

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
KIDS RSU: Monmouth Richmond Dresden Hallowell Farmingdale
February 5, 2008 5:30
Hall-Dale Elementary School

PRESENT: Chair O'Neil LaPlante, Nancy Jodoin, Nadine Barnard, John Armentrout, Seth Goodall, Tom Austin, Doug Beck (Alt.), David Lyol (Alt.), Jim Grandahl, Mary Gleason, Doug Ludewig, John Ottum, and Cindy McPherson

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Mike Rogers, Sherry Moody, Michaela Loisel, Doug Averill

ALSO ATTENDING: Rick Cote, Martha Witham, Steve Philbrook, Jake Clockedile, Deb Emery, Matthew Stone, Catherine Squires and Don Siviski

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair O'Neil LaPlante declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2.0 ACTION ON MINUTES

Nadine Barnard **motioned** to accept of minutes of the RPC meeting of 1/3/08 and the Public Meeting of 1/16/08. Mary Gleason **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.

3.0 ADJUSTMENT(S) TO AGENDA

Move 7.0 to 4.1.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on agenda items.

4.1 Public Education / Relations Committee Report

Mary Gleason stated that the fliers announcing the public meeting on Wednesday, February 13th were completed and ready to be distributed. Bulk mailing permits and copying and postal processes were all addressed. A five community bulk mailing will be completed prior to vacation week. Nancy Jodoin shared an employment training conflict that will require her to be away from the RPC from 9 weeks, so other members will need to take the lead at the March and April public meetings.

Finance Committee Report

Jim Grandahl presented the Finance Committee approved position on Standards/Guidelines for financial and facility considerations. Operating and Transition Standards were presented and next steps outlined.

The RPC agreed with the positions presented as well as a "phase-in" process over a period of years to become a single unit on paper and in practice. All children no matter where they attend school should experience safe, clean and healthy environments, current technology and educational programs that model best practices.

Jim further articulated that cost savings are realized in "closing facilities". We joined together with a similar ideology that we didn't want to close our schools, therefore, we also agreed that it would "come with a price".

Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

Martha Witham presented Seth Goodall's notes stating that the Committee had completed a visit to all RSU facilities. The Committee viewed the recently completed renovation project at Hall-Dale High School and toured the Middle School as well.

Various RSU facility/land parcels were discussed for inclusion/exclusion into the RSU while determination is still pending for some parcels in Richmond and Monmouth. A position will be presented at the next RPC meeting on these parcels.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 KIDSRSU.org Website Update

John Armentrout informed the RPC that the new web site is "up" and "running" with all data transferred from the Hall-Dale site.

5.2 Public Meeting Mailing Update

Nancy Jodoin informed the RPC that a mailing to all communities will be completed before the February school vacation.

5.3 Completion of Reorganization Plan

a. 6.4A.A. Real Property and Fixtures.

MOTION: Except as listed below, all real property interests, including land acreage up to the DOE new school construction/site formula of Elementary 20 + 1/100 students, Middle 25 + 1/100 students and High 30 + 1/100 students, buildings, other improvements to realty, easements, option rights, first refusal rights, and purchase rights, and all fixtures, of the school administrative units shall be property of the region. The regional school unit board may require such deeds, assignments or other instruments of transfer as in its judgment is necessary to establish the region's right, title and interest in such real property and fixtures.

The following real property interests and associated fixtures shall not be transferred:

<u>Name of SAU</u>	<u>Description of Excluded Property</u>
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All real property and fixtures not described in the above list shall be transferred to the regional school unit.

The disposition of the above non-transferred property, if any, shall be as follows:

Any excepted real property and fixtures shall become the property of the municipality in which it is located.

Doug Beck **motioned** to accept the Richmond tennis court into the RSU property transfer. Mary Gleason **seconded** the motion, **voted 1-11. The motion failed.**

The RPC requested a position/deposition from Richmond and Monmouth officials regarding property still being defined for transfer.

b. 6.4B.A. Bonds, Notes and Lease Purchase Agreements That the Region Will Assume.

MOTION: The region shall assume liability to pay all bonds, notes and lease purchase agreements except for the local only Team Hall-Dale/SAD 16 debt.

Additionally, other bonds, notes and lease purchase agreements issued by an SAU before the operative date of the region shall be assumed by the region, provided the SAU issued the bond, note or lease purchase agreement in the normal course of its management of the schools for an essential purpose to replace its existing facilities and existing items of equipment that are not longer serviceable or to keep them in normal operating condition.

John Ottum **motioned** acceptance, **seconded** by Nadine Barnard, **voted in favor unanimously.**

c. 6.4C.C. Other School Contractual Obligations.

A motion to accept the list of all contracts to which the existing SAUs are a party and that will be in effect as of the operational date is attached as Exhibit 7-C.

