

RPC Meeting
March 13, 2008
Monson Elementary School

Present: Ralph Johnson, Jack Bair, Ellen Small, Tinna Peck, Heather Perry, Dawna Blackstone, Julie Anderson, Jack Clukey, Walt Emmons

NOTES

Revisions to Reorganization Plans are due by March 28th. Heather Perry explained the two choices the RPC could make to comply with this deadline:

1. If formal action was taken on any part of the reorganization plan since the last submission, each SAU/town represented in the plan must have an SAU/town vote on the revised plan before submitting it to the Department of Education.
2. If no formal action has been taken on the plan since the last submission, the RPC chair may write a letter indicating such and submit this to the Department of Education.

Ralph asked the committee members which option they would be inclined to choose and a majority of the members present felt that the second option seemed to be the best option for the RPC at this point in time. Ralph said that he would speak to Sue about drafting a letter.

Transportation Committee Report – Tinna Peck

Tinna distributed a compilation report of the transportation costs for RSU 18.

- A review of transportation costs showed that contracting out transportation was still a more cost effective option as opposed to owning our own transportation.
- Biggest expense is in extra-curricular activities...what can be done for cost savings in this area? How will consolidation affect these activities and costs associated with these activities?
- Bowerbank is the only town in the RSU that owns their own bus...if consolidation happens, would need to decide whether Bowerbank would continue to own their bus or would become part of the bussing contract.
- If we operated our own bussing, how would costs be allocated to each town in relation to extra-curricular activities? Per pupil cost?
- Question about whether the State reimburses for the purchase of buses, if the RSU decided to own their own buses. State does not reimburse at the full cost and reimburses on a two year delay
- Discussion about cost savings in collaborative routes. Contract for some; own some buses for collaborative routes.
- The Department of Education wants to see transportation cost savings to be shown now, not down the road...continuing to contract as opposed to owning buses would make this more viable.
- Discussion that it would be more beneficial for the RSU to work toward one transportation contract as well as a longer contract (3yr or 5 yr) to attract other vendors, better cost savings...

Facilities Committee Report – Julie Anderson

Julie Anderson distributed a compilation report of all of the school buildings in the proposed RSU including the age and condition of the buildings as well as whether the buildings are SAU-owned or town-owned.

- Questions about whether the town-owned schools are relinquished to the RSU or are they kept by the towns.
- In regards to the Greenville facilities, the town preference is to keep facilities and enter in a lease agreement for use.
- Would the town maintain the building in a lease agreement, if schools using the buildings?
- Repairs to the Greenville schools have been with local funds
- In the plan, need to designate what goes to the RSU, what stays with the towns.
- Cost savings could be found in shared areas such as insurance policies, electricians, boiler inspections, etc. There could be problems with shared insurance policies – ownership of buildings, whose name is a policy in?
- Be mindful of using local contractors...heating contractors, oil consortium
- Question about the legal fees budgeted for/incurred by 68 and/or 60 and if there may be a point when it is more economical to consider having an attorney on staff.

Next Meeting 3/27 - Finance Discussion

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Berce