

Alburgh School Board
Alburgh Community Education Center
November 6, 2017
Act 46/49 Public Hearing

Present: Board Chair Michael Savage, Vice Chair Trevor Creller, Board Members Mallory Ovitt, Virginia Wright, and Stephanie Waters, Principal Jim Ross, Superintendent Donald Van Nostrand, Moderator Terry Tatro, members of the public

Moderator Terry Tatro called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Informational Meeting:

- Terry Tatro read the warning for the vote on Tuesday 11/7/17 at the Alburgh Municipal Office (hours 7 A.M. - 7 P.M.)

Public Input:

- Alton Bruso asked about the benefits of creating a 3-1 side-by-side. Mike Savage explained that it would exempt Alburgh from the state plan. Everything else would stay the same, regardless of a 'yes' or 'no' vote, including school governance.
- Abby Alberico asked if resources would be shared in a 3-1. Mike Savage explained that they would (as they are currently). If Alburgh became part of the state plan (per a NO vote), Alburgh could be combined with another PK-8 school district.
- Sally Forgues asked for clarification around boundaries. Superintendent Van Nostrand explained that the state has the ability to adjust boundaries of supervisory unions.
- Abby Alberico asked if there is any con to creating a 3-1 side-by-side. The Agency of Education has already approved this plan, so this would keep our school board in Alburgh.
- Darwin Cameron asked for clarification around tax rates. Mike Savage explained that it wouldn't change our tax rate in any way, as Alburgh will not be merging with that district. Superintendent Van Nostrand explained that this is not a merger, but instead a side-by-side district. In a NO vote, we would be subject to the state's plan and could potentially be merged with another PK8 district, meaning that we would share resources, tax rate, etc. with the school we merged with.
- Sally Forgues asked about what Alburgh presented to the Agency of Education. Mike Savage explained that a plan was presented to the state to show what Alburgh will do to meet the Educational Quality Standards.
- Beth Savage asked the purpose of this vote. Mike Savage explained that a YES vote stops the state from choosing who Alburgh will be merged with, and allows Alburgh to "control our own destiny".
- Abby Alberico asked about the possibility of changing our school structure down the road (i.e. from a PK8 to a PK6 instead). Mike Savage explained that this vote would not affect that. Superintendent Van Nostrand explained that that could be done at any time by a vote from the electorate.

- Abby Alberico asked if we know when changes will happen. Mike explained that if there is a YES vote tomorrow, it will be effective in 2019. If not, we don't know when the state plan will happen, or what that will look like,
- Terry Tatro asked about a timeline for this vote. It needs to be voted on by the end of November.
- Abby Alberico asked about benefits to the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District. They will realize some tax benefits like keeping their small schools grants.
- Terry Tatro asked about the finality of this vote. This vote is final. It can't be re-voted on in March.

Board Action:

- Adjournment occurred at 7:23. on a motion by Alton Brusco (2nd Sally Forgues) Unan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Waters

Virginia Wright

Mallory Ovitt

Trevor Creller, Vice Chair

Michael Savage, Chair