Nadine Barnard **motioned** to accept original action 6.4C.C from 1/3/08 “to accept all contracts in effect at the official start of the RSU.”

Jim Grandahl **seconded** the motion, **voted 0-11. The motion failed.**

Doug Beck **motioned** to accept all new and existing service contracts up to 6/30/2010 and in effect at the official start of the RSU. Audit contracts for the FY09 school year should be encumbered by the original district and not be extended into FY10.

Jim Grandahl **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously.**

d. 6.4D.A. Existing Financial Obligations

Pursuant to Section XXXX-36(5) the disposition of existing financial obligations is governed by this plan.

Existing financial obligations shall include the following:

- (i) all accounts payable;
- (ii) to the extent not included as accounts payable, any financial obligations which under generally accepted accounting principles would be considered expenses of the SAU for any year prior to the year the RSU becomes operational, whether or not such expenses were budgeted by the SAU in the year the obligations were incurred, including for example summer salaries and benefits; and
- (iii) all other liabilities arising under generally accepted accounting principles that can be reasonably estimated and are probable.

Each SAU shall satisfy its existing financial obligations from all legally available funds. If an SAU has not satisfied all of its existing financial obligations, the

SAU shall transfer sufficient funds to the region to satisfy its remaining existing financial obligations, and the regional school unit board shall be authorized to satisfy those existing financial obligations on behalf of the SAU. If the SAU does not transfer to the region sufficient funds to satisfy its existing financial obligations, then to the extent permitted by law, the regional school unit board may satisfy those obligations from balances that the SAU transfers to the region. If the available balances transferred are insufficient to satisfy the SAU's existing financial obligations, or are not legally available for that purpose, the regional school unit board may take any action permitted by law so that all of the municipalities of the region are treated equitably with respect to the unsatisfied existing financial obligations of an SAU. For example, to the extent permitted by law, the regional school unit board may satisfy the unpaid existing financial obligations of an SAU in the same manner and with the same authority as for unassumed debt under the provisions of 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1506(4).

Additionally, to the extent permitted by law, if in the judgment of the regional school unit board it must raise funds from all its members to satisfy existing financial obligations of an SAU, the regional school unit board also shall be authorized to raise additional amounts for the purpose of making equitable distributions (which may be made in the form of credits against assessed local shares of the region's approved budget) to those region members that would otherwise bear costs attributable to unsatisfied existing financial obligations of an SAU for which they had no financial responsibility. The intent of the preceding sentence is that financial responsibility for unsatisfied existing financial obligations of an SAU be borne by its members and not by the other members of the region.

Tom Austin **motioned** acceptance. Mary Gleason **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.

e. 6.4D.E. Trust Funds.

MOTION: SAUs shall transfer trust funds to the region. The regional school union board shall be deemed the successor trustee for all purposes, except as provided by the trust or by applicable law.

John Ottum **motioned** acceptance. Tom Austin **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.

f. 6.4E.A. Transition Plan for Budget Development.

MOTION: The regional school unit board shall establish interim rules of procedure and shall elect interim officers who shall serve until officers are elected at a meeting following the operational date of the region.

The regional school unit board shall select a superintendent of schools in accordance with Section 1051 of Title 20-A. During the interim period, the salary, office and other expenses of the superintendent, as well as the cost of the regional school unit board, including insurance, shall be allocated to the school administrative units as provided below.

The region is formed to become operational as of July 1, 2009, then following the issuance of a certificate of organization by the State Board of Education, the school boards and superintendents of the SAUs within the region shall begin a process for developing proposed budgets for educational programs and services within their SAUs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009. In developing their proposed budgets, the SAUs shall consider potential cost savings and additional costs that may result from reorganization. The SAUs also shall consider changes in operations that may be necessary in order to reduce costs of administration, special education, building and maintenance and transportation without adversely affecting the educational program. During the months of February and March, the school boards of the SAUs and their superintendents shall conduct joint meetings and budget workshops as necessary to develop a proposed budget for the first operational year of the regional school unit. Specific duties may be assigned to existing personnel with the approval of the employing SAU.

A proposed budget with supporting documentation shall be developed in time for its presentation to and consideration by the initial regional school unit board of directors. The regional school unit board shall complete the budget development process and recommend a budget for consideration by the voters.

The regional school unit board shall propose and approve a recommended budget in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1482 for the first operational year for submission to the voters of the region. The budget format, approval procedures and assessments for the regional school unit's first operational year budget shall be in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1482-1489. The regional school unit board shall have all necessary authority for those purposes. This shall be considered the first year of use of the budget validation referendum process for purposes of determining the continued use of the budget validation referendum process every three years pursuant to Section 1486(1).

