

Rick Scott 4/22/15

April 22, 2015

Comments of Rick Scott – Bridport representative to UD#3 Middlebury and the ACSU Board Chair.

I'm here to express strong support for your efforts to put forward quality legislation that encourages and ultimately requires local districts to consolidate our governance structures.

I hold little hope that an entirely voluntary approach will work much better this time than it has since Acts 153/156 were passed.

I do believe the latitude to design the governance structure at the local level is essential, and that generous incentives are necessary to stimulate action.

I feel that a **spending cap** is unnecessary, as I believe sustainability is AS important to School Boards as it is to all stakeholders.

Numerous public comments have been made that express skepticism about realizing cost savings through the proposed legislation.

I respectfully disagree. I believe governance consolidation provides a real opportunity to achieve efficiency and ultimately sustainability. It's also our best chance at maintaining small schools and achieving programmatic equity by more effectively allocating current resources, to achieve common goals.

The effectiveness of our senior administration will certainly improve as we abandon the convoluted, unorthodox models we operate now. We should expect to experience far more effective management when a superintendent can implement policy and procedure consistently across schools. We should also experience improved collaboration among all administrators as their objectives and interests merge.

An efficient governance structure will result in lower turnover for all senior administrators, providing consistency and stability for the students and staff. That consistency will allow Districts to achieve long range goals and fulfill vision statements, instead of re-defining them with every change in administration.

Please make every effort bring this bill forward.