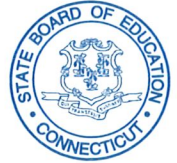




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



March 5, 2018

Jennifer Nelson
Region 11 Dissolution Committee, Chair
9 Devotion Road, P.O. Box 288
Scotland, CT 06264-0288

Re: State Board of Education Action Regarding Regional School District 11
Dissolution Study Committee Report

Dear Ms. Nelson:

The State Board of Education considered the Regional School District 11 Dissolution Study Committee's (Committee's) report at its meeting on February 14, 2018. As you may know, Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-43(b) governs the process of submitting a dissolution committee's report to the State Board of Education (SBE) and the participating towns. I am writing to you in accordance with this provision.

At its February meeting, the SBE unanimously passed the following resolution agreeing with the Dissolution Committee's report:

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-43 and 10-63c of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the attached Proposed Statement regarding the Report of the Study Committee for the Dissolution of Regional School District 11, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

In addition, the SBE issued the statement below regarding the report:

The State Board of Education (SBE) strongly supports regional solutions where such solutions are both cost effective and not deleterious to a school community. Moreover, given that the Committee's findings and conclusions represent local decisions made after considerable study and the collection of a significant amount of evidence at the local level, the SBE gives substantial deference to the findings and conclusions of the Committee.

The Region 11 Dissolution Study Committee studied the advisability of dissolution of the Region 11 school district and determined that insufficient evidence existed to demonstrate that dissolution would result in cost savings, and that dissolution therefore was not justified. In addition, the Committee's work revealed that Parish Hill School has a number of positive attributes that would be difficult to replicate in other schools. In particular, the Committee received abundant evidence from community members who expressed that Parish Hill offers students an intimate and engaging learning environment, while allowing a significant portion of the student body to participate in meaningful extracurricular activities.

Another consideration relates to the ultimate impact that dissolution could have on elementary education in the school districts of Chaplin, Hampton, and Scotland. In the event of the dissolution of the Region 11 school district, the boards of education of Chaplin, Hampton, and Scotland, would be responsible for providing for the education of each town's students, and likely would do so by each designating a school or schools in surrounding districts (possibly including Norwich Free Academy, which is reasonably proximate and is an endowed academy) that Grade 7-12 students could attend on a tuition basis. In view of the fact that the local boards of education of Chaplin, Hampton, and Scotland would be allocating substantial funds toward tuition for Grade 7-12 students at out-of-district schools, a proper analysis of cost-effectiveness would need to carefully consider whether these districts would retain funding sufficient to adequately educate elementary school students.

For the reasons set forth above, the SBE finds that, in view of the information available to the Committee and its reasoning, there is no reasonable basis on which to disagree with the Committee's conclusion that dissolution of the Region 11 school district is inadvisable at this time. The SBE therefore agrees with the conclusion of the Region 11 Dissolution Study Committee.

In accordance with Section 10-43(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, on behalf of the SBE, I am hereby sending the Committee, through you as chair, and, by copy of this correspondence, the town clerk of each participating town, the enclosed statement of the SBE agreeing with the Committee's report.

C.G.S. Section 10-43(b) requires that the town clerk make available copies of the Committee's report and the SBE's statement "and publish notice thereof in a newspaper having general circulation in the town." In addition, within thirty days of receipt of this letter, the Committee is required to present the Committee's report and the SBE's statement "to the legislative body of each participating town at a public meeting called for the purpose of acting thereon." The Committee is dissolved upon presentation of the report to all participating towns. For your reference, enclosed is a copy of C.G.S. Section 10-43.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. Please contact Matthew Venhorst at (860) 713-6514 or matthew.venhorst@ct.gov if you have any questions regarding this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell
Commissioner of Education

DRW/mv

cc: Clerk, Town of Chaplin
Clerk, Town of Hampton
Clerk, Town of Scotland

Enclosures

We've updated our Privacy Statement. Before you continue, please read our new [Privacy Statement](#) and familiarize yourself with the terms.

