

**Milford School
Reorganization Committee
August 16, 2007**

Attending: Commissioner Gendron, Veazie, Milford, Bradley, Aurora, Glenburn, Orrington, Alton, Holden, Dedham

I. Introduction of Meeting

A. Commissioner attending

II. Updates of pertinent changes and/or clarification since the last meeting (legal, town, etc.)

A. No changes

III. Discussion of each town's 5 positives/5 concerns about the formation of this K-8 RSU

A. Positives

1 High school choice (see handout from the meeting)

a. Law preserves choice, but...

- ALL students must have a high school opportunity per the RSU plan
- The community NOT THE RSU, determines their student's 9 - 12 education
 - The contractual relationships are community driven
 - A high school may allow one town's students, but not another in the same RSU

2 Educationally sound partnership

3 K-8 Community schools

4 Community pride/culture

5 Educational Excellence/Quality Control

6 Central Strategic Planning Process

a. Student centric

- Create good/effective citizenry
- b. Develop valuable students for High Schools

7 1 representative, 1 vote / NOT weighted vote

a. RSU strategizes its board representation

- May have weighted based on population
- May have equal representation by town
 - State provided % of RSU by town population

b. Must be equal # of votes for each region's population

- May divide population into sub-regions
 - Means you may not use the town's population, but divide the RSU differently by population
 - May have 2 different towns become one sub-region so it has an equal representation

B. Concerns

1 Fiscal responsibility

a. Pooling resources

- New Chart of Account
 - Each community will know what it expends for its students
 - The citizens of the RSU will be presented the budget
 - The RSU budget meeting will vote each of a 12 line budget
 - The communities within the RSU votes on their portion
 - What if a town votes down its portion of the RSU budget?

b. Physical plant maintenance/responsibility

- RSU may determine not to use a school, the property is returned to the town
- The RSU will be responsible for all schools in its partnership
 - The condition of each school will be included in consideration of RSU's development

c. Technology equality

2 How many Letter of Intent can we submit

3 Private school options, Orono is a possibility

a. Penalties, no state funding

4 School closures/Bussing & Transportation

a. Process for RSU to determine a closure

- 2/3 Vote to close by RSU Board
 - Town/Community may deny this with a majority vote of its citizens
 - The Town would have to accept the additional costs to keeping that school open

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b. Transportation

- Trans. Directors Association asked State for statewide mapping of regions

5 High School contracts

a. Will commissioner accept RSU w/o high school

- Consideration/Concern that K - 8 RSU students may not be as well prepared as K - 12 RSU students

b. Law requires a K -12 system via relationships, even for K - 8 RSU's

6 Seamless curriculum transitions (especially for K - 5 partners)

7 RSU Development & Acceptance

a. Who will mediate the negotiations

- State providing facilitators

b. Letter of Intent:

- Only file if you are working/discussing with a community
- File a Letter of Intent for each "path" or partnership opportunity
- Determination & Notification: 14 days after Letter of Intent from Commissioner's office
 - Town will receive feedback regarding compliance and development questions

c. The Plans are required by December 1, 2007

- Even if not completed, file what you have/know
- Each community must have a referendum by November, 2008
 - May have advisory/precursory vote of town citizenry to determine which partners to "dance" with
- Plan must provide comprehensive programming for all students, K - 12

d. An RSU cannot turn away communities once they are in an RSU

- This process must be addressed in the RSU plan
 - The RSU plan may dictate a process for dismissal or acceptance of a town

IV. Discussion of financial data (if available)

V. Possible assignment of areas of interest for future meetings

VI. Next meeting: Thursday, September 6, 6:30 p.m. @ Airline Community School