

**SAD 5 / SAD 50 REORGANIZATION PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**October 16, 2007 – Rockland City Hall Council Chambers**

Present: Committee Members

SAD 5

David Matthews, Owls Head  
Maynard Curtis, Owls Head  
Paul Luttrell, Rockland  
Ruth Hohfeld, South Thomaston  
Nancy Jeffers, Rockland  
Jeff Northgraves, South Thomaston  
Eric Hebert, Rockland  
Dick Levasseur, Owls Head

Business Manager – John Spear, SAD 50  
Facilitator – Mary Jane McCalmon  
Recorder – Ann Matlack, St. George

SAD 50

Jamie Doubleday, Thomaston  
Bob Worthing, Cushing  
David Cobey, Cushing  
John Falla, St. George  
Connie Russell, Thomaston  
(arrived late)

1. Co-Chair Jamie Doubleday opened the meeting at about 6:30 PM.
2. **Minutes** – The minutes from the October 2 meeting were reviewed. A misspelling was noted by Eric and on a motion by Bob, seconded by Eric, the minutes were approved as corrected.
3. **Public Comment** – John Falla said he received public comments suggesting that the RSU would cost more money than the current 2 districts and that it would not improve education. It was also suggested that the Committee follow the example of MSAD 28 and vote to repeal the legislation enabling regionalization. Jamie explained it was not the purview of the Committee to do so.
4. **Old Business** – Mary Jane reported on the statewide facilitators' meeting in Augusta:
  - It appears there will be no completed Plans submitted by December 1.
  - There will be a more flexible timeline for submitting completed Plans. If Plans are completed after December 1 and a referendum vote is schedule after January 15 but before the June 10 primary, the Department will pay for expenses associated with the referendum.
  - It was clarified that only one Plan will be submitted by the sending School Boards. The RPC will prepare a Plan, have both School Boards sign the document and see to it that the Plan is properly submitted to the Department of Education.
  - The Department is working on a more detailed Plan template to be used by RPCs. The new template is based on the Drummond Woodsum template the Committee is currently using, so until a new template is available, the Sub-committees will continue to use the Drummond Woodsum model. Mary Jane said the Department template should be available soon.
  - There is still no information available concerning money to offset legal costs.
  - There is still no clarification of how the \$2 million incentive will be distributed.
5. **Cost-sharing formula** – Jamie said that the cost shift in the State's cost-sharing formula must be addressed or the reorganization effort was going to go nowhere. The Superintendents, Business Managers, Board Chairs and Finance Committee Chairs met to discuss how to address this issue and are working on recommendations for the Finance

Sub-committee. Paul cautioned the group to move slowly. Since it is the State's problem, he suggested waiting for the State to correct the problem when they convene again in January. He said that in the past, the State had been willing to provide funds to correct problems such as cost-shifting. Mary Jane said she did not think the Legislature was inclined to provide funding this time and that they would probably craft permissive language that would allow individual RSUs to develop cost-sharing formulas that would work locally rather than impose another state-wide formula. While John Falla agreed with Paul that the Committee should wait for the Commissioner and the Legislature to address this issue, Jeff questioned whether the State had the willingness or capacity to develop multiple funding formulas. David Matthews suggested the Committee be pro-active and develop alternatives so that the funding formula reflected what would work best for the communities involved. David Cobey suggested a "weak states" arrangement, but Mary Jane said that multiple boards were not envisioned by the Legislature.

Bill said the problem was more complicated than just funding formulas: the 2 Districts will have to not only find a way to avoid hurting Rockland and South Thomaston financially, but also reconcile different philosophies concerning pupil-teacher ratios, small schools, etc.

John Spear suggested the cost-sharing formula be phased in over a couple of years with trigger points set so that progress toward equity could be monitored. He said some areas such as Administration and Transportation would achieve equity immediately; some areas such as Elementary Instruction and Secondary Instruction would take significant work; and that other areas such as Special Education would work themselves out fairly quickly.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the Business Managers, et al, be asked to put together information for the Finance Committee to consider. Paul requested that Mary Jane inquire as to whether or not the State would be providing additional funds to offset the cost shifts, since Jim Rier had given the impression that the State was willing to help.

6. **Sub-committee recommendations** – Sub-committee Chairs will be provided with electronic copies of the Drummond Woodsum template for use in submitting their portions of the Plan.
7. **Sub-committee meetings** – The Sub-committees met from 7:25 to 8:15 PM.
- 8 **Wrap-up** – Reports from Sub-committees:

**Governance** – Paul reported the Sub-committee would have recommendations ready for the next meeting concerning effective date of RSU, election of members of Board of Directors, and composition of the Board.

**Asset & Liability Redistribution** – Eric reported the Sub-committee would be recommending that all assets and liabilities be shared.

**Contracts & Collective Bargaining** – Ruth reported they had all the data they had requested from the Business Managers and Superintendents.

**Finance** – Bill reported that there were still details to be worked out. First, the Sub-committee will need to know the start date of the new RSU. The Sub-committee recommends the new Board be elected as soon as possible to allow overlap with the 2 current Districts. Assuming a July 1, 2009 implementation date, the Sub-committee will need to recommend appropriations for the 2 Districts in order to provide for expenses

leading up to the start of the new RSU. Additionally, the Sub-committee still needs to determine the savings/additional costs for the first 3 years of the RSU.

9. **Other Business** – Eric inquired about Sub-committees sharing notes. Ann reported that notes were not being forwarded to her for redistribution. Sub-committees were requested to forward their notes along.
10. **Adjourn** – The Committee will meet again Tuesday, October 30, at 6:30 PM in the Rockland City Council Chambers. At that time, the Committee will determine whether or not to meet before the next scheduled meeting, which is Tuesday, November 20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Matlack, Recorder