



Questions Submitted:

Until a decision is made, and building usage determined, will spending on buildings (outside of necessary maintenance) be halted? The answer for both districts is yes. For the Richfield Joint School District, this is not entirely due to the consolidation study, but also due to summer school being moved to Plat.

What happens if the consolidation aid changes with the biennium budget? What happens to our aid? When do we get 'locked in?' Knowing that changes may occur, the districts took a conservative approach to calculating consolidation incentive aid. Depending on the decisions that are made at the state level, aid amounts could fluctuate. The aid is available right now, and while there is no guarantee of aid, no consolidated districts have been negatively impacted by changes to the state budget.

How much money will be saved in this consolidation effort? Where will the savings be seen, taxes, or put back into the school systems? While efficiencies would be attained through consolidation, the districts are researching consolidation in order to preserve and enhance student programs, activities, and academic opportunities; these do not come without a cost. Incentive aid and efficiencies through reduction of duplicative programs, better utilization of facilities, and transportation are three areas where savings are anticipated.

Where will we be able to find the results of the report that was presented tonight[1/30/17]? The report will be posted on our websites, as well as the village website, however, we are waiting for Robert W. Baird to receive the updated information from the state prior to posting the report.

The financials will be important to understand and building usage plans. Aside from the financial aspects, it is smart to consolidate. Thank you for your comment. We understand that the financial aspects of a consolidation impact all of our residents, and are working to make this information readily available, while also communicating about the increased opportunities for our students and the unification of our community.

If this happens, why doesn't it start next year? The short answer is: the state outlines the timeline to which districts must adhere. The long(er) answer is that once districts determine that consolidation is in the best interest of students, families and the community at large, there is much work to be done. This includes making decisions about where students will go to school, assigning staff, forming collegiality and collaborative opportunities for staff, aligning compensation and retirement packages, assuring curriculum alignment, rewriting policy and handbooks for the new district, determining a new board of education, identifying and/or hiring leadership, to name a few. Each of these require time and attention in order to be completed with fidelity.

To submit your own question(s), please visit: <https://todaysmeet.com/ConsolidationStudy> or head to either district homepage or the village homepage. We appreciate your feedback, questions, and ideas!