

**REMINDER: THE NEXT RPC MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, May 14, 2008
AT 6:30 PM AT THE SEARSPORT DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL**

RPC Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, April 23, 2008
Searsport District High School
6:30 pm

Present: Veronica Magnan, Barbara Klausmeyer, Denis Howard, Roger Rowlands, Nedra Bellows, Mary Szwec, Bruce Mailloux, Alan Hammond, Harold Grove, Ray Freve, Ed Moran, Sara Bradford, Roland LaReau

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, Ray Hart, Evelyn Adams, Catherine Leathers, Ruth Holmes, Marge Knuuti, Alexa Schweikert, Craig Poulin, Eric Sanders, Sonja Salvatore, Aaron Fethke

Ray Freve called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. He reviewed **LD 2323** which was just passed by the Legislature.

- ❑ The Budget Validation process now includes the 11 cost centers.
- ❑ 14 days between the meeting and the referendum – can be 10 days.
- ❑ Collective bargaining. By 2012 all must be merged into one unit. If the RSU transfers teachers from one old district to the other, the teacher is protected by the original district's contract.
- ❑ Transitional activities. We determine the rotation of the RSU Board, up to three years. The RSU Board is allowed to elect a superintendent, spend money, collect state money, elect a staff, be a fiscal agent, and transfer federal funds.
- ❑ All reports are done by the RSU.
- ❑ A plan may not permit the voting power of any director to exceed by more than 5% of the percentage of voting power the director would have if all 1000 votes were apportioned equally among the directors.
- ❑ Hire interim people with no longevity.
- ❑ Don't have to have an interim.
- ❑ Staggered initial terms.
- ❑ All additional local funds (see Bruce and Mary's report).
- ❑ Need to have a hearing. School committee makes the motion to do/submit this.
- ❑ If the budget fails, you use the last budget passed and use those assessments in you enter July 1, 2009.
- ❑ The RSU takes over existing state debt.
- ❑ Question on new school building projects. Who pays?
- ❑ Penalties. If you do not join the RSU, you get \$102/student for system administration instead of \$204/student. $> \text{of } 2\% \text{ of the state's mil rate} + \text{old mil rate} \times \text{your valuation} = \text{penalty}$. Penalties also on construction points.
- ❑ RSU can be formed by 1000 students. No permission for less than 1000 students.
- ❑ The Department will pay for the referendum except on the legal day (November 4th).

□ Timeline for Referendum:

DATE	ACTION DEADLINE
December 15, 2008	Deadline for Reorganization Plan & Alternative Plan submission.
	Deadline to file Order with wording of ballot article with Town Clerk.
December 28, 2008	Deadline to sign election warrants.
	Deadline for absentee ballots to be received. (printer)
December 29, 2008	Deadline to provide approval of Reorganization plans or suggestions for Improvement (Commissioner)
	Deadline for delivery of election warrants and absentee ballots to town clerks.
	Deadline for absentee ballots to be made available.
January 23, 2009	Last date for public hearing on referendum article. Notice of Public Hearing posted 7 days prior.
	Deadline for posting warrants.
January 30, 2009	Referendum date.

- Changes deadline to January 30, 2009.
- Provides absentee ballots may not be distributed until the day after the RSU budget meeting.
- Still at 53.86%.
- Directs the Department of Education to conduct a review of results of referendum votes on proposed reorganization plans and the status of the reorganization of school administrative units as regional school units consistent with the July 1, 2009 implementation timeline.

The Committee then looked at possible **cost savings**.

- Year 1 – savings of \$54,000
- Year 2 – Increased costs of \$480,000.
- Year 3 – the new RSU will decide.

There was a suggestion to carry the cost of Year 2 into Year 3, or leave it alone.

Cost Shifting:

- In the last year as separate districts, both MSAD #56 and MSAD #34 paid a percentage of the local share. Suggestion is to carry these percentages over to Year 1 of the new RSU. For example, if MSAD #56 paid 33%, then they pay 33% of the first year. The percentages are estimated to be 60% MSAD #34 and 40% MSAD #56.
- It would be up to the RSU in Year 2.
- Can use one or a variety of factors:
 - 1) Valuation
 - 2) Population
 - 3) Student population
 - 4) Hot lunch count
 - 5) Ability to pay

The committee would like to see what happens by using 1 & 2 together, and 1, 2, and 3.

- ❑ Suggestion:

Valuation:	60%	65%	70%	20%
Population:	35%	25%	20%	30%
Student Population:	5%	10%	10%	50%
- ❑ Put in a “sunset” that this will be revisited after three years.
- ❑ There is a concern with and increase in student population.
- ❑ Bruce will email a spreadsheet to members so they can play with the components.

Harold Grove requested a re –apportionment of the amount of money to be paid in transition costs. Why are both districts paying the same when MSAD #34 is larger? Answer is that we are splitting the costs 50/50, \$50,000 each.

The next RPC meeting will be on:

**Wednesday
May 14, 2008
6:30 pm
Searsport District High School**

The following meeting will be on:

**Wednesday
Mary 21, 2008
6:30 pm
Belfast Area High School**