

WOODFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
January 9, 2018

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE FORMATION OF THE MOUNT ANTHONY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ARTICLE A: Shall the voters of the Woodford School District vote to form the Mount Anthony Unified School District ("New Unified District") on the following terms:

1. The Bennington Incorporated School District shall be identified as "necessary" for the formation of the New Unified District. The North Bennington Incorporated School District, the Pownal Town School District, the Shaftsbury Town School District, and the Woodford Town School District, and Union District #14 (Mount Anthony) are "advisable" for the formation of the New Unified District.

If the voters of the five (5) school districts that are currently members of Union District #14 (Mount Anthony) vote to approve the merger, the New Unified District will be established. If the voters of the Bennington Incorporated School District and at least two of the other member districts approve the merger proposal, a modified unified union school district will be established to be known as the Mount Anthony Unified School District.

2. The New Unified District or the Modified Union District will operate schools in grades Pre-Kindergarten through grade twelve.

3. The New Unified District Board of Directors or the Modified Union District Board of Directors shall be composed of eleven (11) directors. Directors shall be nominated from the legal voters of each incorporated and town school district and shall be elected on an at-large basis by Australian Ballot vote by the voters of the New Unified District or Modified Union District. Directors shall have equal votes and shall be allocated as follows.

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES
BENNINGTON	4
NORTH BENNINGTON	2
POWNAL	2
SHAFTSBURY	2
WOODFORD	1
TOTAL	11

If a Modified Union District is formed, any districts that are members of the Union District #14 that vote NO to the merger will be referred to as Non-Member Elementary Districts (NMED). Board representation in the Modified Union District will be provided as in sub-section 3 above. Board members from each NMED will have voting powers for all general Modified Union District actions, but will recuse themselves from consideration and voting upon programmatic, budgetary, personnel, or building matters of the Modified Union District which correlate to grades governed by the NMED.

4. Real Estate and Personal Property
a. No later than June 30, 2019, the forming districts will convey to the New Unified School District or Modified Union District, for the sum of One Dollar, and subject to all encumbrances of record, all school-related real estate and personal property owned by them, including all school-related land, buildings, and contents.

b. Disposal of Real Estate. In the event that, and at such subsequent time as, the New Unified School District Board or Modified Union District Board of School Directors determines, in its discretion, that any of the real property, including land and buildings, conveyed to it by one or more of the forming districts is or are unnecessary to the continued operation of the New Unified School District or Modified Union District and its educational programs, the New Unified School District or Modified Union District shall convey such real property, for the sum of One Dollar, and subject to all encumbrances of record, the assumption or payment of all outstanding bonds and notes and the repayment of any school construction aid or grants as required by Vermont law, to the town in which it is located, except as provided below for any properties conveyed to the New Unified District by Union District #14.

c. In the event that, and at such subsequent time as, the New Unified District Board of School Directors determines, in its discretion, that any of the real property, including land and buildings, conveyed to it by Union District #14 is or are unnecessary to the continued operation of the New Unified District and its

educational programs, the New Unified District shall sell such real property, subject to all encumbrances of record, the assumption or payment of all outstanding bonds and notes and the repayment of any school construction aid or grants as required by Vermont law, upon such terms and conditions as established by the New Unified District Board of School Directors, and return the proceeds of any such sale to the forming towns in amounts equal to the relative proportion of the population of these towns.

d. The conveyance of any school properties to a town shall be conditioned upon the town owning and utilizing the real property for community and public purposes for a minimum of five years. In the event a town elects to sell the real property prior to five years of ownership, the town shall compensate the New Unified District or Modified Union District for all capital improvements and renovations completed after the formation of the New Unified District or Modified Union District and prior to the sale to the town. In the event a town elects not to acquire ownership of such real property, the New Unified District or Modified Union District shall, pursuant to Vermont statutes, sell the property upon such terms and conditions as established by the New Unified District Board or Modified Union District Board of School Directors.

5. Transfer of Funds

a. Capital Debt. The New Unified District or Modified Union District shall assume all capital debt of forming districts, including both principal and interest, as may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2019.

b. Operating Fund Surpluses and Deficits. The New Unified District or Modified Union District shall assume any and all general operating surpluses and deficits of the forming districts that may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2019. In addition, reserve funds identified for specific purposes will be transferred to the New Unified District or Modified Union District and will be applied for said purpose unless otherwise determined through appropriate legal procedures.

c. Specified Funds. The forming districts will transfer to the New Unified District or Modified Union District any pre-existing school district specific endowments or other restricted accounts that may exist on June 30, 2019. Scholarship funds or like accounts held by school districts prior to June 30, 2019, that have specified conditions of use will be used in accordance with said provisions.

6. The School Board of the New Unified District or Modified Union District shall not close or discontinue the use of any schools within its boundaries during the first five years the District is fully operational and providing educational services without the approval of the voters living in the town in which the school is located. Thereafter, an affirmative vote to close a school shall require a 75% majority of the School Board in two consecutive votes with at least one year between votes. Prior to holding a vote on whether to close a school, however, the School Board shall hold at least two public hearings regarding the proposed school closure. After conducting public hearings, if the School Board intends to vote on whether to close a school, it shall first give public notice of its intent to vote and opportunity for public comment. Such notice shall outline the rationale for closure and shall be legally warned at least ten days prior to the vote.

7. Australian Ballot. The New Unified District or Modified Union District voters shall vote on the budget and other public questions by Australian ballot with polling places provided in each member town. Ballots will be counted in each member town and the results delivered to the New Unified District or Modified Union District Clerk. The outcome of the vote shall be established by the majority of the votes cast.

8. The provisions of the Merger Study Report and Articles of Agreement approved by the State Board of Education on September 20, 2017, which is on file at the offices of the Southwest Supervisory Union office, shall govern the New Unified District or Modified Union District.

If in favor of unification check this box

If opposed to unification check this box