

**Regional Planning Committee Meeting for RSU 18  
Monson Elementary School  
May 8, 2008  
6:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Sue Mackey Andrews, Rick Johnston, Ralph Johnson, Mary Downs, Ellen Small, Richard Goodwin, Jack Bair, George Hardy, Jane Hewes, Ginny Sanborn, David Thorp, Walt Emmons, Julie Anderson, Pete Johnson, Mindy Hanson

**Guests:** Dr. Ray Webb, Dr. Swett

**NOTES**

- Introductions, Review of Minutes (4-24-08)
- Updates
  - David Thorp updated the Committee with recent information regarding the Budget Validation Referendum timeline
  - Rick Johnston gave a brief update on the work MSAD 68 has done on their budget that will be presented to the District for approval and then Budget Validation Referendum vote.
  - ED279 (distributed at meeting) –Sue Mackey Andrews suggested that this be discussed at a future meeting, with the resource of a superintendent/superintendents, for a better explanation. The Committee needs to spend a whole meeting on the financial piece. Also need to discuss federal funding loss potential with consolidation.
  - Sue told the RPC that she gave a brief update to the MSAD 68 Board of Directors on the Committee's work toward consolidation.
  - With the new law, January 2009 referendum date for consolidation. This is better because it is not tied into the November referendum and will allow only one question on the referendum ballot.
  - Plan still to send our reorganization plan to commissioner for comments prior to the June 13<sup>th</sup> deadline...after it comes back, it was agreed that the plan and comments should be reviewed by a lawyer (Drummond Woodsum?).
  - Sue informed the Committee that she has had conversations with the Shirley Wright, Superintendent of MSAD 41 (Milo). They are considering coming back to the table. Sue will also be in contact with the RPC Chair from SAD 4 about continued talks related to collaboration, per the direction of the RPC.
    - ♣ Ralph Johnson suggested that if Milo does consider coming back that our RSU that the RPC committee should plan a meeting in Milo for discussions.
- Review of Sections of Reorganization Plan
  - Governance
    - ♣ Size of the governing body (18 members) and method of voting (2/3 vote)
  - Composition -
    - ♣ The Committee reviewed the "Duties of a school board document" highlighted by Ralph Johnson delineating the responsibilities of the RSU Board and the local school committee.

- ♣ Question about whether there separate school committees for each town in the RSU or 2 school committees in a similar configuration of SAD 68 and Union 60?
- ♣ Every town would have the option to create their own local school committee (advisory to the RSU) only. If a town elected not to have a school committee, the RSU Board would take on the duties that would normally carried out by the local school committee.
- ♣ Each town would have a representative to the RSU Board.
- ♣ School committee member could not be a member of the RSU Board, if elected as a school committee member...cannot serve two masters (two oaths). This is a question that needs clarification by an attorney, MSMA, MMA.
- ♣ Duties of a school board
  2. Management of school property – changes to read: “where the school property is leased, they are responsible for the management of the schools and shall provide for their custody and care, including repairs and insurance on school buildings and all school property in the school administrative units to the standards established by the MDOE”
  6. Courses of Study – RSU Responsibility: “They shall adopt the courses of study in alignment with the system of learning results as established in section 6209 and in accordance with the requirements of this Title. Local School Committee Responsibility: “The local school committee may supplement this core curriculum with additional subjects at local discretion.”
  8. Operate kindergarten and grades 1 to 12 - changes to read “Authority may be delegated to the local school committee to either operate programs in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12 or otherwise provide for students to participate in those grades as authorized elsewhere in the Title. They shall determine which students shall attend each school, classify them and transfer them from school to school where more than one school is maintained at the same time.
- ♣ David Thorp suggested that we have a lawyer from MMA come to the next meeting to discuss ins/outs of what we can and can't do

Next Meeting:  
5/22/08

Sue will speak with the Superintendents to find a date that they can meet with the RPC. This meeting may have to take place outside of the regularly scheduled RPC meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Berce