

CANASERAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL

HOME OF THE INDIANS

04/06/2017

Academic Merger Update

At our March 23, 2017, school board meeting the board members agreed that the board leadership (Mr. Kinney, President and Mrs. Robinson, Vice-President) would meet with the board leadership from Arkport, along with both superintendents. The purpose of this meeting was to come to a consensus regarding whether or not the districts would decide to move forward with a merger study, and if so which method would be selected – centralization or annexation. Again, a method must be selected prior to the study being initiated.

The board leadership from both districts and the superintendents met on 04/04/17 to discuss these issues. Each of us believes it is definitely in the best interest of students in both districts to move forward with the merger study. The increased opportunities for our students is something we can no longer pass over.

We talked about the merits of centralization or annexation and how to come to an agreement regarding which method to select for the study. We were challenged with the reality that many in the Canaseraga community favor doing a centralization, and many in the Arkport community favor doing an annexation. So...how to proceed to a resolution? The board leadership agreed to talk about annexation and what assurances could be agreed to that would provide some peace of mind with this method of merger. Those assurances are listed below:

Assurances

- Name: Arkport-Canaseraga Central School District
- Academic Program: commitment to expand the educational opportunities for students
- Faculty & Staff: maintained for a minimum of three years with reductions by attrition if necessary
- Building Use: Canaseraga building used for the foreseeable future
- Mascot & Colors: student representatives make recommendations to Board for mascot, colors, and alma mater
- Board Members: Board would request the communities approve an increase from 5 to 7 members

After talking about these assurances, the board leadership agreed to present these to their respective boards for consideration. The Arkport school board met on Wednesday, April 5, and was in support of the annexation methodology and the assurances. The Canaseraga board met on Thursday, April 6. Due to the feedback the board members have been getting from community residents both during personal conversations and during our community meetings, the Canaseraga board was not in consensus to move forward with a merger study right now. However, in order to gauge the thoughts and feelings within each community Mr. Harper and Mr. Groff will be working with the respective boards to create an exit survey for the annual budget vote that would ask for people's opinions about doing a merger study under the parameters of an annexation. Our hope is this will give us some additional data to consider. Again, if you have further thoughts / questions please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Groff or one of your school board members.
