

**REMINDER: THE NEXT RPC MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008 AT 6:30 PM AT THE SEARSPORT DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL CAFETORIUM.**

RPC Meeting  
Minutes  
Wednesday, January 23, 2008  
Belfast Area High School  
6:30 – 8:45 pm

Present: Morris Leathers, Veronica Magnan, Richard Marsden, Barbara Klausmeyer, Ray Hart, Denis Howard, Roger Rowlands, Nedra Bellows, Mary Szwec, Bruce Mailloux, Ray Freve, Marge Knuuti, Evelyn Adams, Catherine Leathers, Alan Hammond, Ed Moran, Ruth Holmes, Alexa Schweikert, Sara Bradford, Craig Poulin, Roland LaReau

Absent: Eric Walker, Kathy Hoey, Jan Austin, Larry Theye, Debra Riley, Joyce Davidson, Denise Dakin, Richard Crossman, Duffy Woods, Eric Sanders, Jean Dube, Twyler Webster, Sonja Salvatore, Aaron Fethke, Brian MacFarland, Harold Grove

**AGENDA**

- Updates from legislative action
- Review of where we are
- Next steps

Ray Freve called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. There was a request to have a copy of the Commissioner's letter. Ray made copies and talked about the objections.

- The year we used to figure out the number of Board members was not the correct year. This was fixed and sent to the Commissioner. There were no objections from the Commissioner.
- #6 – we are okay. Regarding Revolving Renovation grants, they are not state debt. It is local debt.

Ray will see that everyone gets a copy of the necessary information.

Two items have been changed:

- The October population count used for subsidy is now the average of the April 1 and October 1 enrollments.
- The February 28 deadline is now extended to March 28, 2008 for all plans. The Commissioner wants to see what we have done. Send an update or re-submit our plan.

Question? When is the community vote? Either in June or November 2008 for a July 1, 2009 startup.

LD1932: This is the bill in the legislature.

- Ray suggests that we take those tasks and work on them.
- Part of the bill will give the new RSU superintendent and the new RSU Board the authority to spend money.
- There is a cost sharing formula in the legislature. These are additional funds above and beyond EPS.

- EPS will not go away.
- If the RSU decides to stay with EPS and not raise the additional costs, it could impact adjoining districts. Need to decide whether this is a choice: to raise additional money or stay with the EPS amount.

Transition money. This is the job of the RSU. The Commissioner is looking at this. There are things that must occur that might be costly:

- School Board election
- Hiring of a superintendent
- Election and payment of a superintendent
- Vacancies
- Office space
- Insurance

NOTE: Once the RSU Board is elected, they take over, not the RPC.

There are several bills to address local school committees, etc. We are not affected by that.

Some bills extend the time line, but it doesn't appear to be a reality.

There will be some accounts that will go up and/or down. Hopes to see a leveling off.

Question: No where is there a concern regarding student educational programming. Answer: Two plans are totally done and approved. See the DOE website.

Penalties:

- They are significant for years ahead of time.
- LD1932 article states whether or not penalties are going to allow this to be mentioned in the voting question.

Question? What is going to happen to towns, i.e. Northport? Are costs going up for us? Or down? Property tax? Are they going to be used to cover education in MSAD #56? Are higher community's taxes going to subsidize lower paying communities?

- EPS is the key. If you stay within the parameters.
- If additional local monies are needed, then each town pays the additional costs.
- EPS is based on evaluation and the number of students.
- Suggestion to hold on to what we currently have (above EPS).

Review #12 to identify cost savings. We did identify additional costs – salaries, etc. See #2, Page 9 of 11 of our plan.

- States net savings and net costs which may be a negative value.

The superintendents and Ray will give the committee what the penalties may be. The state, however, will provide the penalties, which start July 1, 2009.

There was a lengthy discussion on the ability of a current SAU to dissolve. Both superintendents were told that an SAU could not dissolve as stated in the law. It appears that this may change.

Question? Did Ray ask Jim Rier for the letter stating there are no savings? Ray will get this.

Break Out Sessions:

- Resolve our issues.
- When will we hold our public hearings?
- Complete the plan, thus leaving us to discuss educational issues.
- Sub-committees #6 and #12 – go to your regular sub-committees. Ray asked everyone to join their regular sub-committees to review the work they already did.

Next meetings:

- No rush for going to a June referendum.
- Complete plans and submit to the local school committees.
- Fall 2008 – share with communities.
- November 2008 – vote.

The committee decided to meet every two weeks on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month.

**The next meeting will be at the Searsport District High School Cafetorium at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 13, 2008.** We may assign groups to #13.

Ray's homework:

- Letter from Jim Rier
- Cost savings
- List of tasks not done

AGENDA:

- Updates from Ray.
- List of tasks not completed.
- Work sessions.

Both superintendents to bring “potential savings”.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.