

Regional Planning Committee for RSU 18
April 10, 2008
Monson Elementary School
6:30 p.m.

Present: Sue Mackey Andrews, Rick Johnston, Ralph Johnson, Jack Bair, George Hardy, Mary Downs, Richard Goodwin (Interim appointment for Terri-Lynn Hall), Ralph Johnson, Walt Emmons, David Thorp, Tinna Peck, Jack Clukey, Norm Pelletier, Genieva Beckwith

Guests and Resource People: Dr. Ray Webb, Dr. Richard Swett, Heather Perry, Ray Freve

NOTES

- ♣ Introductions, Review of Meeting Notes (3-27-08)
- ♣ Sue Mackey Andrews read the Commissioner's email response regarding the letter that was sent as a report of RSU 18's reorganization efforts to meet the 3/28/08 deadline. The letter was very non-specific and did not offer any direction for the RPC other than to "resume work." Members noted that it was unfortunate that the Commissioner's letter suggested that should "resume" our work as we have never stopped meeting bi-weekly since convened originally in late September!
- ♣ Legislative updates
- ♣ Sue questioned what the feeling of the RPC was about the direction to take in light of the veto of LD1932
- ♣ Ralph Johnson did not feel Union 60 would not vote for anything other than a "union."
- ♣ Rick Johnston said that he believes that SAD 68's feeling would be to go forward with the current plan, get approval by the Commissioner, go to referendum and let the voters decide, take the chance that the district might be a "doughnut hole."
- ♣ Jack Clukey asked if there was more than one chance to vote on the plan, should one member of the RSU vote against the plan yet decide down the road that they aren't able to sustain the penalties. Could this be revisited? Ray Freve informed that there was no vehicle in place to rejoin, but legislation was being prepared to address this issue.

- ♣ Dr. Swett asked for clarification about penalties. No penalties to RSU municipalities/districts that vote for regionalization plan, yet the plan doesn't pass because RSU partner votes out. The RSU partner that votes out would be penalized.
- ♣ Jack Clukey – maybe there could be special legislation to deal with penalized RSU's next year that would be of benefit to Piscataquis County and will be best for education in Piscataquis County. Now, we need to get past compliance with law.
- ♣ George Hardy – “Why can't we submit our own plan...don't call it super union?”
- ♣ Dr. Webb – We need to organize around the issue that we will be getting less than what we are getting now...
- ♣ Governance Structure: (with current town configuration)
 - 18 delegates
 - 2/3 votes to pass legislation
 - Quorum (50% + 1)
- ♣ Dr. Webb suggested that to ease some of the community concerns regarding school closings, that 2/3's of possible votes in the RSU, not 2/3's of the votes present at a meeting would be needed to close a school to get past this concern
- ♣ Sue suggested that we need to do what law says, submit plan with voting parameters - 18 member group; get approval by commissioner, go to referendum vote, while concurrently working with neighbors (SADs 4, 46, 41...) to see what is in best interest for our kids. There are possibilities for collaboration even if not all Districts join the same RSU. The future may be that we ultimately join together – perhaps not now. This may be a long-term goal and is in the best interests of our county and our kids' education. Members concurred.
- ♣ David Thorp asked about possibility of having a rough draft of the plan with components that have been worked on so far available to pick apart at the next meeting.
- ♣ Consensus of RPC members present were in approval of submitting the plan, with components that have been worked on so far, to the Commissioner for feedback.

Next Meeting - 4/24/08

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Berce

