

RPC Meeting
Wed., October 24, 2007
Belfast Area High School Library
6:30 – 8:15 pm

Present: Ruth Holmes, Evelyn Adams, Duffy Woods, Morris Leathers, Alexa Schweikert, Veronica Magnan, Richard Marsden, Sara Bradford, Sonja Salvatore, Barbara Klausmeyer, Ray Hart, Alan Hammond, Harold Grove, Denis Howard, Roger Rowlands, Aaron Fethke, Nedra Bellows, Jean Dube, Catherine Leathers, Mary Szweg, Bruce Mailloux, Ray Freve, Brian MacFarland

Absent: Craig Poulin, Marsha Anderson, Eric Walker, Eric Sanders, Kathy Hoey, Jan Austin, Larry Theye, Debra Riley, Joyce Davidson, Denise Dakin, Ed Moran, Richard Crossman

Ray Freve called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and assigned the breakout rooms.

Discussion items:

- Do we do exactly as the templates say? No! Some you have to; some have choices.
- How specific do we have to be with contacts, etc.? Be general.
- If there are savings, where are they? Show me – I see a huge increase.
- No meeting on Oct. 31. Next meeting on November 7 at the Searsport District High School Cafetorium.
- Nedra Bellows asked if school taxes are going to increase in each of the towns. Answer: Wait and see how the bill is dealt with in January 2008.

Work sessions began at 6:40 pm.

REPORTS OUT

Governance Committee

This committee worked on ways to determine the makeup of the RSU Board: 16% rule, or weighted votes. We can use the 2000 or 2005 census. The 2005 census is more accurate.

Option 1: 16% Rule

Town	Population	Board members
Belfast	6872	7 (7000)
Belmont	870	1 (1000)
Frankfort	1059	1 (1000)
Morrill	888	1 (1000)
Northport	1586	2 (2000)
Searsmont	1341	1 (1000)
Searsport	2679	3 (3000)
Stockton Springs	1666	2 (2000)
Swanville	1440	1 (1000)
	18,401	19 members

Populations and towns do not grow equally. Each representative will represent a certain number of people. There is a margin of error here. Belfast is overrepresented. The 16% rule is hard for us.

A viable Board would be 15 – 20 members. Currently MSAD #34 has 14 members and MSAD #56 has 11 members for a total of 25, which the sub-committee feels is too many.

Town	Population	*	Board members
Northport	1586	1.5	2 (2000) > 16%
Searsmont	1341	1.5	1 (1000) < 16%
Stockton Springs	1666	1.5	2 (2000) > 16%
Swanville	1440	1.5	1 (1000) < 16%
			19 members with others

* With the four towns in red, we could have 1.5 representatives each: 1 representative from each community/town and 1 elected by both Northport and Searsmont, and 1 representative from each community/town and 1 elected by both Stockton Springs and Swanville.

We know every community wants their own representative.

Can a representative be voted by a town where he does not live?

Could there be a conflict with one representative serving another town? Could they be effective in this role?

Discussion:

- Our role on the Board is to represent students and education and therefore we don't feel there will be a conflict of interest.
- We are elected by a town, but when we sit on the Board we do what is best for all students.

Option #2 – Weighted Votes

Instead of population determining the number of representatives, the votes are split between 1000 votes. If your population is 33.5% of the total population, you get 350 votes.

With a total of 18, 401 votes, each town would the votes based on their population. In Belfast, with 4 representatives, each representative would have 373 votes.

You need a certain amount of votes for a motion to pass. You are no longer looking at a majority passing a motion.

You can decide on the number of representatives from a town, i.e., Stockton Springs has 1666 votes. If two representatives, each would have 833 votes.

There was further discussion on the number of Board members for the RSU.

Ray stated that the sub-committee was asking for input and direction. Think about it, and this item will be first on the November 7 agenda.

The group has agreed on:

- At least one representative from each town.
- 15-20 representatives on the Board

We also discussed dividing the entire combined districts into wards, instead of towns, but the sub-committee felt this was not viable.

Sub-committee #5 Report Out:

A motion was made by Roger Rowlands and seconded by Ray Hart to approve the language on page 10 of the templates, with an exception for the Waldo Pierce paintings, as follows:

- A. All real properties with no exception transferred to the RSU.
- B. All other school tangible personal property except Waldo Pierce paintings. If the school is closed, the paintings will go to the Town of Searsport. Pending legal phrasing, becomes the property of the RSU. (Would not include laptops.)
- C. N/A. There is no jointly owned property with the towns.

A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Ray Hart to amend the motion to include exclusion for a painting donated to the Stockton Springs Elementary School. There was discussion.

The group liked the idea of making an inventory of property to be excluded from the RSU. Vote on it with the list to be developed by the operational date.

The motion was withdrawn. There was further discussion.

Sara Bradford is requesting a generic motion giving communities a time to do the list, but we can go on.

Someone could say this is important. What if we didn't know whether there was an agreement? What about word of mouth?

Ray said to develop a list. If we miss an item, the RSU can say come back and give it to a town.

There was no motion on the table, so no amendment if no motion.

We are instructed to come in with a list of items prior to the operational date.

The committee asked the superintendents to create the lists of items donated to a specific school/town.

There will not be a meeting on October 31, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm (Red Sox game).

**AGENDA
NOVEMBER 7, 2007
6:30 PM
Searsport District High School Cafetorium**

- Opening Remarks**
- Governance Committee. Full group to discuss options for the RSU Board size and method of voting.**
- Work Sessions**
- Committee Reports**