

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction
- Presentation by Superintendent Skahill
- Input from the community
- Adjournment

Important to Note

- This is an informational presentation and discussion that contains relevant information about a comprehensive study that was recently presented to the districts that commissioned it.
- Brocton is one of four school districts involved.
- The Board of Education and Administration would not make any commitments or decisions about school district merger without holding this town meeting.

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- To present information on where we are as a district
- For the Board to gain information from the community on how they should proceed in the future
- Discuss School District Organization
- Discuss merger study invitation from Westfield and Ripley
- Discuss options for potential reorganization
- Answer questions to the extent that we can
- But most importantly -- LISTEN

Definitions

- Shared Services—partner with another entity for mutual benefit
- School District Reorganization—physically changing the boundaries or educational function of a school district, requires formal study, state support and local voter approval of all communities involved.

Shared Services

- The Brocton Central School District Board of Education and Administration are committed to sharing services with school districts and municipalities within the region, if the outcome is beneficial to students, school or school community.
- Most shared services do not require public referendum, agreements may be authorized by the Board of Education

School District Reorganization

- School district reorganization or merger must be approved by boards of the local school districts involved, the State Department of Education and most importantly—public referendum
- Commissioning a study for reorganization or merger is seen as the first step in the process of a merger with a partnering school district

Why we are here...

- A shared municipal services grant funded a comprehensive **study** of all options for centralized business operations in the school districts of Brocton, Chautauqua Lake, Ripley and Westfield.
- The scope of the study included: transportation services, athletic program management, facilities management, instructional information services, technology coordination, food services, curriculum coordination, human resources and school district reorganization.

Introduction

- Brocton Central School served as the lead agency for the Shared Services Study
- Joint meetings of the four boards of education have occurred to receive the study and discuss possible changes.
- Once again no school district merger decisions have been made by the Brocton Central School Board of Education or its Administration

Introduction

- The Board of Education asked for this public information session to present information about the Shared Services Study, as well as options for the future.
- The Board of Education asks that all questions be held until the conclusion of the presentation.

Charting a Course for the Future

Brocton Central School District

Components of the Study

- **Shared Services Study**
 - Centralized Business Office
 - Other Shared Services Recommendations
 - Enrollment Forecast
 - School District Organization Recommendations

Where we are...

- Enrollment and economic decline has presented school leaders with a significant challenge. How does a school district continue to operate a strong educational program in a cost effective manner when projections show continued decline?

Where we are

- School districts are also challenged to meet new financial reporting and auditing requirements from the New York State Comptroller
- School business office personnel are often specialized in their duties and training, their specializations present great difficulty in their absence (vacations, leave, or emergency)

Centralized Business Office

Recommendations: Centralized Business Office

- The overall purpose for this study was to assess the cost savings and other benefits that could result from the consolidation of business functions of the Brocton, Chautauqua Lake, Ripley and Westfield Academy and Central School Districts.

Centralized Business Office

- The Shared Services Study recommends that business functions of the four school districts be combined to increase financial controls, enable cross-training, provide back-up, increase efficiency and save operational costs.
- The study did not recommend reducing current staff.
- The staffing levels in the future will need to be adjusted based on participation.

Recommendations: Centralized Business Office

- The consultants conducted a study of the current business operations in the four districts and evaluated a number of potential models for consolidation of their functions.
- Recently the Boards of Education for all four districts passed resolutions to become part of the organization committee of the CBO.

Recommendations: Other Shared Services

- In addition to exploring the benefits that could be realized with the consolidation of the business function, the study also examined the potential efficiencies and economics of scale resulting from the greater sharing of services in other areas.

Recommendations: Other Shared Services

- The other areas include:
 - Athletic Management
 - Facilities Management
 - Food Service Management
 - Human Resources
 - Instructional Management
 - Special Education
 - Technology
 - Transportation

Shared Services

- In some cases the sharing of services would result in the creation of a position
- The study noted that it is not always feasible to share services due to:
 - Job specifications
 - Lack of savings
 - Incapability of programs, software or offerings
 - In some cases the sharing of services would result in job creation

Where we are...

- This study is a direct result of school districts working together to look toward the future of education in the region.
- The most startling component of the study is the enrollment projections for the next five years.

Enrollment...

LIVE BIRTHS CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

1998 – 1542
1999 – 1543
2000 – 1544
2001 – 1578
2002 – 1501
2003 – 1468
2004 – 1434

While there was a slight increase for the period 1998 – 2001, there has been a declining trend for the period 2002 – 2004. Using these numbers the researchers were able to project what portion of the children born in Chautauqua County would become students in each school district.

