

RPC

Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2008

I. Call to order

Paul Bridge called to order the regular meeting of the Regional Planning Committee at 6:30 p.m. on **February 11, 2008** at Dexter Regional High School.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Kevin Jordan, DRHS Supt., Paul Bridge, Co-Chairman, Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Paul Stearns, SAD 4 Supt., John Parola, Peter Cooley, Onie Lougee, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, Charlotte Violette, Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt., Stephen Gudroe, Peter Devine, Michelle Ward, Charles Woodmancy, Dale Huff, Ray Freve, Facilitator, William Digby, Cynthia Hall, Phyllis Cass and Steve Crane.

III. Opening Comments

Ray Freeve discussed new information from the State. LD1932 was submitted and tabled. We can pick any date to have our Referendum. The Referendum is to be paid for by the State. The State has sent that confirmation to the municipalities.

John Parola questioned if the RPC votes yes for the plan and the towns vote no what happens. Ray explained that if a SAD votes down the plan it will be a penalized RSU and the SAD that did vote for the RSU plan will continue on as an RSU but will not be penalized.

Steve Foster asked that all questions asked during the opening comments be recorded.

Brainstorming: Very few people are on the Budget/Cost Sharing Committee. The Governance Committee is almost done with their sections of the plan and they were asked to join the Cost Sharing Committee to assist them with their sections.

The Superintendents were asked what we are currently sharing. The oil and diesel purchases are loose cooperatives. The two SADs share in the purchases of bread and dairy products. They share classes through the ATM networks at the High Schools. Some transportation costs are shared for athletic events (e.g. golf) And some professional development costs are shared.

SAD 4 shares Adult Education services with SADs 68 and 41. SAD 4 purchases its busses through the State of Maine. SAD 4 has also been called to buy paper with other districts and this has been done in the past. Special Education sharing has been explored but seems to be problematic. There are occupational therapist,

speech therapists, etc. and these are demanding jobs. If someone could work regionally there is a potential savings. Staff sharing is not currently done.

Paul Bridge asked about the labs at SAD 4 and asked about checking with Dexter to share labs. Paul Stearns stated that we might be able to share staff but sharing labs would be difficult because of bussing to get to the labs.

John Parola asked how severe the cuts coming down regarding Medicaid would be. He wondered if that could accelerate our thinking of staff sharing/staff reduction and whether there was a possibility of doing that sooner. Paul Stearns answered yes that was a possibility.

Dale Huff brought up the fact that we need to work on the curriculum and scheduling as that needs standardizing. The high schools are close in scheduling now.

Kevin Jordan mentioned that neither District was heavy with staff right now. Harmony has increased staff but decreased Administrative workers. The two SADs are at or near EPS. It was mentioned that if we share staff we'll lose programs.

Peter Devine asked about sharing food or any other food services. Paul Stearns answered that the food services requires constant attention. It is compared to the restaurant business and every item needs to be watched. Peter mentioned that it would be good to have one person oversee the food services program. Paul agreed and said there is tons of paperwork and that could be done out of one office.

Advanced Placement classes were discussed. Kevin Jordan explained that Advanced Placement classes limit classes to 15 students per class.

Charles Woodmancy asked about transportation and the fact that SAD 4 has 7 spare busses. Paul Stearns explained that the 7 spare busses are part of the formula in order to buy a bus every year to keep the fleet current. The State has imposed a \$3.00 fee for every fluid change and Paul stated that it may not be practical anymore to keep that many spare busses.

Onie Lougee asked about student/teacher ratios. SAD 4 elementary has 20/21 students in class. SAD 46 moves and adjusts staff with the class populations. SAD 4 will bottom out in student population in three years. High Schools are hard to make adjustments to staff due to certification and Highly Qualified Teachers requirements. Harmony currently has 27 students K-1, 26 students Grades 2&3, 19 students Grades 4 & 5, and 27 students Grades 6-8.

The transportation sheet that was handed out will be refigured and redistributed at the next meeting as some of the figures were wrong.

Kevin Jordan suggested having the bussing companies come to one of our meetings to make a presentation on bus costs.

The Governance Committee asked that we hold off voting on their proposed sections until our next meeting as they still had some items to discuss.

Ray Freeve suggested anyone wanting to see an approved RSU Plan can go to SAD51.com. Brunswick and South Portland also have an approved plan.

All 19 RPC Committee members voted to approve Section 11, An explanation of how units that approve the Reorganization Plan will proceed if one or more of the proposed members of the Regional School Unit fail to approve the plan.

IV. Sub-Committee Work

Governance:

After splitting up into sub-committees, the governance committee reported that their items are ready for a vote except for 13B. The governance committee plans on assisting the costs sharing committee at the next meeting.

Property/Funds/Contracts

This committee reported that none of their sections, 5,6,7,8,13D or 13E were ready to be put into writing for a vote. They have reviewed the items requested from SAD 4 and will review the information from SAD 46 and Harmony at the next meeting.

Cost Savings/Budget

This committee reported that they need information back on transportation in order to correct the transportation handout from tonight. They would like contracting information and bus driver salary/benefit information. They will work on reorganization of administration at the next meeting and need information on costs from each of the districts. Charlotte will send the list of items needed to the Superintendents so they can have it ready for the next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.