

**COLLABORATIVE MEETING  
DRESDEN, RICHMOND, MONMOUTH, UNION # 132, MSAD # 16**

**DATE:** THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2007  
**PLACE:** HALL-DALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
**TIME:** 5:30 PM

**PRESENT:** Superintendent Frank Boynton, Superintendent Rick Cote, Director Gary Getchell, Superintendent Martha Witham, Director Jill Adams, Director O'Neil LaPlante, Superintendent Steve Cottrell, Superintendent Don Siviski, Director Michaela Loisel

1. Where are we in the process?

Each district described where they were in the process. Dresden, Richmond and Hall-Dale had taken Board position to merge with Union 132 and Monmouth while Union 132 stated that their concern about preserving school choice may cause them to reunite with the old Union 51 governance structure. Yet Jefferson may unite with Damariscotta and Boothbay. Monmouth announced that they were interviewing three possible combinations next week with a decision expected the first week of August.

Members attending the attorney sponsored workshop on July 25<sup>th</sup> reported to the group lessons learned and apprehensions shared about legislative amendments expected in the next session. Given the template shared with Superintendents at the Commissioner's Conference in June a financial projection was developed to assess what state subsidy would look like if the merger had occurred under the current subsidy allocations. Interestingly, participants in the current collaborative are well balanced between percentage of total students and percentage of total subsidy. The DOE web site contains frequently asked questions and state DOE answers. Caution was expressed at accepting the accuracy of data created by others since one district experienced many incorrect data points being shared with others.

Letters of Intent have been approved by the Dresden, Richmond and Hall-Dale Boards to merge with Monmouth and any part thereof with Union 132 for the expressed reasons of improved student performance and fiscal efficiencies.

2. Next steps we should consider?

Some districts have formed Regional Planning Committees so others should catch-up and hold elected official meetings on August 9th so that all districts are on the same page in attendance and preparation for an August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of all participating consolidation districts at the Hall-Dale Elementary School at 5:30 pm. Therefore the next meeting of the collaborative will include an elected/appointed Board member from each town/district and an elected public official from each town and if possible a committee member from each participating town. If three such members as described in the law attended, (Dresden, Richmond, Farmingdale, Hallowell, Monmouth, Chelsea and Whitefield) a total of 21 people would start the formal consolidation process.

3. Letter of Intent and Request for Facilitator

Much discussion has occurred over the last two months about the needs and qualifications of a facilitator. Given a review of the current published listing on the DOE site and discussions with

alleged potential future facilitators contact was made with a yet to be trained facilitator who agreed at the July 25<sup>th</sup> conference to accept the collaborative request. Jake Clockedile has been a superintendent and consultant at Maine School Management Association and is very proficient in communicating with the public in preparation for referendum results.

4. Fall agenda and priorities set towards the December report to the Commissioner

Participants want to "get started"; "work through differences"; "improve educational performance and fiscal efficiencies"; "do it right the first time around by waiting for amendments to the law in the next legislative session"; "discover problems that need legislative amendments"; "maintain individual town identities while merging the business side of education without adverse affects to current employees".

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 and the request for a facilitator was completed and faxed to the DOE at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald L. Siviski