

MEMORANDUM

TO: Arkport-Canaseraga Merger Study Advisory Committee
FROM: Alan Pole and Bill Silky
RE: Meeting Notes-Meeting of February 26, 2018
DATE: March 4, 2018

Attendance:

Committee Members: Tim Bailey, Heidi Beecher, Caitilin Dewey, John Feenaughty, Shannon Gilbert, Kathleen Henry, Steve Kenyon, Kyla McCormick, Wendy O'Donnell, Jenny Reynolds, Jason Shambach, Mariann Walsh, Dan Washburn, and Lindsay Wilson

Consultants: Alan Pole, and Bill Silky

Superintendent Advisors: Jesse Harper and Chad Groff

Observers: Richard Kinney, Jennifer Merry, Michelle Sirianni, Michelle Chamberlain, Joe Pollinger, Andy Mullen, Hollie Wing, Josie Steiner, Al Bruce, Donna Stuckey, Nikki McIntosh, Bonnie Young, Kristin Merry, and Sonja Robinson

Location: Arkport Central School

1. Alan Pole opened the meeting and thanked the committee members for their service, reviewed the meeting protocol for the evening, and also thanked Joe Pollinger for providing a tour of the Arkport school building.
2. Because the meeting that was originally scheduled for February 7 had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, meetings of the Merger Advisory Committee will be held from 6:00-9:00 pm as follows:

Date	Topic	Location
12/11/17	Organization, Overview, Enrollment Projections, Programs	Canaseraga
2/26/18	Facilities and Transportation	Arkport
4/16/18	Staffing and Finance	Canaseraga
5/21/18	Review of Draft Report	Arkport
6/18/18	Final Report to the Boards	TBD

3. Alan Pole reviewed the following assurances that have been agreed to by both the Arkport and Canaseraga Boards of Education:

- a. Name-The name of the newly formed district would be Arkport-Canaseraga Central School District.
- b. Academic Programs-The academic programs offered currently in both districts would be expanded as determined appropriate by the board with the intention of improving the educational opportunities of all children within the district.
- c. Faculty/Staff Retention-All current faculty and staff of both the Arkport and Canaseraga districts would be maintained for a minimum of five years with reductions by attrition when appropriate.
- d. Building Use-The Canaseraga building will be used for the foreseeable future.
- e. Mascot and Colors-Upon a positive vote for an annexation, student representatives from both districts will be given an opportunity to make recommendations to the board of education regarding the district mascot, school colors, and alma mater. Until that time both Canaseraga and Arkport uniforms will be utilized where appropriate with the goal of producing budget economies.
- f. Board Members-Upon a successful annexation vote, the Arkport board will initiate a district vote to request to increase in size of the school board from 5 to 7 members, to be held at the annual election. If successful, the election of board members would be done at a special election.

4. Alan then provided a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed an overview of the districts' facilities. As part of the presentation, he discussed the following items:

- ✓ overview and history of the buildings
- ✓ how each of the buildings are currently utilized; Arkport has 46 full size classrooms while Canaseraga has 28
- ✓ review of the Building Condition Survey for each building
- ✓ review of the districts' building aid ratios; Arkport's building aid ratio is .842 while Canaseraga's is .857; the building aid ratio for the merged district would be 95%

He then reviewed the big ideas for the meeting that included the following:

- ✓ Both districts have some capital work to be done
- ✓ The building aid ratio will increase to 95% for the merged district
- ✓ The Canaseraga building will be used for the foreseeable future
- ✓ It is anticipated that the grade configuration would be PreK-6 in both communities and 9-12 in Arkport; grades 7 & 8 to be determined

5. The advisory committee broke into three small groups to discuss the most appropriate location for grades 7 and 8. The following are the results of those small group discussions:

Q: Is there room for grades 7 and 8 in Arkport?

- A: Group 1-did not directly answer
 Group 2-did not directly answer
 Group 3-would be possible to add 7-8 in Arkport

Q: Is there room for grades 7-8 in Canaseraga?

Group 1-Yes

Group 2-did not directly answer

Group 3-did not directly answer

Q: What are the pros and cons of locating grades 7 & 8 in Arkport?

Groups 1-3: did not directly answer

Q: What are the pros and cons of locating grades 7 & 8 in Canaseraga?

Group 1: pros-better utilization of the building, developmentally more appropriate, transportation would not be an issue/cons-none noted

Group 2: pros-athletic fields there for modified sports/cons-would make academic acceleration a challenge, the building would be pretty empty if not there

Group 3: pros-none noted/cons-may be an adjustment for 6th graders going from the self-contained classroom to the departmentalized high school

Q: Where should grades 7 & 8 be located in a merged district?

Group 1: Canaseraga (but maybe housing grades 6-8)

Group 2: Maybe Canaseraga

Group 3: No consensus

6. Bill Silky then provided a PowerPoint presentation about the transportation systems for both districts. He provided an overview of each district's bus fleet and the regular in-district bus runs. He also noted that the school buildings are located 7.4 miles apart, a trip of 10-12 minutes, and shared three possible routes between schools.

He said that, if an annexation occurs, a tentative plan would include:

- ✓ Both districts would run their current routes and bring the elementary students into their respective Pre-K-6 building
- ✓ Depending on where the grade 7-8 students go to school, a transportation plan would be developed
- ✓ The Canaseraga 9-12 students would be shuttled to Arkport after the elementary students are dropped off in Canaseraga

Finally, Bill closed with the big ideas for the transportation systems that include the following:

- ✓ The bus fleets in both districts are in good shape
- ✓ Both districts have single trip routing plans although pickup/drop-off times are somewhat different
- ✓ The longest a student rides a bus in either district is about 55 minutes
- ✓ It is about a 12 minute drive between schools
- ✓ There is currently some transportation sharing because of sports.
- ✓ Depending on where the 7th and 8th grades are located will determine a routing plan

7. Questions and comments were then received from the audience members who attended the meeting.

8. The next advisory committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 16, 2018 at Canaseraga. A tour of the school will begin at 5:15 for anyone who is interested. The meeting of the Merger Study Advisory Committee will begin at 6:00 p.m.

We believe this covers the essence of the discussions at our meeting on February 26. If you have questions with these notes, please feel free to contact me. We will also review these notes as the first agenda item at our next meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you again on 4.16.18 in Canaseraga!

C: Jesse Harper
Chad Groff
Jim Frame
Christina Coughlin
Althea Johnson