

RPC Meeting  
Wednesday, November 7, 2007  
Searsport District High School Cafetorium  
6:30 – 9:10 pm

Present: Ruth Holmes, Duffy Woods, Morris Leathers, Alexa Schweikert, Veronica Magnan, Richard Marsden, Sara Bradford, Sonja Salvatore, Barbara Klausmeyer, Ray Hart, Alan Hammond, Denis Howard, Roger Rowlands, Aaron Fethke, Nedra Bellows, Jean Dube, Mary Szwec, Bruce Mailloux, Ray Freve, Craig Poulin, Eric Sanders, Ed Moran

Absent: Marsha Anderson, Eric Walker, Kathy Hoey, Jan Austin, Larry Theye, Debra Riley, Joyce Davidson, Denise Dakin, Richard Crossman, Evelyn Adams, Harold Grove, Catherine Leathers, Brian MacFarland

**AGENDA**

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

Ray Freve called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and went over basic house keeping items:

- ❑ There is \$2500 available to the RPC for letters of intent and general expenses.
- ❑ There is \$2500 available for legal fees for each SAU. Run this through the superintendents. Legal advice from an attorney requires a bill and the question asked. The SAU can do this without permission of the RPC.
- ❑ The plan is due to the Commissioner by December 1. Ray has just received a new draft for the RPC submission to the Commissioner. A draft of the template should be attached to the plan. Fill out the template of what is and is not done. This will be done by the Chairperson of the RPC. Both SAUs must approve the submission, not the plan itself.
- ❑ The template is submitted by the RPC Chairperson to the Board of Directors.
- ❑ Should we have a meeting on November 21? **VOTE: 1-18** No meeting on November 21.

Governance Group #3

1. Re the Governance Sub-Committee proposal for 1.5 Board members. If used, the RSU must go to wards, where two towns must merge. The new “invisible” boundaries must have equal populations. We would run into issues with municipal voting. The lawyers are very concerned about this, but will investigate further, if we wish. Weighted votes by population are not issues. We will discuss financial information after the break.
2. A draft should be given to the RPC by November 14. It must be mailed to the Board prior to their approval of submission. The Boards will look at this (vote) at their meetings scheduled for November 27 and then it will be submitted to the Commissioner. Mary requested a packet by November 20 so it could be mailed to Board members.

Discussion followed:

- Is there a possibility of a temporary RSU Board to work 6 months ahead of the initial start of the new district?
- List of policies prior to the start? Can not do anything because the new RSU Board must make the changes.
- Has to go the Board of Directors for a vote of submission.

- Transition plans for personnel, policies, and budget development. This is very important and needs to be discussed in depth. Lots of decisions to make. Sub-committee #9 deals with this. See pages 21-22 of the working template (Section 9) for all the details.

Governance Sub-Committee

This committee is looking for feedback on their proposals (16% and weighted votes) before they finalize a recommendation. Discussion followed.

- Preferred weighted votes by population.
- Legal problems with the 16%. The commissioner’s lawyer has concerns with this.
- A good number of Board members. Range from 15 – 20. Some prefer 15, some 19.
- Ray said that we should pay attention to what each town wants.
- Minimum of two members from each town.
- A straw poll on weighted votes was taken: **VOTE: 18-0** Some RPC members did not vote.

The group broke up for their work sessions and then took a break.

Bruce Mailloux asked to address the whole group about the newspaper article where he was quoted as saying that “MSAD 34’s taxes would go up \$1,000,000 due to consolidation. There have been huge shifts in costs across the state. Under the current formula, there is a \$1,000,000 cost shift for MSAD 34 and MSAD 56.” The reported tried to discuss this, and he tried to stay away from it, but this shift would hurt MSAD 34. “What was in the article was not what should have been reported,” said Bruce.

Today, he received a new cost formula showing a difference of only \$8,503. Instead of the same percentage rate above EPS, there would be a flexible rate.

Discussion followed on how Bruce should not say anything. One RPC member was adamant that nothing should have been stated to any newspaper without the RPC knowing first.

Ray Freve commented that he has some districts that have cost shift problems also.

Sub-Committee #3 – Method of Voting

This committee presented a plan with a total of 18 Board members.

Town	Population	Board members	Votes per Member
Belfast	6872	6	1145
Belmont	870	1	870
Frankfort	1059	1	1059
Morrill	888	1	888
Northport	1586	2	793
Searsmont	1341	1	1341
Searsport	2679	3	893
Stockton Springs	1666	2	833
Swanville	1440	1	1440
	18,401	18 members	

Belfast represents 1/3 of the population; therefore they represent 1/3 of the Board. Swanville has the most votes per member with 1440.

Important points/concerns:

- A town which has one representative will have no representation if that one Board member is not at a meeting.
- There is a difficulty in selling one Board member vs. two Board members in a community which has always had two members.

The group as a whole felt 18 was a good number. Discussion/questions followed.

- Is there a provision in the law for an alternate Board member? No. There is talk of proxies but there is nothing definite at this time.
- What is a quorum? 50% + 1. Nothing stops an RSU from changing this. You can have a 2/3 majority required for certain votes.

A motion was made by Sara Bradford and seconded by Eric Sanders to accept the recommendation from the committee that the new RSU Board have 18 members and weighted votes as listed in the chart, plus the additional language under Option B, Weighted Voting as stated. Discussion followed. Various sides were heard. 18 people would represent 18,000 residents. Someone asked to move the question. **VOTE 18-1-0** (Hammond)

#### Sub-Committee #5 – Disposition of Property

The committee worked from Pages 10 and 11 of the template.

Section A is fine as is, Section C is fine as is. Section B deals with excluded items such as paintings, etc. There was a lot of discussion about the laptops in MSAD 56. Someone has to own these items for them to stay where they are. A motion was made by Ray Hart and seconded by Craig Poulin that:

- A. The RSU will accept all real property and fixtures of SAD 34 and SAD 56, with no exclusions or exceptions.
- B. The RSU will accept all other school tangible property of SAD 34 and SAD 56 except:
  1. The Waldo Pierce paintings at the Searsport Elementary School and a ship painting.
  2. The oak table made by the Robinson's at the Weymouth School in Morrill.
  3. The original bell, 2 flags, and a painting in the hallway of the Stockton Springs Elementary School.
  4. Watercolor paintings of the Pierce, Anderson, and Roberson Schools painted by David Hurley that are located at the Captain Albert Stevens School. (These artifacts in 1-4 are to go back to the towns if a school closes.)And any similar items which may be added until the submission of the final RSU plan.  
Special Note: The RSU will own the laptops in SAD 56 schools, but with the stipulation that they remain in the Searsport District School System. They will be identified by serial numbers. They are the assets of the current MSAD #56 area.
- C. N/A. There is no jointly owned property with any municipality in SAD 34 and SAD 56.

There was discussion of the motion. If a school closes, the law states that the buildings are offered first to the town for a nominal fee of usually \$1.00. **VOTE: 19-0-0**

An amended motion was made by Barbara Klausmeyer and seconded by Sara Bradford that the Waldo Pierce paintings and ship painting would return to the Town of Searsport and the bells and other items would return to the Town of Stockton Springs. **VOTE: 19-0-0**

Superintendent Mary Szwec stated that she would get committees the exact information that they need.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

**AGENDA**  
**November 14, 2007**  
**Belfast Area High School**  
**6:30 PM**

- 1. Housekeeping Items.**
- 2. New Member to Tasks**
- 3. Discussion and vote on items 7 & 9.**
- 4. Plan review for 12/1.**
- 5. Small groups.**
- 6. Adjournment.**