

For additional questions and concerns and to learn more, please visit our website, [www.LNSUAct46.org](http://www.LNSUAct46.org), attend a public hearing or contact us directly:

Act 46 Study Committee Members

**Belvidere:** Angie Evans

**Cambridge:** Peter Ingvoldstad  
Laura Miller  
Bill Sander  
Kristy Wrigley

**Eden:** Matthew Mitchell  
David Whitcomb

**Hyde Park:** Patti Hayford  
Ken McPherson  
Dan Regan  
Raven Walters

**Johnson:** Jeff Bickford  
Pierre Laflamme  
Tim Sullivan

**Waterville:** Becky Penberthy

LNSU Contacts

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# What is Act 46?

## Important Vote on Tuesday, April 12, 2016

For more information, please visit our website: [www.LNSUAct46.org](http://www.LNSUAct46.org)

**Proposed  
Lamoille North Unified Union  
School District**

**Act 46 Vote**

**April 12, 2016**

The six towns of Lamoille North Supervisory Union will vote on April 12, 2016, to consider merging into one single school district serving all students PreK-12.

**Public Hearing Dates:**

Belvidere – April 5, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Belvidere Central School Multipurpose Room

Cambridge – April 6, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Cambridge Elementary School Gymnasium

Hyde Park – April 4, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Hyde Park Elementary School Library

Eden – April 7, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Eden Central School Gymnasium

Johnson – April 11, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Johnson Elementary School Library

Waterville – April 7, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Waterville Elementary School Gymnasium

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## The Goals of the Lamoille North Unified Union School District:

- To achieve greater equity, increased learning opportunities, better outcomes and an enhanced experience for all our students
- To make education more affordable today and into the future

### A “YES” Vote Could Mean that We Will:

- create a PreK-12 Lamoille North Unified Union School District of our own design.
- make sure that all of our towns have equitable representation, participation and voice.
- receive property tax relief and financial incentives.
- realize immediate cost-efficiency savings of over \$300,000.
- maintain Small Schools Grants.
- qualify for Transition Grant Funding of \$130,000.

### A “NO” Vote Could Mean that We:

- may not realize any tax incentives or cost savings.
- after 2017, may lose our local capacity to decide our own structure; the State Board of Education will decide how our schools will be governed and future unification.

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### Q. What is Act 46?

**A.** Act 46, signed into law by Governor Peter Shumlin on June 2, 2015, provides tax incentives to encourage small school districts to dissolve and together form new, larger districts that have 900 or more students. It's an opportunity for districts and supervisory unions to unify existing disparate governance structures into sustainable systems of education delivery that are designed to meet identified State goals, while recognizing and reflecting local priorities.

### Q. What are the goals of Act 46?

**A.** Act 46 is designed to encourage and support local decisions and actions that: provide substantial equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities statewide; lead students to achieve or exceed the State's Education Quality Standards; maximize operational efficiencies through increased flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources; promote transparency and accountability; and deliver at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value.

### Q. What are the two options for unification for Lamoille North Supervisory Union?

**A.** There are two options for our current Lamoille North Supervisory Union. The first option - if all six towns vote yes - is the accelerated option, which would create a single district to serve all students PreK - 12 in all six towns, replacing the seven districts which now exist. The second option - if four or five towns vote yes - is a modified option that would serve all students in the towns that vote yes, while the towns voting no would retain their boards.

### Q. What are the incentives on average across all six towns for the Accelerated option?

**A.** The new district's equalized homestead property tax rate shall be decreased by \$0.10 in the first fiscal year of operation, \$0.08 in the second, \$0.06 in the third, \$0.04 in the fourth, and \$0.02 in the fifth. During the years in which the homestead property tax is reduced, the equalized tax rate for each town will not increase by more than five percent in a single year.

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### Q. What are the incentives on average across all six towns for the Modified option?

**A.** The new district's equalized homestead property tax rate shall be decreased by \$0.08 in the first fiscal year, \$0.06 in the second, \$0.04 in the third, and \$0.02 in the fourth. During the years in which the homestead property tax is reduced, the equalized tax rate for each town will not increase by more than five percent in a single year.

### Q. What will happen to our school buildings and grounds?

**A.** The school buildings and land needed to operate the school will be shifted from the current town district to the new consolidated district. We value our local schools as community centers. The schools will continue to be the center of each community, and may be used for school and community activities.

### Q. For those towns voting “YES”, what happens to the assets and liabilities of the existing districts?

**A.** All assets and liabilities will be assumed by the new unified school district. Building and maintaining schools is a long-term investment. By unifying, we spread out the financial bumps so that the costs of buildings and upkeep are spread out over a larger base. This will help some communities more now, but will help all of our communities over time.

### Q. Where will my students go to school?

**A.** They will go to the same school they attend now at least through the 2019-2020 school year unless it is the mutual preference of a family and the new district that a student attend a different school within the district. A unified district will provide us that flexibility, should it be desired. Beginning in 2020, the new district board, with representation from each of the forming towns, will have the authority to adjust school building designations, school attendance, and school configuration as needed to improve educational outcomes and hold down costs.

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### Q. Could one of our community schools be closed at some point in the future?

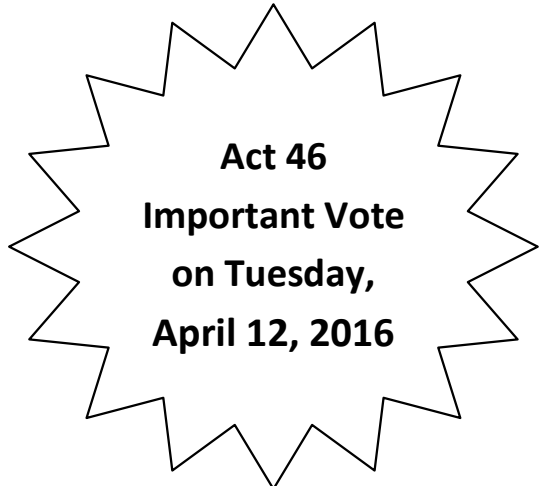
**A.** No school closures are planned or even anticipated at this time. Our local schools are very important to each of our communities and any future consideration of a school closure would trigger a very high approval threshold. No school can be closed without a 75% majority of the board voting in favor of closure in two consecutive votes, with at least one year between those votes.

### Q. What will the representation be on the new board?

**A.** Belvidere shall have one board director; Cambridge, five board directors; Eden, two board directors; Hyde Park, four board directors; Johnson, five board directors; and Waterville, one board director.

### Q. Where can I get a petition to run for school director?

**A.** Petitions are available now at your town clerk's office. All interested parties must pick up a petition and get 30 signatures or 1% of the registered voters, whichever is less, even if you're a town where the school directors are usually nominated and voted from the floor. Since all votes related to Act 46 – to approve unification and to elect board directors – will be voted by Australian ballot, petitions must be submitted to your town clerk in order to appear on the ballot. Completed forms must be submitted to your respective town clerks no earlier than March 3, 2016, and no later than March 14, 2016.



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