The regional school unit board shall be authorized to take all other actions and shall have all other authority provided under state law to prepare for the regional school unit to become operational on July 1 of the first operational year; including the authority to open and maintain accounts, to incur expenses not to exceed \$15/student to be allocated among the regional school units' member SAUs in accordance with their [most recent April and October resident pupil count] and to file applications for school construction projects and revolving renovation fund loans and other available funding.

John Ottum **motioned** acceptance. Nadine Barnard **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor 9-2.**

g. 6.4H. Reorganization Plan Article 12

An estimate of the cost savings to be achieved by the formation of a regional school unit and how these savings will be achieved.

MOTION: We estimate that the formation of the regional school unit will result in the following cost savings during the first three years of operation as yet to be determined:

First year – 2009 - 2010:
Estimated savings:
Estimated additional costs:
Net savings (or costs):

Second year – 2010 - 2011:
Estimated savings:
Estimated additional costs:
Net savings (or costs):

Third year – 2011 - 2012:
Estimated savings:
Estimated additional costs:
Net savings (or costs):

Total estimated savings (or costs):

John Ottum **motioned** to table discussion and action. Doug Beck **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.

- h. 6.4I.13-A - Plans to reorganize administration, transportation, building and maintenance and special education.
Motion – yet to be determined.
No action.
- i. 6.4I.13-B - Cost Sharing in Regional School Units
Motion – yet to be determined.
No action.
- j. 6.4I.13-C - Election of initial board of directors

MOTION: Within 30 days of the issuance of a certificate of organization for the regional school unit by the State Board of Education, the members of the school boards of the school administrative units within the regional school unit shall conduct a joint meeting for the purpose of electing an interim secretary of the regional school unit and determining a date for the election of the initial board of directors of the regional school unit. The interim secretary shall notify the municipal officers of the member municipalities of the regional school unit of the date of the election. The election shall be conducted in accordance with Title 30-A Chapter 121 of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended by Section 1473(2) of Chapter 103-A of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, except that the election duties of the secretary and board of directors of the regional school unit shall be performed by the interim secretary. The duties of the interim secretary shall include:

- 1) notification of the municipal officers of the date of the election;
- 2) furnishing nomination papers at least 10 days before the deadline for filing nomination papers;
- 3) receipt of completed nomination papers in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473;
- 4) preparation and distribution of election ballots in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473;

- 5) receipt of town clerk’s certification of the results of the voting in each member municipality;
- 6) tabulation of the town clerk’s certification of the results of the voting in each municipality;
- 7) accepting any recount petitions that may be filed pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473; and
- 8) totaling the votes cast for each candidate and notifying the clerks in each municipality, the candidates, and the Commissioner of Education of the final results of the voting and the names and addresses of the persons elected as directors.

In accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473(1), the clerk of each municipality within the regional school unit shall forward the name(s) and address(es) of the director(s) elected to represent that municipality to the State Board of Education with such other data with regard to their election as the State Board of Education may require. On receipt of the names and addresses of all of the directors, the State Board of Education shall set a time, place and date for the first meeting of the directors and give notice to the directors in writing, sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address provided by the municipalities.

John Ottum **motioned** acceptance. Doug Beck **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.

k. 6.4I.13-D – Tuition Contracts and School Choice

1. Tuition Contracts

MOTION: The following tuition contracts are in existence as of the date of this Plan:

SAU	Other Party	Description	Termination Date
Dresden School Dept	MSAD #16	For all Dresden students in grades 6-8	June 30, 2014

2. School Choice

The following SAUs offer some or all of their students a choice of which school to attend:

SAU	Description
Dresden School Dept	85% of the students 9-12 attend MSAD 16 and 15% may choose to attend any secondary school approved for tuition purposes. Dresden School Dept. pays the MSAD 16 rate tuition for each student.

Doug Beck **motioned** to table discussion and action. John Armentrout **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.

- l. 6.4I.13-E – Claims and Insurance
Motion – yet to be determined.
No action.
- m. 6.4I.13-F – Vote to submit reorganization plan to Commissioner
Motion – yet to be determined.
No action.

5.4 Positive Benefits of Consolidating
A listing of possibilities not probabilities was distributed for RPC review and edits.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Update on LD1932
Facilitator Jake Clockedile informed the RPC that the bill was sent to the Senate. No action was taken.

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

Reports moved to 4.1

8.0 CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR REPORT

Given the recent 2/5/08 communication from Commissioner Gendron an additional \$2500 will be available to the RPC for RPC expenses i.e. travel, copying and clerical support. A request will be made to obtain the funds. MSAD #16 will serve as the fiscal agent and a standard mileage reimbursement will be made for travel. Dresden = 24 miles, Monmouth = 30 miles, Richmond = 30 miles, Farmingdale = 8 miles and Hallowell = no reimbursement.

9.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Tom Austin **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Mary Gleason **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald L. Siviski
RPC Secretary