

RPC Meeting
Wed., October 17, 2007
Searsport District High School Cafetorium
6:30 – 9:00 pm

Present: Richard Marsden, Craig Poulin, Sara Bradford, Denise Dakin, Sonja Salvatore, Ed Moran, Barbara Klausmeyer, Ray Hart, Alan Hammond, Harold Grove, Denis Howard, Roger Rowlands, Aaron Fethke, Nedra Bellows, Richard Crossman, Jean Dube, Catherine Leathers, Rep. Jayne Crosby-Files, Mary Szwec, Bruce Mailloux, Ray Freve, Brian MacFarland

Absent: Ruth Holmes, Marsha Anderson, Eric Walker, Eric Sanders, Evelyn Adams, Duffy Woods, Kathy Hoey, Jan Austin, Morris Leathers, Alexa Schweikert, Veronica Magnan, Larry Theye, Debra Riley, Joyce Davidson

NOTE: 22 people were present to vote; however, not everyone signed in.

Ray Freve called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He started with announcements and some house cleaning items. He needs to meet with the Governance sub-committee.

October 24 is the Superintendents Conference. Meeting? Consensus is YES.

October 31 is Halloween. NO MEETING.

Come with a plan by December 1. The RSU can go into effect in another year, either July 1, 2008 or July 1, 2009. The referendum vote does not have to happen in January 2008.

The group broke up into the various sub-committees. Ray, the superintendents and Brian MacFarland worked with those groups that needed information, assistance, etc.

REPORTS OUT OF SESSIONS

Sub-committee #8 – This is the committee dealing with existing financial obligations including, undesignated funds, trust funds, and other funds. The sub-committee recommended going with the language as proposed in the template on pages 18-20, except to change the word “union” to “unit” in Section E. A motion was made by Craig Poulin and seconded by Richard Marsden to accept this language. **VOTE: 22-0-0**

There was a discussion that the State Board of Education has read all of the templates but the legislature approved the process.

Both #6 and #8 deal with the indebtedness of the school. Ray said to handle #6 separately from #8. Where does the money go? We will need to look at this. #6 deals with indebtedness and #8 deals with cash flow.

The phrase “Section XXXX-43(4)” refers to the actual law.

Sub-committee #12 – This committee will be estimating cost savings to be achieved by the formation of the RSU. The committee proposed the following items to produce cost savings:

- One director of Transportation.
- One bulk fuel purchase.
- Itinerants – examine their travel and schedules – do we need them all?

- ❑ Buying supplies in bulk.
- ❑ One Special Education Director.
- ❑ Psychological services – one contracted person.
- ❑ OT – reduce this.
- ❑ Superintendent’s offices – reduce to one.

A motion was made by Sonja Salvatore, chairperson of the sub-committee, and seconded by Aaron Fethke to approve these broad categories where we see possible savings, but we are not speculating as to what year these would occur.

There were concerns expressed with the itinerants’ proposal. It was suggested that these ideas be put in writing for the entire committee to read. It was suggested to table this for now and deal with it at the next meeting. The committee members should send in suggestions if they feel other cost savings have been overlooked.

Further discussion centered on the inconsistency with layoffs which affect contracts. Sonja explained the process the sub-committee used and that this was difficult to work on.

Another member not on the sub-committee said he felt intent of the language is to get a dollar value even in the general categories. This is very difficult to do. One can estimate a gallon of savings, or the cost of people working in the Central Offices.

Two things are asked for: an itemized list and an estimate of money saved.

It costs more to run itinerants all over.

This work was done by the entire group going line by line through the budget. Remember, we are generalizing, not referring to specific people.

Other comments:

- ❑ We have people who can do this – the Business Manager can do it in 15 minutes.
- ❑ In order to do #12, we need to have others done.
- ❑ Ray clarified that the state has cut 5% out of the allocations for special education, transportation, maintenance, and administrative costs. This is coming out at the state level. The SAU will be allocated a certain amount of money. It is up to the local school committees to decide what to do with the amount of money given to them to run their districts.
- ❑ Do you think they can find cost savings without finishing the others? Ray said there will be no cost savings for at least two years during the transition period. That is where we usually see a rise in expenses.
- ❑ Instead of voting, have each committee report out. Then we can hear them all.

The motion and the second were withdrawn. The Business Manager will meet with sub-committee #12 at the October 24 meeting.

Sub-committee 1, 2, and 3 (Governance Team) – will report out at the next meeting.

Ray Freve stated that he did not need to be at the meetings if the committee wanted to save money. The committee felt he needed to be at the meetings.

Sub-committee #5 and 6.

- ❑ Each template states “consult legal council”. Who pays? Answer: If sent to Drummond Woodsum, the district pays.
- ❑ We can use \$2500.

One committee member complimented Mrs. Szwec for her work as secretary. We may need the money saved and not hire the secretary.

The meeting adjourned at 9 am. Some sub-committees stayed later to work. Ray and the superintendents developed the following agenda for the October 24 meeting:

**NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2007
Belfast Area High School
6:30 pm**

AGENDA

1. Household items
2. Breakout sessions.
3. Governance Team #1 - #3 – presentation.
4. Reports from other committees.