

REMINDER: THE RPC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, May 21, 2008 AT 6:30 PM AT THE BELFAST AREA HIGH SCHOOL IS CANCELLED.

RPC Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2008
Searsport District High School
6:30 pm

Present: Barbara Klausmeyer, Denis Howard, Roger Rowlands, Mary Szvec, Bruce Mailloux, Alan Hammond, Harold Grove, Ray Freve, Sara Bradford, Ray Hart, Evelyn Adams, Ruth Holmes, Alexa Schweikert, Craig Poulin, Eric Sanders, Aaron Fethke

Absent: Eric Walker, Kathy Hoey, Jan Austin, Larry Theye, Debra Riley, Joyce Davidson, Denise Dakin, Richard Crossman, Duffy Woods, Jean Dube, Twyler Webster, Morris Leathers, Richard Marsden, Catherine Leathers, Marge Knuuti, Sonja Salvatore, Veronica Magnan, Nedra Bellows, Ed Moran, Roland LaReau

1. Please fill out the survey and drop it off so we can mail them in.
2. May 19: RPC Committee members and superintendents meet in Brunswick from 6-8 pm to discuss changes in LD 2323 with the Commissioner.
3. May 22: RPC Committee members and superintendents meet in Ellsworth (Boggy Brook) from 6-8 pm to discuss changes in LD 2323 with the Commissioner.
4. June 19: Drummond Woodsum in Augusta, costs \$110.

Changes:

1. Teachers transferred to another unit in the RSU will move to the other negotiated contract where you will not lose money or benefits with existing formulas.

Cost Sharing/Cost Shifting:

- ❑ Ray used Title I and free/reduced lunch numbers – no change, still the same percentage: 25% MSAD #56 and 75% MSAD #34.
- ❑ One district raises 2 million, one raises one million.
- ❑ Whatever we use, our plan needs to have a sunset clause - the RSU will re-examine again.
- ❑ If we stay within EPS, then no cost sharing.
- ❑ We need to currently protect the communities. If there is a cost shift, then what should we do.
- ❑ Bruce shared ways to shift costs. In the future, both districts may be much closer to EPS. But we need to focus on today. Everything we tried ends up with the same 75%/25% ratio. MSAD #56 has a high percentage over EPS. Where is there a difference? MSAD #34 has a higher local debt service. Use the debt service as the flexible component.
- ❑ Cost shift is above EPS.
- ❑ Based on Drummond Woodsum, the RPC to set up a plan for the first three years.
- ❑ Question: Using 2008-09 numbers combined for both districts, what percentage did each district pay of that? They pay that percentage. Discussion followed. It is important to make it palatable in both districts. The goal is to have one district. This is a tool to use.
- ❑ *Proposal:*
 - 2009-10 (first year) use the previous year's % above EPS in the individual districts (% of the whole). 2010-11 (second year). Total money over EPS. Use the same percentage or shifting. If a town's assessment increases, use the debt service to balance out the

difference. Bruce will get language for year one. Add to year two: a piece in section 6b. An exception to this agreement is if there is a cost shift. Bruce asked if we could work with this and send it to Drummond Woodsum. A motion was made by Craig Poulin and seconded by Barbara Klausmeyer to accept the concept for Year 1 by using existing percentages of the previous year, and in year 2, if there is a difference, to use the debt service to balance out the difference. **VOTE: 13-0-0**

Miscellaneous:

- ❖ Does this plan deal with curriculum? No. You may give advice to the RSU.
- ❖ Need to have common policies.
- ❖ Look at the document first, then curriculum.
- ❖ Look at academics and offer advice to the RSU. This is supposed to provide a better education for our students.
- ❖ There was a discussion around athletics. Mary said that athletics are not the most important thing in education. Academics are important.
- ❖ Concern with one group coming up with ideas when we will have a new administrator. Concerned with the time we spend deciding this, for we are the lay people. The new RSU does not have to take the suggestion. If a few people want to get together to come up with some ideas, this is okay, but not the entire group. Up until tonight, what we had was the goal of the committee. Coming up with a summary of thoughts is okay. However, the new RSU will have the same concerns as we do. We care about every school, every child, academics. We want to leave a successful model.

Next steps:

- No meeting on May 21.
- We will schedule a meeting on a Wednesday, and email members with the date at least 3 weeks in advance.
- Cost savings for Year 3.
- Ray will get Mary and Bruce hard copies of the grant so bills can be submitted to the state.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.