

RPC Public Meeting
March 11, 2008
Monson Elementary School

Ralph Johnson, one of the co-chairs of the RPC, provided an overview of the school consolidation requirements

School choice question - looking for clarification for elementary as well as secondary from Department of Education

What about teacher/superintendent contracts that don't expire until after the consolidation? Teacher contracts/superintendent contracts required to be honored...

School closures –

Question re how SAD 68 dissolution would affect FA

Is it a given that Union 60/SAD 68 will be an RSU? - A plan will be submitted combined, Commissioner to approve/disapprove, then sent to the voters to approve/disapprove

Discussion about the original configuration of RSU 18 – 4, 46, 68, 41 and Union 60, now has been split up - how ends up remains to be seen

Greenville concerns - school closures, no way to get out of RSU

RPC regulatory obligations

- facilitator - not used due to unhappiness with result - letters sent for clarifications as needed
- regular meetings
- notes taken
- public meetings

RPC efforts to date

- meetings are public, encourage attendance, questions, input

Checklist sent in to the Department on 12/1/07

- conditionally approved
- working each section at a time, consensus and move to next section

What will be the working relationship be between FA and RSU - cost more or less?

- existing contracts will have to carry over
- current FA contract will end with 68 when RSU goes into effect...towns that have choices will continue to have choice for secondary, RSU with 2 high schools? Will choice remain to go to Greenville and/or FA – opportunities for some programming to be combined to save money, i.e. forestry program, etc.

Was this started to save administrative costs? How will this happen if people aren't going to be laid off?

Contracts enforced have to be respected, after RSU is in effect, there will be changes

Where do special education directors fall into this? Not considered part of administration under the RSU model - looks like more positions will be needed as a result of the consolidation

Where is Blanchard in conversation? Unorganized territory students will still maintain choice, tuition basis

Can Monson opt to join another RSU?

There is an amendment to the school consolidation law to operate as a municipal school – House and Senate cannot seem to agree, Governor has threatened to veto any amendments to the bill

Intent of the governor was to force districts into larger groups, would be surprised if smaller units allowed

Transportation is a big issue – on the docket for discussion for Thursday, 3/13 –

-5% to be cut from transportation

-concern about putting 6 year old on bus so early to go to school in Dover

-comparing the costs of contracting, owning our own?

Questions, thoughts, comments, please contact RPC chairs.. come to the meetings if able

Call legislators to ask them to support the Damon amendment “union” amendment – contact the governor, education committee