Two Enrollment Tables are shown for each school district. The first table is an Enrollment History from 2002-03 through 2006-07. The second table is an enrollment projection from 2007-08 to 2011-12.

Enrollment—Current

**Table 1- Current Enrollment
Brocton Central School District**

Grade	02-03	03-04		04-05		05-06		06-07	
K	48	48	3.11	45	2.9	46	3.0	35	2.21
1	42	43	89.6	51	106	44	.98	45	.98
2	61	46	109.5	41	.95	48	.94	43	.98
3	52	61	100	50	109	41	100	48	100
4	59	51	98.1	65	106	51	102	42	102
5	59	61	103	51	100	57	.88	45	.88
6	63	61	103	62	102	57	112	57	100
7	62	61	.97	67	110	62	100	54	.95
8	71	64	103	66	108	57	.85	56	.90
9	52	70	.99	67	104	68	103	59	104
10	63	46	.88	62	.89	58	.87	64	.94
11	51	43	.68	39	.85	53	.85	54	.93
12	76	58	113	51	118	39	100	53	100
Ungraded	5	8		9		9		0	
Total	784	747		746		713		675	

Enrollment Forecast

**Table 2 – Five Year Enrollment Projection
Brocton Central School District**

Grade	Ratio	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
K	2.81	42	41	40	40	39
1	97.8	34	41	40	39	39
2	99.1	43	34	41	40	39
3	102.3	49	44	35	40	41
4	102	43	50	44	35	41
5	.95	43	41	48	42	34
6	104	47	45	42	49	44
7	100.5	57	47	45	43	50
8	96.6	52	55	45	43	41
9	103.5	58	54	57	47	45
10	89.5	53	52	48	51	42
11	82.8	53	44	43	40	42
12	105.8	56	56	46	45	42
Ungraded		5	5	5	5	5
Total		635	609	579	559	544

Secondary Enrollment...

**Table 11 - Secondary Enrollment – Grades 9-12
Current Enrollment/Five Year Enrollment Projection
Brocton, Chautauqua Lake, Ripley, Westfield Central School
Districts**

The information in Table 11 indicates the following:

- Total enrollments in Grades 9-12 in the four school districts are projected to decline 20.7% from 2007-08 to 2011-12.

9-12 ENR.	Brocton	Chautauqua Lake	Ripley	Westfield	Total
06-07	230	320	133	263	946
07-08	220	291	121	255	887
08-09	206	280	115	276	877
09-10	194	253	114	264	825
10-11	183	251	102	269	785
11-12	171	235	95	249	750

Enrollment...

The information in the eight tables indicates the following:

- K – 12 enrollment in the Brocton, Chautauqua Lake, Ripley and Westfield Central School Districts declined 12.7% from 2002-03 to 2006-07.
- Individual school district enrollment declined during this same period in the following manner: Brocton – 13.9%, Chautauqua Lake – 12.1%, Ripley – 10.2%, Westfield – 13.4%.
- K-12 enrollment projections for the period from 2006-07 to 2011-12 indicate a total student enrollment decline of 15.9%.
- Individual district enrollment projections indicate a student enrollment decline during the same period: Brocton – 19.4%, Chautauqua Lake – 15.3%, Ripley – 17%, and Westfield – 13.2%.
- Enrollment decline for the four school districts from 2002-03 through projected years to 2011-2012 is expected to be 26.6%.
- Individual district enrollment decline for this same period is expected to be: Brocton – 30.6%, Chautauqua Lake – 25.5%, Ripley – 25.4%, and Westfield – 24.8%.

Specifically BCS...

- Total Enrollment 2002-03 = 784
- Total Enrollment 2007-08 = 635
- Total Projected Enrollment
2011-12 = 544
- *Within ten years enrollments are projected to decline 30.6%*

Financial Impact

- Funding for New York State Public Schools is based on a number of variables. However, as enrollment decrease so does the State's financial support of school.
- Currently, BCS receives approximately \$8,600 per student from the State, the loss of 10 students represents a loss of \$86,000 in funding

District Reorganization

Is it time to consider reorganization?

What options are there?

Recommendations: District Reorganization

- The current enrollment data indicates that enrollment will continue to decline in the future.
- The cost of education per pupil will rise significantly or programs will have to be reduced or eliminated to contain costs. This will impact secondary students more dramatically than elementary students. Within the context of the study, the following recommendations are offered:

Within the context of the study, the following recommendations are offered:

- Consolidate and share services wherever possible among school districts.
- The Ripley Central School District should seek consolidation or annexation with another school district.
- The Ripley, Westfield and Brocton School Districts should consider merging. The distance among the three districts is not excessive to consider this option. The Chautauqua Lake School District does not appear to be advantaged by merging with other school districts because of their current tax profile.

