or early October** – Present final report to both Boards of Education and the public

Central Issues of the Merger Study

- Might student post-graduation outcomes be improved if there were a wider range of courses available and staff with different areas of expertise to teach them?
- Is it possible to enhance or improve educational outcomes for ALL students, including student success in school as measured by achievement data, graduation rates, drop-out rates and post-graduation plans, **at similar or reduced costs to taxpayers?**

Role of the Boards of Education: the Final Decision Makers

- A. Invited to attend all meetings, but as listeners who can report back to other Board members
- B. Invited to attend a separate focus group meeting (a public meeting)
- C. Invited to offer feedback, ideas, and such through Mr. Lictus, not directly to consultants or committee members
- D. Serve as the final decision makers based on the report and its recommendations

Role of the Superintendent in Relation to LDA Team

- Is the direct contact person for information
- Gathers data requested by team members
- Keeps his boards and the public up to date
- Sets up and/or assists in setting up appointments with staff and groups to be interviewed
- Communicates board members' thoughts and concerns to the Learning Design study team

Feasibility Study Committee

Member's Role: Advisory

- Attends all scheduled meetings called (April 27, May 15 and 30, June 14, July 12)
- Stays neutral and open-minded
- Represents own ideas
- Learns information collected from data analysis and focus group sessions
- Reflects on information
- Helps draft recommendations
- Makes consensus decisions
- Communicates as prescribed in the communications plan

Sample FSC Agenda Items

- Data Presentations
- Feedback from Focus Groups and other information received by this group and the consultants
- Questions for the committee to consider and discuss
- Communications Plan
- Preview of next meeting
- Meeting evaluation

Recommended Public Communications Process

- Post minutes on website and in prime locations selected by Superintendent, such as faculty rooms, newspapers, media outlets, post offices, etc, with the assistance of the P.R. person

Sample Communications Plan

Who will be informed?	What message?	How will this be communicated?	Who will send the message?

Information to Present to Focus Groups

- Population and Enrollment figures and projections
- Districts' Financial information
- Merger Incentive Aid Information
- 21st Century Expectations

Population and Enrollment Data to Present to Focus Groups

- 5 years of enrollments by district
- Free and reduced lunch counts by district
- Total population and population by ethnicity
- Family households with children under 18 and median household income
- Top occupations of the employed population

Financial Information to Present to Focus Groups

- Expenditure Projections
- Revenue Projections
- Past Budget Reductions resulting in loss of programming and/or services

Merger Financial Information to Present to Focus Groups

- State aid incentives to merged districts
- Merger incentive aid to both districts
- Estimated 14-year merger incentive operating aid
- Reorganization Incentive Operating Aid Chart

A Few Sample Questions for All Focus Groups

- What are your points of pride in the (Clymer/Panama) School District?
- What areas would you like to see improved?
- Do you believe that the district is providing the kinds of programs needed to prepare ALL students for the workforce and/or higher education?

More Questions for Focus Groups

- What would you recommend to the district to improve its programming for students?
- Do you believe that this community is well-informed about the district's needs to take steps to reach fiscal stability and to achieve programmatic improvements to allow each student to succeed in the world outside of school?

Focus Group Meeting Dates

- Please see separate hand-out
- Process for convening groups –
 - Websites
 - Media outlets
 - Faculty rooms
 - Word of mouth
 - Other

