

## **Regionalization Planning Committee**

### Meeting Minutes

Location: Mill Pond School, Hodgdon

Time: 6:30pm

Date: Monday, September 17, 2007

Representatives from: MSAD #14, MSAD #25, MSAD #29, MSAD #70, CSD #9, Moro Plantation, Orient, Bancroft, and Hersey.

Bob McDaniels, Superintendent of MSAD #70, welcomed all the RPC participants.

Mary Jane McCalmon recognized new committee members and provided two handouts, the agenda for the evening and Governance Guidelines.

At the last meeting, a list was made of all committee members, their district, town, and contract information. Mary Jane redistributed this list to have the new members add their information.

A copy of the minutes was distributed from the 9/5/07 meeting and Mary Jane asked the committee to review them for accuracy. A motion was made and then seconded to approve the minutes. The motion duly passed.

Mary Jane had the Superintendent's provide an update on the Notices of Intent(s) that they filed.

- Steve Fitzpatrick – He sent in five Notices of Intents and has received two responses back. The Alternative was denied, stating criteria not met and the other one was approved, but it didn't state which one it was, and was waiting on further clarification.
- Terry Comeau – He submitted one Notice of Intent for MSAD #14, MSAD #25, MSAD #29, MSAD #70, CSD #9, Danforth, Bancroft, Moro, and Hersey, which was approved.
- John Doe – He submitted one Notice of Intent for MSAD #14, MSAD #25, MSAD #29, MSAD #70, CSD #9, Danforth, Bancroft, Moro, and Hersey, which was approved.
- Bill Dobbins – He submitted two Notices of Intent, the one consisting of MSAD #14, MSAD #25, MSAD #29, MSAD #70, CSD #9 was approved. A denial was received on the Geographical one he submitted.
- Bob McDaniels – He submitted four, two of which were approved. The ones approved were with just MSAD #14, MSAD #25, MSAD #29, MSAD #70, CSD #9 and the other with the same districts with the addition of Mars Hill.

Mary Jane discussed getting organized for the work of the committee. Kelly Farnham will be taking notes for the main meetings. She also mentioned that the committee has received a small grant for miscellaneous expenses, which will be made available within the next couple of weeks.

Mary Jane then discussed the Subcommittee structure. The committee will be broken into four subcommittees consisting of governance, asset & liability, personnel, and finance. There is a possibility of adding a fifth committee should there be another area that is felt that might be needed. She mentioned that some other committees throughout the state are adding an Education Committee.

Mary Jane had the committee break up into groups by SAU to determine who would be on each of the four committees. After the members of each subcommittee were decided, Mary Jane brought back everyone into one group to discuss the handout she distributed at the beginning of the meeting, the

Governance Guidelines. Mary Jane asked that each subcommittee organize themselves but choosing a chair and/or co-chair, which would then make up a four person executive committee. It was suggested that the chairs have executive decision making for decisions, such as canceling meetings due to bad weather. Also, a note taker would need to be chosen for each subcommittee. Mary Jane will be the timekeeper. A concern was brought up that there needs to be equal distribution amongst the towns on each committee and to ensure that a town and/or district doesn't have more than one chair on a subcommittee. It was also mentioned that everyone on the committee will be informed of each subcommittees work.

The upcoming meeting dates are as follows:

Thursday, October 4, 2007 at East Grand in Danforth (previously was to be at Danforth Town Office)

Monday, October 15, 2007 at the Katahdin Elementary School

Monday, October 29, 2007 at Southern Aroostook

Thursday, November 15, 2007 at Houlton Southside School

The plans need to be submitted to the Department of Education by 12/1/07. Mary Jane said that the subcommittees will make as much progress as possible. Whatever is completed by that date will be submitted. There is another deadline in the spring, should they not be completed. She also mentioned that the plans needed to go before the school boards for approval then they were responsible for forwarding approved plans onto the state.

The meeting length will be two hours, starting at 6:30pm and ending at 8:30pm.

The subcommittee's progress will determine the agenda for each meeting.

The decision making process was discussed and Mary Jane suggested two different methods. The first was to have each SAU/town form a caucus with their own RPC and each of the nine RPC's would have one vote. The other option was to have one person, one vote. This will be added to the next agenda for a decision to be made.

The following concerns were made in regards to voting methods:

- How votes would be taken? Mary Jane mentioned a show of hands unless another method was preferred.
- One person, one vote may not be a good way to go should some districts be more represented than others.
- There should be a consensus amongst each community with a caucus vote, should a 5-4 vote happen, it could be hard for communities.
- Would there be discussions before voting? Mary Jane answered yes.

Mary Jane was asked her opinion on which way she would recommend and she said she recommended the caucus.

Ground rules that Mary Jane suggested for the subcommittees were:

- Shared air time
- Start meetings on time
- Be respectful to other people, soft on people, hard on issues

Mary Jane also encouraged additional ground rules should anyone have something they would like to add to the list. Any ideas can be added at the next meeting.

Should someone not be able to continue on with their committee to the committee, a replacement will be chosen by the district or person that asked that person to be on the committee.

A question was raised on who would provide the information needed for each subcommittee. Mary Jane stated that the Superintendent's will provide all necessary information; they will also be assisting on the subcommittees.

The committee then separated into subcommittees to discuss the following:

- Define membership composition (number involved, balance of representation from SAU's)
- Organize basic roles (chair, note taker)
- Develop an official charge to the group (ideas/limitations)
- Establish clear timeline for report back to the whole committee

After working in subcommittees, the whole committee came back into one group and the chairs for each subcommittee were identified:

- Governance – Greg Ryan CSD 9
- Personnel – Mark Bossie SAD #9
- Finance - Greg Sherman SAD #70
- Asset & Liability – Myron Baldwin SAD #25 and Bob Cousins SAD #14

Mary Jane asked that each speak briefly on their subcommittee:

- Mark Bossie – They are going to see where things are now and in a couple of years. Will try to project where things are now with contacts money wise and where would be when done.
- Greg Sherman – Where they should be going, get budgets and models together and go from there.
- Greg Ryan – How the district is to be divided up.
- Myron Baldwin – There are 12-14 things to look at and what the districts have now, and any special circumstances.

Mary Jane mentioned that there was a workshop coming up in October she will be attending. It is being offered by Drummond Woodsum and co-sponsored by MSMA and The Department of Education.

The next meeting will be at the high school in Danforth, not the town office as originally indicated at the meeting. This meeting will take place on Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Farnham