Within the context of the study, the following recommendations are offered:

- Districts should work with New York State legislators to pass legislation to permit the creation of a Regional High School.
 - Local school leaders have presented their support for the concept of Regional High Schools to the Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness, which is reviewing ways that local governments can save taxpayer dollars and become more efficient by sharing services and undertaking regional collaboration. The commission was appointed by Governor Eliot Spitzer and is chaired by Stan Ludine.

The Future

- Since the release of the study, Ripley Central School District and Westfield Central School District have opened discussions about possible reorganization of the two districts and have invited Brocton Central School to join in three-way merger discussions.
- BCS has been asked to indicate interest by January 15th.

Historical Perspective

- NYS School Reorganizations since 1870

Year	Number of Districts	Decrease
1870....	11,372	
1890....	11,216	- 156
1910....	10,565	- 651
1930....	9,118	-1,447
1940....	6,397	-2,721
1950....	3,189	-3,208
1960....	1,293	-1,896
1970....	760	- 533
1980....	739	- 21
1990....	720	- 19
2000....	704	- 16

Options for CSD Reorganization

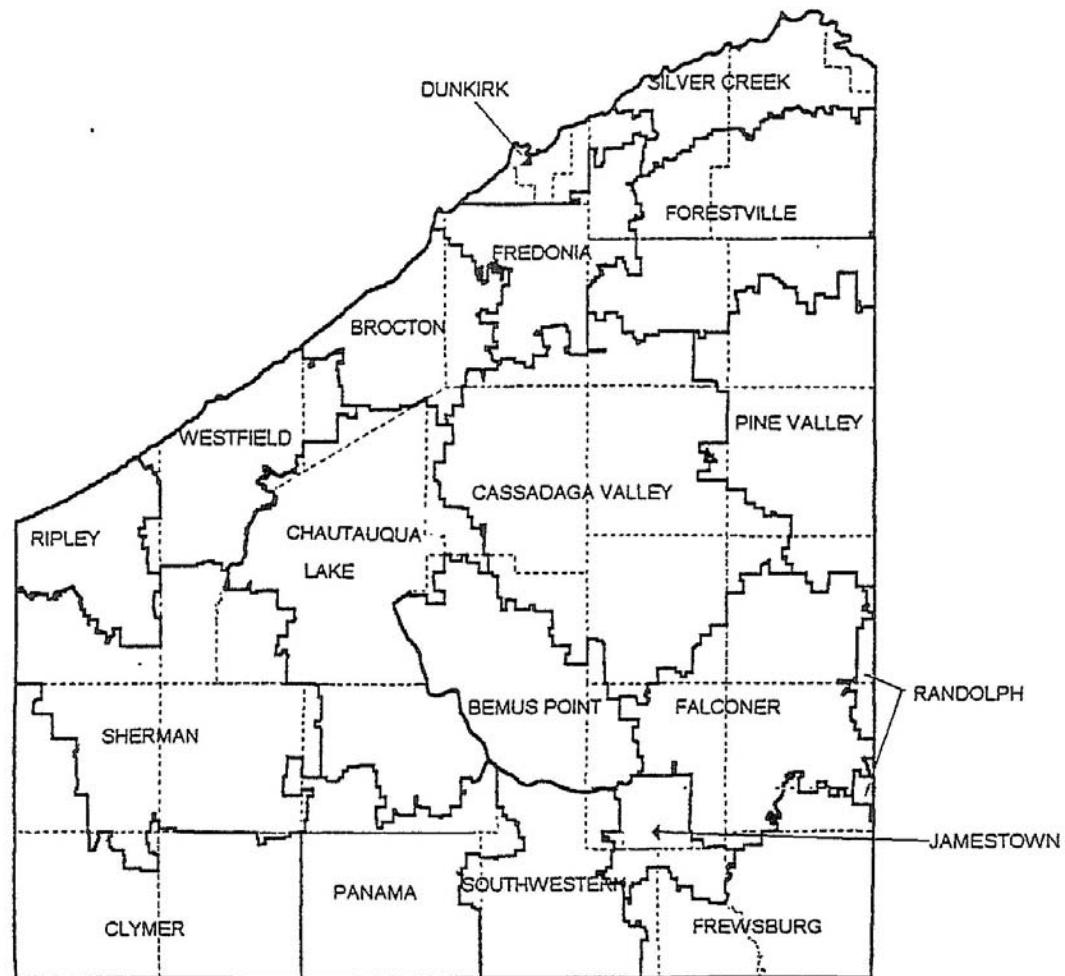
- Centralization
- Annexation
- Centralized High School
- Regional High School

Possible Partners

By State Education Law a school district may initiate a merger study with an adjoining school district.

