

**Monmouth Richmond Dresden Hall-Dale Regional Planning Committee**  
**September 18, 2007 5:30**  
**Hall-Dale Elementary School**

**Present:** Michaela Loisel, Cindy McPherson, Doug Averill, Tom Austin, Nadine Barnard, Gary Getchell, John Ottum, Mary Gleason, O'Neil LaPlante, Seth Goodall, Nancy Jodoin, Mike Rogers, Doug Ludewig, and facilitators Jake Clockedile and Leon Duff

**Absent:** James Grandahl and John Armentrout

**Also attending:** Martha Witham, Rick Cote, Don Siviski, Tony Mascaidri, Steve Philbrook, Deb Emery, Mike Burnham, Rich Howard and Steve Willette

1. Superintendent Siviski called the meeting to order at 5:35 with a welcome to new members and introductions of all attendees.
2. Nominations for Chairperson of the RSU were conducted.  
Michaela Loisel nominated O'Neil LaPlante to serve as chairperson. There were no other nominations.  
Doug Ludewig nominated Mike Rogers to serve as Vice Chairperson. There were no other nominations.  
A motion was made by Tom Austin to cease nominations and vote for the slate of officers; seconded by Michaela Loisel; voted in favor unanimously.
3. Chairperson LaPlante then asked for approval of the minutes from the August 23rd meeting. Tom Austin motioned acceptance; Gary Getchell seconded the motion; voted in favor unanimously.  
  
There were no adjustments to the agenda.
4. RSU representative data was reviewed and edited for correctness. Conflicts for each day of the week as well as future meeting dates within the next two months were analyzed and determined to be left as proposed. October 4<sup>th</sup>, October 17<sup>th</sup>, October 29<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup>, and November 28<sup>th</sup>. Sub Committee dates were suggested to be held on Tuesdays since there were least conflicts on that day of the week. (Each committee will select their own dates.)
- 5.& 6. Expectations of the "Plan" due for December 1<sup>st</sup> were outlined from the Drummond, Woodsum Law Conference book as well as the advisory nature of the RPC to local School Board who need to approve the plan and submit it to the DOE. The next law workshop scheduled for 9/24(USM) or 9/25(Bangor) will help members articulate the tenants of the plan for DOE review. Approximately 12 members will be attending the workshops. It was suggested that the DOE will pick up the cost of the conference and may reimburse districts that have registered members. Each district Superintendent was asked to register their representatives.
7. Three sub committees were established at the 8/23 meeting (Finance, Governance, Public Education/Relations) and areas of investigation or responsibility were outlined so committees could determine what data they needed to complete their tasks as well as to select dates for sub committee work.
8. A discussion regarding the feasibility of a completed December 1<sup>st</sup> plan approved by the Commissioner by December 15<sup>th</sup> for a January referendum and the need to have multiple public meetings as well as informational mailings with/to all citizens in the five towns provoked a

consensus to develop a defensible plan which the RPC could present with pride and conviction at a June referendum. Work would continue through the FY'09 school year for enactment as a unified RSU on July 1, 2009. Joint School Board meetings were encouraged as well as joint staff interactions so that more people become aware and supportive of the merger. Legislation may need to be proposed to help districts survive the subsidy cuts in the FY '09 allocation.

9. The RPC then addressed the "What if?" scenario of other districts/towns whose Letters of Intent were denied asking to join this RSU. It was suggested that a RSU Mission Statement as well as Guiding Principles be created so that a criteria could be used in assessing such request. Past practice of educational ideology was also added to the formula and then the clarifying question was accepted as a crucial ingredient to any consideration for inclusion. "What could the requesting district add to the value of the existing RSU to make us collectively better than we are to date?" Given the merits of the response and acceptance by all four school Boards a new Letter of Intent could be filed with the Commissioner. A denial by any one of the four districts participating in the currently approved RSU would mean denial to the requesting district.
10. Gary Getchell explained his method of investigating all Collective Bargaining Agreements and the value it could create for those negotiating this year so that the eventual unified contract would work with language and benefits more closely aligned to one another.
11. O'Neil LaPlante explained that he wanted to investigate a transportation bid this fall which could be tailored to each district's current needs and assets so that by the time consolidation does occur we will be closer to serving our transportation needs as a single system.
12. Sub committees then organized into a work session to establish their need for data and meeting schedules.  
  
Supt/Secretaries or Chairs of each sub committee are encouraged to send minutes and meeting dates of future workshop sessions to Don to be distributed to all RPC members and Superintendents for posting on web-sites since all meetings are open to the public and minutes need to be collected for inclusion in the submittal of our December 1<sup>st</sup> Plan to the DOE.
13. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Don Siviski

## **Finance Sub Committee of RPC**

Meeting held 9/18/07

Chairperson elected: Tom Austin  
Vice chairperson: Nadine Barnard

Topics Discussed:

**Financial Template** from the state will be investigated by Jake Clockedile and he will contact Don Siviski.

### **Need from Superintendents:**

1. List of leases (copier, computer, vehicles, etc.)
2. List of real and personal property (What are turning over to the RSU...buildings, playgrounds, etc)
3. Latest audit report (looking for balance forward, trusts etc)
4. Need to invite to next meeting 9-25-07 business managers

We also discussed some ideas on bus transportation (housing, fuel, etc.)

**NEXT FINANCIAL MEETING IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 AT 5:30 HALL-DALE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**