

November 1, 2007  
RSU #18 Committee

SEDMOCHA School Complex  
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine

- I. The meeting was called to order by Rick Johnston at 6:40. Rick informed the meeting that Sue Mackey Andrews was away on business.
- II. Dates and Times of large group meeting after Nov. 1 meeting
- Next meeting is 11.19, Monday, a large group meeting.
  - On 11.20, Tuesday, topical group chairpersons will meet.
  - On 11.28, Wednesday, the large group will meet.
  - All meetings will convene at 6:30 same place.
- III. Hand-outs of DOE material
- Available on a table for distribution.
- a. Guidelines for the formation and work of the Reorganization Committee.
  - b. Template for a Reorganization Plan.
- IV. Timeline to complete as much as possible. Rick Johnston gave a brief overview of the timeline.
- V. Sub-committee reports to large group.

Walter Emmons reported on the curriculum committee work, Vision of Opportunities Available Under School Consolidation. Getting information from Foxcroft Academy to fill out the MSAD 68

profiles.

Rick mentioned that Sue Mackey Andrews committee report on curriculum contains some statistics that could help form the basis of the consolidation plan.

The Transportation Committee are still working on consolidating the various policies and protocols for bus use and costs.

The Facilities Committee was not ready to report.

The Personnel Committee has looked at contracts, but decided that that would be the job of the new school board. Instead they looked at the central office make-up with a superintendent and business manager. John Dirnbauer outlined a vision that included a superintendent responsible for personnel, contracts, and policies. A business manager would be in charge of finance, transportation, maintenance, and food service. A unit-wide special education director with unit coordinators and a unit-wide curriculum coordinator would be needed.

Rick Johnston reported on the management of the new RSU. The preference is for a school board with representation from every political unit, a 29 member board with weighted votes. Preference was voiced to provide at least one representative from each town.

Jack Clukey reported on the Finance Committee work. The committee looked at cost-savings as delineated by the law as written (Milo and Greenville may not be part of the unit).

- The committee looked debt and discussed keeping the debt within the current units that incurred the debt.
- The perceived added expenses of Greenville and FA might be addressed by keeping any added costs within those units.
- When the committee discussed undesignated fund balance, they thought that the

undesigned funds should be used to offset the costs of the units from which they came.

- The capital needs need to meet in each community.
- For cost-savings, the committee believes that need to look first at the efficiencies created by consolidating contractual services. A second area for cost-savings might be transportation.
- The law clearly states that instruction should not be forfeited in cost-saving ventures. But there may be ways to improve instruction through taking advantage of the multiple resources provided by the diverse units.
- Mr. Clukey expressed concern that the undesigned fund balances not be used to reduce costs and create a false reduction in costs that would negatively impact the tax base in following years. Mr. Dirnbauer suggested that a solution to circumventing difficulties with undesigned fund balances by assessing each unit a per pupil carryover from undesigned fund balances.
- Assessments need to be stable and prudent and what they should be.

VI. Dialog of Required Elements of the Plan.  
Concern was expressed that the member units start thinking seriously about partners with December 1 fast approaching. The work is moving forward without decisions about partners being made.

Paul Stearns expressed concern that each RSU submit a plan by December 1 and that the group move forward. He spoke to five issues before the legislature:

- the 2 mil issue,
- the minimum subsidy districts,
- cost-sharing for individual units for additional local funds (possibly own funding program),
- a unit that submits an alternative plan needs to go for a vote, and
- this year's budget validation process requires existing units to submit costs for their budgets.

Discussion ensued about the splintering of the group into smaller groups. The different alignments would leave different school units out of a larger group.

Rick pointed out that our charge is to submit a plan by December 1<sup>st</sup>. We are laying the groundwork for planning a new consolidated school district.

VII. Break-up into sub-committees.

VIII. Adjourn at 8:40

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Janes, recorder