BCS borders:

Westfield,
Chautauqua Lake,
Cassadaga Valley
and Fredonia



Centralization

- Education Law Section 1801-1804
- New school district is created encompassing the entire area of the school districts to be merged.
- Can be established through the merger of any types of school districts except city school districts
- The districts must be adjoining

CSD Annexation

- Education Law Sections 1801 and 1803
- New district is not created. The district to be annexed is dissolved and becomes part of the annexing central school district.
- Common, union free and central districts can be annexed to a central school district if they are adjoining

Reorganization

- There are opposing arguments and limitations that exist within State Law

Reorganization

Considerations—Positive

- Enhance pupil and financial base
- Provide several sections of a subject area, each fitted to pupil needs and abilities
- Extend subject offerings to include, for example:
 - Multiple languages
 - Specialized English courses
 - New, special area social studies courses
 - Advanced placement programs
 - Development of programs for the less able or the gifted

Reorganization

Considerations—Positive

- Provide a broader choice of electives and co-curricular opportunities
- Increase the probability that teachers will serve only in their field of specialization
- Provide separate, specially equipped classrooms for specific subjects
- Upgrade facilities and equipment to support program requirements

Considerations for Reorganization—Positive

- More cost effective administrative organization
- Eliminate duplication by pooling facilities, equipment, supplies, materials, teaching and non-teaching staff
- Consolidation and coordination of transportation [i.e.; routing, central garage, standardization of buses and parts]
- Additional operating aid and building aid

Considerations for Reorganization—Negative

- A fear of losing local identity
- Perception that the communities are incompatible and that one may benefit more than the other
- Uncertainty over Board representation and whether or not the new district will operate as implied during study
- Assumption that larger student enrollment will result in less individual attention, more discipline and drug problems, and fewer opportunities for student participation in sports and extra-curricular activities

Considerations for Reorganization—Negative

- Belief that new programs, staffing and building improvements will result in higher costs and require local property tax increases regardless of additional state incentive aid
- Concern children will be required to spend more time being bussed to and from school
- Fear of losing job security by local district employees
- Natural tendency to resist change and a reluctance to give up “what is” for “what might be”

Initiating Reorganization

- Joint meetings between the affected boards of education to gather information to determine if there are sufficient benefits to warrant a formal study.
- BOCES District Superintendent acts as an informed neutral party that provides information, support and assistance
- If there is potential benefit, the boards undertake a comprehensive feasibility study with guidance from the State Education Department.

Feasibility Study Purpose

- Develop information which describes how a specific combination of districts would operate if reorganization were implemented
- Serves several audiences
 - school district officials
 - taxpayers
 - Commissioner of Education

Feasibility Study Contents

- current and projected enrollments
- current and projected professional staffing plans
- current and projected housing plans
- plan for education programs and curricula
- plan for transportation
- fiscal implications of the reorganization: state aid, expenditures and local tax effort

Communicating with the Community

- Education Law provides for a referendum in the communities affected by reorganization
- Public needs to be informed throughout the process of the study and implementation
- Joint plan and calendar should be developed for community information process
- Goal is to reach every eligible voter so that informed decisions can be made at the time of the vote

Other Options

(Requiring Legislative Action)

- Centralized High School District
- Regional High School

Centralized High School District

- Authorized in 1917 to provide secondary education to children from two or more feeder districts
- Appointed reps from the component boards comprised the central high school board
- 1944 deemed unsatisfactory and prohibited
- 1981 Legislation reinstated for Suffolk county only (Eastport-South Manor)
- Creation of a High School Taxing Entity

Regional High School

- No provision in state law for this option
- State Legislative support would be necessary
- Would maintain existing programs and provide an opportunity for additional educational and career specializations that otherwise may be lost.

Important to Note

- The Board of Education called this public information session and has not committed to any sort of school district reorganization.
- The Brocton Central School Board of Education recognized the need to gauge the feelings of the community and scheduled this public information session.
- The shared services study is on our website at: www.broctoncsd.org

Public Comment

- Please raise your hand and wait to be recognized before addressing the Board
- When designated to speak, please identify yourself using first and last name and area residence.
- Speaking time may be limited to accommodate number of speakers