

August 23rd Merger Meeting Questions and Answers

On August 23rd, four meetings took place at WCS. This list is a summary of the questions that were discussed in each of the meetings. If you attended the meetings and feel that I have missed a question, please let me know and I will add it to the list. If you have further questions, I will be happy to meet with you to discuss.

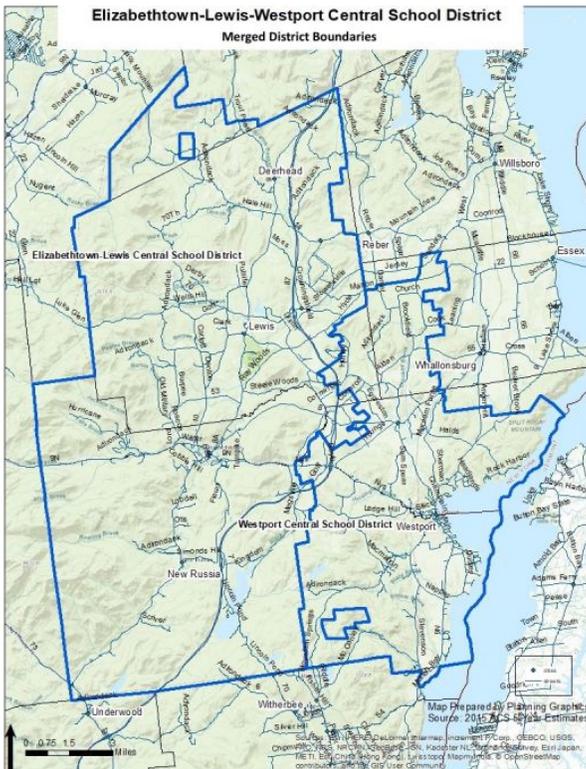
Many of the answers can be found in the [Merger Study Final Report](#)

What is the total voting population for the Westport Central School District?

ELCS- 1621

WCS- 1084

And a map.



What is the absentee ballot protocol and timeline?

After the BOE's vote in September (assuming they both pass), absentee ballots will be available from the district clerk. Official timeline and protocol will be available as well.

What is the timeline?

9/13-BOE vote

10/9-Advisory Referendum

12/4-Merger Referendum and number of BOE seats

January- vote on BOE members

July 1st- First official day of business for the merged district.

What is the PreK structure if the districts merge?

Both schools would offer Pre-K.

Currently ELCS does, WCS does not.

What does our 5-year projection look like?

The 2017-18 interim superintendent showed a 5-year projection at a budget meeting during the 2017-18 school year. One of the main points that he was trying to make involved that the projections required spending down our Reserve Funds, which we are not legally allowed to do. I believe his point was that even with all of that money, we will still run out soon, unless we change something. Unfortunately, the point was misunderstood and led to several more questions. Instead of showing you the same projections that led to all the confusion, I'd rather summarize based on the data that I have seen.

WCS has two sources of revenue: taxes and state aid. Based on current projections and historical data, we would need to eliminate more teaching positions for the 2019-20 school year. If we continued with our current spending, we would be totally out of money in 2021-2022 (including all fund balance and reserves), assuming that we get no significant increased revenue.

Can anything be cut other than teaching positions?

Extracurricular activities could be cut. The total sum of all the extracurricular activities, including sports is about the cost of one full-time teacher. The elimination of one or two activities wouldn't make much of a difference. We would have to look at the entire extracurricular program for it to truly be impactful to our budget.

What are the alternatives if we do not merge?

- 1) Year-to-year planning (Keep doing what we are doing)
- 2) Maintain K-6, Tuition Out 7-12
- 3) Adjust School Day and Reduce Teachers from 1.0 FTE to .8FTE
- 4) Endowment*
- 5) International students*

*I do not believe that there is enough time to make this work for 2019-20

What will happen with Bus Garage?

Regardless of the merger, we would most likely build a bus garage in a central location and share it with ELCSD. Both bus garages are in need of a tremendous amount of costly

improvements/renovations. It would be more cost effective to build a centrally located bus garage.

What will the bus routes look like for the students?

The bus routes will be similar, but current WCS 9-12 students will take a shuttle to the ELCSD campus.

How do our test scores compare to ELCSD?

They are more similar than different. Specifics are available in the Merger Study Final Report

What specific electives and/or AP classes will be offered?

From a planning perspective, all department members would meet with an administrator to develop a plan for each department. Specifics would be discussed then.

What is going on with the ELCSD Superintendent contract?

I am officially awaiting a legal opinion that will be presented as soon as I have it.