

Milford School Consolidation Meeting
Dr. Lewis S. Libby School - Sept 12, 2007

Attending: 18 citizens, 5 school board members, 2 selectman, 1 reorg. community member, Rep. Duschene, David Smith, Alan Smith, T

- I. Alan Smith, Introduction
 - A. Discussed Letters of Intent
 - 1 Union #90, Old Town, Orono, Veazie, Glenburn, possibly LaGrange
 - a. LaGrange is part of an SAD and DOE may not allow splitting it
 - 2 Union #90, Old Town, Orono, Veazie, Glenburn, possibly LaGrange
 - 3 We are supposed to hear from Commissioner by Friday, September 14
 - a. She may accept the Letters or provide criticism
 - b. She can deny them altogether
 - B. Create a Reorganization Plan
 - 1 Must have a target regional population of 2,500
 - a. There is a minimum of 1,200
 - 2 School Choice
 - a. You may keep school choice, but must have a guaranteed relationship with A high school
 - b. Long term, it is anticipated that the comfort levels of residents with their area high school is increased
 - c. Budgets will need to be passed and the community may vote to remove "school choice" as an option
 - 3 Who do you consolidate with?
 - 4 Creation of plan for submittal by December, 2007
 - a. Ideally the plan is accepted by commissioner
 - b. After commissioner, the community needs to have a referendum to accept, preferably June, 2008
 - Once approved, then you are part of an RSU: Regional School Unit
 - c. Each community MUST have a plan by November, 2008
 - If you do not have a plan, the community will be 100% responsible for educating their children
 - C. Milford's situation
 - 1 We have a changing population
 - 2 School's Facility
 - a. Fairly good shape
 - b. 600 student capacity, only have 400ish
 - D. RSU Representation
 - 1 Based on adult population, not school's population
 - 2 May create Wards
 - a. The region is split into equally populated wards
 - b. Represented by region rather than community
 - E. Financial considerations
 - 1 The State is holding down their liability, community's will still have to pay
 - 2 Teaching contracts
 - a. Milford's are lower than Old Town and Orono
 - b. Consolidated RSU's will have new contracts, likely higher than Milford's presently
 - 3 Construction
 - a. Presently only Dr. Libby School, eventually RSU owns all of them
 - b. We will have a percentage of financial responsibility of the total RSU
 - Milford has not paid for a high school, we will begin sharing that cost
 - 4 If community is earmarking \$ for its school, that may be done on a separate line item
 - a. The funds will be spent at your local school, BUT you will still need to pay the RSU percentage
 - The earmarked funds are above and beyond the RSU percentage
- II. Questions
 - A. Will we lose the ability to send kids to John Bapst?
 - 1 Not initially, but the community may not choose to pay for a private school.
 - a. The community has the option of continuing school choice.
 - B. Will this change our taxes?
 - 1 Carefully stated, Al and David have reviewed the numbers with the State's calculations
 - a. The State's calculations anticipate an increase in tax liability for Milford, not large, but likely.
 - b. Advice, look to consolidate as small an RSU as possible, thereby adding less to the liability
 - C. Did each community have other proposals?
 - 1 Old Town and Orono are looking for partners that can bring K-8 kids to their school.
 - a. They can be very discerning and critical of the small community populations.
 - 2 Milford has to find a high school, but do we need to accept THEIR way.
 - a. We need to be concerned for the betterment of Milford's kids
 - b. We need partners that are concerned for the betterment of Milford's kids
 - D. How is the administration communicating with the community?
 - 1 Sent letters home with kids.
 - 2 Posted in town office, local stores, s/b town billboard sign

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- E. How are support staff contracts going to be done?
 - 1 These are dictated by the new RSU school board's policies
- F. What changes will the kids see?
 - 1 It is likely this school will see more kids as the State will not appropriate funds for aging facilities
 - a. The State is not intending to close schools, but time will necessitate some
 - 2 Milford's school is in good shape and will have a new ballfield
- G. Possibility of closing a school?
 - 1 An RSU school board may vote to close your school.
 - a. A community may not accept the RSU vote and has its own vote to stay open
 - The community becomes responsible for the "additional" costs of keeping the school open
 - This will be reviewed with each successive year's budget of the RSU and community
 - b. May be necessitated or requested because of maintenance issues.
- H. How did the administration run the numbers for the two Letters of Intent?
 - 1 The State used its formula for each and informed the participants of each their liability under the proposals.
 - 2 All found some increases to some degree, not substantial
- I. More interested in the Students, not the Money.
 - 1 This may not be reflected in the State's plan, but each community is holding the education at a higher regard
 - 2 The community members on the reorg. committees want educationally advantageous partnerships
 - a. Orono is not reflecting the "best" scores of the region, Old Town is NOT a second choice
 - b. Want to minimize the disruption of the students that are presently schooled outside the RSU
 - 3 Again, stay as small as possible
 - a. Increases pride in their high school
 - b. Increased affinity