

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Dear Panama Community Member:

On behalf of the Panama Central School District, we invite you to apply for a seat on our Feasibility Advisory Committee for the Centralization Feasibility Study under way for the Panama and Clymer school districts.

The study will help determine if a new school district should be formed via a centralization or merger in order to improve outcomes for students and taxpayers of both districts. Ideally, a centralization increases efficiency while enhancing services. Both school boards are encouraging district residents to participate in an open dialogue and data-gathering efforts. The boards of education want to ensure as transparent and open a process as possible and encourage residents to participate and express their opinions and ideas in an authentic manner.

Each district will select a Feasibility Advisory Committee comprising 10 to 12 members to work with Learning Design Associates, the firm hired to gather, analyze and present its findings to the districts' leadership and the New York State Education Department. LDA representatives will interview a wide range of focus groups in the communities and analyze data in the areas of finance and facilities; community culture and support services; curriculum, instruction and student programs; Human Resources and proposed staff organization.

We request Advisory Committee members attend all scheduled meetings, stay neutral and open-minded, analyze and reflect on information collected from data analysis and focus group sessions. Additionally, committee members will help draft final recommendations and make consensus decisions. The boards of education believe it is crucial to engage a wide range of stakeholders in Panama and Clymer in order to gather the necessary data.

If you would like to be considered for the Feasibility Advisory Committee, please submit a letter of interest by April 13, 2017 to Panama's Board of Education and mail to: Panama Central School District, 41 North St., Panama, NY 14767. Applicants will be selected by the respective boards of education and notified by mail. If you have questions, please call (716) 782-2455.

Information on focus group meetings, advisory committee meetings and public progress reports to the boards of education will be updated regularly on each district's website.

Sincerely,

The Panama Central School District Board of Education