

News

For immediate release –

Fort Edward UFSD and South Glens Falls CSD to Conduct Joint Study

Fort Edward, December 5, 2018 – The Fort Edward Union Free School District and the South Glens Falls Central School District Boards of Education have agreed to conduct a joint study to examine the advantages and disadvantages of the two districts merging. Specifically, the study will examine the hypothetical annexation of the Fort Edward Union Free School District with the South Glens Falls Central School District. In an annexation, a new district is not created, rather; the annexed district (Fort Edward) is dissolved and becomes part of the annexing district (South Glens Falls).

The study will be conducted by Castallo & Silky, LLC Education Consultants throughout the winter. The cost will be split between the two school districts. Each district will pay \$5,500, and each district will receive aid to offset the cost of the study. Fort Edward will receive 71% aid while South Glens Falls will receive 62% aid.

The study will address the following areas for both districts: laws and regulations regarding the specifics of this hypothetical annexation, enrollment projections, instructional and extra-curricular programs, finance, facilities, transportation, and staffing.

“Given the increasing financial constraints resulting from the ongoing litigation surrounding the WCC property, the Fort Edward Union Free School District must continue to examine options for the district’s future,” said Fort Edward UFSD Superintendent Daniel Ward. “We’re committed to making the best choices for our students and our community and looking at all of our options. The long-term, big picture decisions that the Fort Edward Board of Education is responsible for making requires that the district collect and review the information that will be provided by this study.”

Fort Edward UFSD hired CASDA to conduct a similar study in the 2017-18 school year that garnered information on the pros and cons of a merger with the Hudson Falls Central School District.

“The Fort Edward School District is filled with dedicated and hardworking students, parents, staff, and community members who fully support our school. Unfortunately, as a large taxpayer continues to fail to pay their annual school taxes, more of the tax burden falls on the backs of the remainder of the village, town, and county taxpayers. The school board is dedicated to

finding a balance that provides a quality school experience for our students that our taxpayers can afford.”

South Glens Falls Central School District Superintendent Kristine Orr said: “We are willing to be a part of Fort Edward’s efforts to continue to provide excellent academic programming and support for its students. We are open to learning how our districts could both benefit, and how a merger would impact our own students, our potential revenue, and our taxpayers.”

Results of the study are expected to be released to the public in June 2019.

###