

The Craftsbury Schools Community Collaboration (CSCC ) is a voluntary Citizen Group dedicated to finding a solution to the current impasse over the future of the Craftsbury School System.

The CSCC began in 2008 in the form of a citizens discussion group. A Steering Committee was established and has met since February. In order to gain credibility with potential funding organizations, the Steering Committee recently became a sub-committee of the School Board. It is understood that the Committee (and the Collaboration) are to function independently and in an advisory capacity.

The job of the Steering Committee is to design and manage a collaborative process that will help us move forward to find workable solutions to our school issues. The process will be based on the fundamental principle that all points of view are legitimate and need to be heard and that a workable consensus can emerge through dialogue.

It is envisioned that the process will operate through the creation of a voluntary group of “Stakeholders” that will represent the full diversity of views regarding the future of the Schools. This group must include parents and non-parents, adults and students, and citizens who have lived in the Town for many years as well as those who have moved here more recently. The Stakeholder Group will engage in a carefully designed process of dialogue based on models and approaches used by other communities to deal with community issues. The process is likely to take from 6 months to a year. It will involve the collection of a great deal of background information and an analysis of the pros and cons of different approaches. It is important to stress that participation in the Stakeholders Group will be open to any individual who has an interest in the future of the Schools.

The Collaboration may employ assistance from an outside advisor if funds can be located. An application has been sent to the Vermont Community Foundation.

Two informational meetings will be held in the coming weeks, Sat., Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. in the Town Hall, and Thurs. Sep. 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. The current plan is for the Stakeholder Group to convene later in September, and to meet roughly twice a month. A status report with interim recommendations should be given to the School Board for publication prior to the 2010 Town meeting.

The current members of the Steering Committee are: Annie Volmer, Susan Houston, Harry Miller, Steve Moffatt, Stark Biddle, Tina Sweet, Ron Sanville, and Perry Thomas. Gina Campoli is also helping with some administrative tasks. Each of these individuals would welcome the opportunity to talk with any citizen of the Town regarding the CSCC. Call us or visit the blog at <http://cscsteeringcommittee.blogspot.com>.

This is an opportunity for the community to have input into the future of Craftsbury Schools. Please consider getting involved.