

**SAD 5 / SAD 50 REORGANIZATION PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**July 16, 2008 – 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  
Jeff Northgraves, South Thomaston  
Audrey Buffington, South Thomaston  
Dick Levasseur, Owls Head  
Eric Hebert, Rockland

SAD 50

David Cobey, Cushing  
John Falla, St. George  
Terry Driscoll, St. George  
Val Blastow, Thomaston  
Bob Worthing, Cushing

Superintendents – Judy Lucarelli, SAD 5 (arriving late)  
Business Managers – John Spear, SAD 50  
Recorder – Ann Matlack, St. George  
Members of the Public – Kim Appleby, SAD 5 (arriving late)

1. **Welcome** – Chair David Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. It was determined that a quorum of Committee Members was in attendance: 8 representatives from SAD 5 and 5 representatives from SAD 50.
2. **Minutes** – John Falla noted that he had attended the July 9 meeting, even though his name was not listed as Present. By consensus, the minutes for July 9 were approved unanimously, as corrected.
3. **Public Comment** – There was no Public Comment.
4. **Legislative Up-Date** – There was no Legislative Up-Date.
5. **Tonight's Business**

Paul advised the Committee that the Belfast-Searsport RPC had submitted their Plan to the Commissioner and that her office had reviewed the Plan in about a week. Drummond-Woodsum had suggested a turn around of about 1 month.

**a. Sub-Committee groups meet to review current plan proposals and any impacts to plan from law revisions.**

The Committee broke into its various Sub-Committees to work on their assigned sections of the Plan. The Committee reconvened at 7:45 PM.

**b. Sub-Committees reconvene to report**

**1) Finance Sub-Committee**

9. A transition plan that addresses the development of a budget for the first school year of the reorganized unit and interim personnel policies. (Revised 6/19/08)

This section now includes an option for a date certain for electing the new board. Previously, this had been under the purview of the Governance Committee. The Finance Sub-Committee is recommending that no date be set.

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.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends adopting language similar to that in SAD 51's approved Plan: "The Reorganization Planning Committee does not include with the Plan an estimate of cost savings to be achieved by formation of the New Casco Bay School district such as will not have an adverse impact on the educational program. ... The RSU Transition Committee's analysis is to be completed in time for review by voters prior to June, 2008 Plan referendum."

13-A. Plans to reorganize administration, transportation, building and maintenance and special education.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends language that will indicate that administration, transportation, building and maintenance and special education will be combined into one unit so that educational levels will not be negatively impacted when funding levels are decreased.

The Sub-Committee has a question about how surpluses will be treated under the new legislation. It appears that any surpluses are to be returned to the towns and then be used by the towns to pay for the following year's educational costs. The Sub-Committee would like to know whether this is true and if so, do they have the option of changing how the surplus is disbursed. Paul said the Belfast-Searsport RPC had received language from Drummond-Woodsum to allow surpluses to roll over. He will obtain a copy of that language.

13-B. Cost Sharing in Regional School Units. (Revised 6/19/08)

John Spear and the Cost-Sharing Sub-Committee continue to develop a new cost-sharing formula.

**2) Governance Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee reported that their work level had been reduced since work is complete on sections 1, 2, 3 and 4, and setting the date for the referendum has been moved to section 9 of the Plan. The Sub-Committee recommended waiting until work on the Plan was close to completion before setting a date for the referendum.

**3) Assets & Liabilities Sub-Committee**

5. The disposition of real and personal school property.

6. The disposition of existing school indebtedness and lease-purchase obligations if the parties elect not to use the provisions of Section 1506 regarding the disposition of debt obligations.

8. The disposition of existing school funds and existing financial obligations, including undesignated fund balances, trust funds, reserve funds and other funds appropriated for school purposes.

The Sub-Committee reports that it has no language changes for these 3 sections; however, there are 2 small issues to be addressed: 2008 lease purchase agreements and SAD 50's bond on the fall ballot. The legislation allows districts to take on debt for unexpected expenses, and these obligations will have to be incorporated into the Plan.

13-E. Claims and Insurance.

The Sub-Committee recommends waiting until the Plan is nearly completed to compile a list of all pending claims.

**4) Contracts & Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee**

7. The assignment of school personnel contracts, school collective bargaining agreements and other school contractual obligations. (Revised 6/19/08)

The Sub-Committee reported that there had been changes in this area. They will review the contracts and update the list with the latest available contract dates.

**c. Report on Cost-Shift Mitigation and Cost-Sharing Method.**

John Spear distributed via e-mail and at the meeting a revised "Dual" Transition Plan using actual 2008-2009 budgets from SAD 5 and SAD 50. This transition plan contemplates implementing the cost-shift mitigation and cost-sharing formula over 6 years, with no changes during the first 2 years of the Transition Plan. John also said the Transition Plan would smooth out valuation and student population numbers by averaging those figures over 3 years.

As regards last week's question about re-counts, he suggests that be addressed elsewhere since concerns about recounts would not be limited to just the referendum vote on the Plan.

John also distributed a rough concept draft explaining the Transition Plan. He will refine this draft and also include an opening paragraph that will explain generally what the Committee hopes to accomplish with this Transition Plan.

- 6. Meeting schedule** – The Committee will meet again on Wednesday, July 12, at 6:30 PM in the Rockland City Hall. At that time, it will be determined whether or not a meeting will be held on July 30, since that is opening night of the Lobster Festival.
- 6. Other Business** – There was no other business.
- 7. Adjourn** – The Committee adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Matlack, Recorder