

## **Minutes of the Blue Mountain Union School Board Retreat on 11/16/17**

BMU Board Members: Brent Abare, Paul Hazel , Josh Souliere, Sara Dennis, Judy Murray, Julie Oliver, Wade Parker, Kelsey Root-Winchester, Bruce Stevens, Chair

Administrators: Emilie Knisley, Scott Blood, Lori Blood, Donna Waelter, Daryl Sulham, Dena Baker, Sue Reardon

Public: Peter Clark, meeting facilitator

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

The meeting began with an overview of the Act 46 process thus far, as well as the history of the creation of the Blue Mountain Union School District.

Viewed the map of surrounding districts: discussed structures of those districts as well as current and possible patterns of merger.

State of VT could require BMU to merge with OESU or with Caledonia Central.

Plan that is created needs to State what BMU wants as well as any barriers to a preferred merger.

Options presented:

1. Do nothing and not present a plan to the State; wait for assignment
2. Look at creating a new SU with new partners to meet the requirements of the law
3. Ask to join OESU
4. Join Caledonia Central.
5. It was noted that further conversation with SAU23 regarding a possible partnership might be warranted if they are able to define their needs regarding buildings and structures.

The Board believes that doing nothing is not a viable option at this time and feels that an AGS proposal needs to be developed. Discussion regarding socio economic levels of the various districts ensued.

Noting that BMU has a high level of poverty.

Brent Abare made a motion to develop a plan to align BMU to Caledonia Central SU, and to consider options to merge with Danville into a unified union school district. Paul Hazel seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.