

Patrick O'Neill
MSAD #46/ AOS 94
LD 176

Honorable Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. Thank you for allowing me to speak to you on this important subject. My name is Patrick O'Neill and I am the Assistant Superintendent of Schools representing MSAD #46/ AOS 94 (the towns of Dexter, Exeter, Garland and Ripley.) I wish to provide testimony in favor of LD 176 " An Act to Facilitate a grade 9-16 School Project." LD 176 would allow us to create a Community District School (CSD) a framework that would allow this pilot project to move forward.

During my long stint in education I have served as a Superintendent/Director of a 9-14 Comprehensive High School in Easton, MA. , Southeastern Technical Institute. I also served as a CTE Director in A Region and Center. My Doctoral Studies focused on Academic and Career Training Integration so as you may note I am fully vested in this approach to learning with a focus on pathways a student may choose to pursue by entering the workforce after graduation or pursuing higher education opportunities. All students in Grades 9-12 can receive college credits through Articulation Agreements negotiated with the University of Maine System, the Community College System and other institutes of Higher Education and Advanced Training Centers. In some program offerings students will be prepared to sit for various National licenses or ' Journeymen' tests.

Our vision is to create an unique Educational Facility in Central Maine that provides care, college and civil readiness, that integrates curriculum, instruction and assessment in a safe and secure climate. Further the design is intentional and explicit as the programs that are offered will fully integrate across industry partners, higher education, and career and technical education. The focus is to provide real contextual and authentic learning pathways for all students while also exposing them to career oriented pathways effectively insuring career and college readiness for all.

This State of the Art Regional Facility will serve the communities represented by MSAD #46, MSAD #4, MSAD # 41 and potentially RSU #64 along with Tri-County Technical Center in Dexter. This area in Central Maine has a unique opportunity to grow and prosper and more importantly it gives the students the education and training needed to pursue their life goals with confidence as they enter a competitive and constantly changing global environment.

I ask the members to support this innovative collaborative effort to enhance authentic learning and career opportunities for our students , families and communities in Central Maine. Please vote " ought to pass"

On bill LD 176.

Respectfully ,

Patrick O'Neill, Ed. D..