

RSU #16 Meeting
Lewis S. Libby School, Milford
December 19, 2007

Presenter: Jim Rier

- I. Opening Remarks
 - A. Important to disseminate info. to relieve issues
 - 1 Change is difficult, with tough timeline
 - 2 We are charged with a great task, he wants to help
 - B. He wants to listen and learn
 - 1 He will carry our issues back to Commissioner
 - 2 He may be able to answer some
 - C. Opportunities
 - 1 Legislative
 - 2 Municipal
 - 3 School Administrative Unit
 - D. Future considerations
 - 1 Local control
 - 2 Heightened communications
 - 3 Concentrated efforts on the hard work
 - a. Visit him in Augusta for better/more germane services
 - 4 Do not let timeline overwhelm, rather put the effort forth
- II General overview of common issues
 - A. Setting up meetings for issues that require expertise
 - 1 Such as this meeting with Mr. Rier
 - B. Sustainability:
 - 1 What is the appropriate long term model
 - a. Impetus for consolidation, besides possible efficiencies
 - b. Significant declines in high schools
 - c. Growth in costs
 - RSU #16: Alton, Bradley, Greenbush, Milford, Old Town, Orono
 - Maine State Planning office projections
 - Current \$26M to \$33M in 2013
 - d. 290 school units, declining population, currently 200k
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 - Maine State Planning office projections
 - Reflecting total decrease from current 2,605, to 2,094 in 2015
 - C. School Choice
 - 1 An SAU that has a high school MUST allow a partnering SAU to continue school choice
 - a. How can an RSU high school plan for "choice" SAU kids if they are not required to attend an RSU high school
 - Over time the desire for school choice SHOULD decrease if the RSU high schools are attractive
 - Community pride, junior high cultivation/stewardship
 - An SAU that currently allows "choice" may choose to discontinue that practice
 - Once the RSU is in place, that option is no longer available
 - 2 A choice SAU will pay the tuition to the RSU high school, possibly the maximum allowable rate of \$7,617 in 2007
 - a. Example: If a Veazie child attends John Bapst, the RSU will pay the per pupil amount to John Bapst
 - John Bapst is allowed to charge over the maximum as they are private and have to maintain facilities
 - Any additional costs beyond maximum, the "choice" SAU pays the difference
 - Is an overhead charge negotiable, perhaps that an RSU high school receives some funding even if the school is private
 - Law does not provide for that.
 - b. Cost sharing issues:
 - May assess costs to communities
 - Concerns of costs over EPS
 - May determine a different cost sharing plan to mitigate "choice" issues

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- D. Submission of plans is going slowly.
 - 1 DOE knew that would be difficult
 - 2 State will provide information of projections for our proposed RSU
 - 3 State determines our EPS costs/allocation
 - a. The RSU is responsible for costs in excess of allocation.
 - Assess additional costs to each SAU/municipalities via the EPS share or % of students
- E. How to consolidate the contracts
 - 1 State utilizes a Labor Market adjustment
 - a. Are the local SAU's paying according to them?
 - We are all below the Labor adjustment because we share this market with Brewer & Bangor