WESTLAW

NOTES OF DECISIONS (2)

[Committee reports](#)
[Exemptions](#)

Connecticut General Statutes Annotated
Title 10. Education and Culture ([Refs & Annos](#))
Chapter 164. Educational Opportunities ([Refs & Annos](#))

§ 10-43. Reports to towns. Dissolution of committee
Connecticut General Statutes Annotated Title 10. Education and Culture (Approx. 2 pages)

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C.G.S.A. § 10-43

§ 10-43. Reports to towns. Dissolution of committee

Currentness

(a) The committee shall, at least semiannually, make progress reports to the participating towns and the State Board of Education in such manner as the committee deems suitable. Upon completion of its study, the committee shall present a written report of its findings and recommendations to the State Board of Education and the town clerk of each participating town. If the committee finds that establishment of the proposed regional school district is inadvisable, its report shall include such findings and an explanation of the reasons for its conclusions. If the findings of the committee support the feasibility and desirability of establishing a regional school district, its report shall contain (1) the findings of the committee with respect to the advisability of establishing a regional school district, (2) the towns to be included, (3) the grade levels for which educational programs are to be provided, (4) detailed educational and budget plans for at least a five-year period including projections of enrollments, staff needs and deployment and a description of all programs and supportive services planned for the proposed regional school district, (5) the facilities recommended, (6) estimates of the cost of land and facilities, (7) a recommendation concerning the capital contribution of each participating town based on appraisals or a negotiated valuation of existing land and facilities owned and used by each town for public elementary and secondary education which the committee recommends be acquired for use by the proposed regional school district, together with a plan for the transfer of such land and facilities, (8) a recommendation concerning the size of the board of education to serve the proposed regional school district and the representation of each town thereon, and (9) such other matters as the committee deems pertinent. The capital contribution of each participating town shall be in the same proportion to the total purchase price or negotiated value of the property transferred as the number of pupils in average daily membership of such town as defined in [section 10-261](#) for the school year preceding that in which the plan is approved by the State Board of Education bears to the total number of such pupils in the participating towns.

(b) If the committee finds: (1) Establishment of the proposed regional school district is inadvisable, the State Board of Education shall, within thirty days of receipt of such report, send to the committee and the town clerk of each participating town a statement of its agreement or disagreement with the committee report and the reasons therefor. The town clerk shall make available copies of the report and the statement and publish notice thereof in a newspaper having general circulation in the town. Within thirty days after receipt of the statement of the State Board of Education, the committee shall present the report and statement to the legislative body of each participating town at a public meeting called for the purpose of acting thereon. The committee is dissolved upon presentation of its report to all participating towns; (2) establishment of a regional school district is advisable, the State Board of Education shall, within thirty days of the receipt of such report, determine whether the report contains the information described in subsection (a) of this section and shall, accordingly, accept or reject the recommendations of the committee. (A) If the recommendations are rejected, the State Board of Education shall advise the committee in writing of the reason for rejection. The committee may revise its recommendations and resubmit its report within thirty days of receipt of notice of the rejection and shall, in such case, file a copy of the amended report with the town clerk of each participating town. If the committee does not submit an amended plan or if the committee submits an amended plan

which is rejected by the State Board of Education, the proposed regional school district shall not be established and the procedure in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply. (B) If the committee report is accepted, the State Board of Education shall certify to the town clerk in each of the participating towns that the committee recommendations have been approved and send a copy of such certification to the committee. The town clerk shall make available copies of the certified report and publish notice of the certification and availability of copies in a newspaper having general circulation in the town. Within thirty days after receipt of its copy of the certification, the committee shall hold a public meeting in each participating town to present the certified report. All participating towns shall hold a referendum on the same day in accordance with [section 10-45](#). Upon completion of such referenda as may be held thereunder, the committee is dissolved.

Credits

(1951, Supp. § 301b; 1955, Supp. § 898d; 1963, P.A. 387, § 2; 1965, Feb.Sp.Sess., P.A. 411, § 2, eff. July 1, 1965; 1969, P.A. 698, § 5, eff. June 24, 1969; 1979, P.A. 79-128, § 32, eff. July 1, 1979; 1996, P.A. 96-244, § 3, eff. July 1, 1996; 1997, P.A. 97-247, § 10, eff. July 1, 1997.)

Notes of Decisions containing your search terms (0)

[View all 2](#)

C. G. S. A. § 10-43, CT ST § 10-43

The statutes and Constitution are current with enactments of the 2017 January Regular Session and the 2017 June Special Session.

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Document

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IX.A.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HARTFORD

TO BE PROPOSED
February 14, 2018

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-43 and 10-63c of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the attached Proposed Statement regarding the Report of the Study Committee for the Dissolution of Regional School District 11, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of 8:0, this fourteenth day of February, Two Thousand Eighteen.

Signed: Dianna R. Wentzell
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary