

David Jewell
Beth Cobb

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Orange East Supervisory Union
Bradford, Newbury, Corinth, Topsham, Thetford

OESU in a nutshell:

- **Bradford Elementary: K – 6, Oxbow High School**
 - FY14 enrollment: 210, flat – slight increase over the past 3 years (large primary classes)
 - 21.60 teachers (23.40 FY10)
 - 17 paras (increase by 2 from FY10)
 - Ed spending -1.0% FY15
 - Spending per pupil has decreased over the past 4 years -3.9%
 - Equalized tax rate FY15 3.8% (up 21% over 4 years)

- **Newbury Elementary: K – 6, Oxbow High School**
 - FY14 enrollment: 124, increase from 119 FY10/119 FY12
 - 14.60 teachers (13.90 FY10)
 - 15.50 paras (21 FY10)
 - Ed spending -1.3% FY15
 - Spending per pupil has decreased over the past 4 years -5.1%
 - Equalized tax rate FY15 5.4% (up 13.4 over 4 years)

- **Waits River Valley School: K – 8, High School Choice (Topsham and Corinth)**
 - K – 8 FY14 enrollment: 174, increase from 158 FY10
 - 9 – 12 FY14 enrollment 47 (tuition to Thetford Academy, Oxbow, Spaulding, St. J Academy)
 - 26 teachers (20.33 FY10)
 - 15.43 paras (17 FY10)
 - Ed spending -6.3% FY15
 - Spending per pupil has decreased over the past 4 years 8.0%
 - Equalized tax rate FY15 12.4% (up 13.3% over 4 years)

- **Oxbow High School: 7 – 12**
 - FY14 enrollment: 390, decrease from 462 FY10
 - 35 teachers (37.60 FY10)
 - 17.29 paras (19.86 FY10)
 - Professional staff has increased by 2.5 since 2010
 - Ed spending 6.5% FY15
 - Spending per pupil has decreased over the past 4 years 8.0%
 - Equalized tax rate FY15 9.4%

- **Thetford Elementary: K – 6, Thetford Academy designated high school**
 - FY14 enrollment: 210, (194 FY13)
 - 21.9 teachers (19.8 FY10)
 - 18 paras (21.8 FY12)
 - Ed spending 0.4% FY15
 - Spending per pupil increase 1.1% since FY14
 - Equalized tax rate FY15 3.9%
 - 7 - 12 enrollment: 198.76

- **River Bend Career and Tech Center**

Challenges and barriers to operating as one district:

- **Meetings with Rivendell and Blue Mountain – 4 years ago 3 or 4 meetings**
 - Increase course opportunities
 - Technology - Skype
 - Discussed transportation
 - Bulk ordering
 - Superintendent change – continuity
 - Reluctance on NEA
 - Looked at adult education
 - Flexible teaching schedule

- **Met with BMU last year on the same topics – Change of Secretary of Education (conversation stopped)**

- Currently talking with BMU and Rivendell: Expanding Educational Opportunities (next meeting with Secretary Holcombe on March 9, 2015)
 - PK – 12 system
 - Middle school opportunities
 - High School opportunities – AP
 - Keeping K – 5 local
 - PK becoming part of the schools (currently OESU has partner preschools)
- Transportation
 - Local school board control – opting for local bus company
 - 4 schools use the same bus company - oversight would be simpler if we had one OESU contract – local control and OESU office didn't have personal to oversee it – now we do
 - Snow days
- Curriculum – equity across schools
 - Currently working with grades K-6 on a common curriculum. All K – 6 teachers are involved
 - Having two middle schools (6-8 WRVS and 7-8 OHS) is a barrier for getting teachers together (time, schedule)
- OESU Calendar is adopted (BES, NES, OHS). WRVS and TES change due to a different number of professional days. TES aligns with Thetford Academy. FY16 First year we have come to a common one.

Challenges addressing equity, quality, and cost across the full supervisory union:

- Special Education
- PK – management and oversight from OESU
- Purchasing technology (online assessments)
- ~~Food Service mandates~~
- Rising Poverty
- PLP – time, staff
- School Boards – local control

Our personal perspective on the ideas being discussed in the legislature might be helpful or pose barriers to making progress on coming together to create somewhat greater scale and greater flexibility to manage costs:

- Negotiation process
- Other Agencies funding social workers/ behavior specialists
- Funding for facilities upgrade
- College funding – community college
- Food service mandates (food service people hired in the past were cooks – we have to interpret and help to make the change easier for them)

Creating an Integrated PreK-12 System that is unique to OESU:

- PK – 12 system – expanding educational opportunities
 - Middle school opportunities
 - Union High School opportunities – AP, elective choices, dual enrollment, expanding RBCTC opportunities for all, Band, Chorus, Drama – larger scale, sports, internships, etc.
 - Keeping K – 5 local
 - PK becoming part of the schools (currently OESU has partner preschools)
 - WRVS could continue with choice (TBD)
 - TES could still maintain their designation with Thetford Academy