

SAD 5 / SAD 50 REORGANIZATION PLANNING COMMITTEE
November 27, 2007 – Rockland District High School

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

SAD 50

Jamie Doubleday, Thomaston
Bob Worthing, Cushing
David Cobey, Cushing
John Falla, St. George
Bill Reinhardt, St. George
Connie Russell, Thomaston
Terry Driscoll

Superintendents – Judy Harvey, SAD 50; Al Pfeifer, SAD 5

Business Managers – John Spear, SAD 50; Toni Reed, SAD 5

Facilitator – Mary Jane McCalmon

Recorder – Ann Matlack, St. George

SAD 5 School Board Members – see agenda on page

SAD 50 School Board Members – see agenda on page

Cushing Select Board Members – Alton Grover, Peter Haviland, Randy Robbins

St. George Select Board Members – Fred Carey, Don Lunt

South Thomaston Select Board Members – Penny Alley

Members of the Public – Terry Messing, Rockland; Anita Siegenthaler, St. George

1. Co-Chair Jamie Doubleday opened the meeting at about 6:30 PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Minutes** – The minutes from the November 13 were reviewed. Eric noted that on page 3, the local-only debt amounts were reversed. On a motion by Eric, seconded by David Cobey, the minutes were approved as corrected.
4. **Overview** – Mary Jane explained that the purpose of the Reorganization Planning Committee was to draft a comprehensive plan for the new Regional School Unit that would be created when SAD 5 and SAD 50 were combined. The Plan would provide a framework for the new RSU and would address issues such as governance, assets and liabilities, employee contracts, a transition plan and an explanation of potential cost savings. When the RPC has completed its Plan, it will be presented to the two School Boards for their review and a vote; passed along to the State for review; and then returned to the School Boards for a referendum vote by local residents. She explained that the Plan being considered this evening was preliminary, since the RPC has not completed its work.
5. **Sub-committee presentations**
 - a. **Assets and Liabilities** – Eric explained that the real and personal property of the 2 districts would go to the new RSU, with nothing held back; that indebtedness of both districts would go to the new RSU, including local-only debt; and that any general funds remaining with SAD 5 and SAD 50 as of July 1, 2009 – the inception date of the new RSU – would be transferred to the new RSU and then reallocated to the municipalities

proportionately and used in the first RSU budget. Also, due to the way SAD 5 and SAD 50 funded summer salaries and benefits for teachers over 2 budget years, the new RSU would be asked to do the same in its first budget.

- b. Governance** – Paul explained that the new RSU board would comprise 13 members, with 1 member each from Cushing, Owls Head and South Thomaston, 2 from St. George, 3 from Thomaston and 5 from Rockland; that there would be no weighted voting and each board member would have one vote; and that there would be staggered, 3-year terms for board members.
- c. Contracts and Collective Bargaining** – Ruth explained that the law was very clear about new RSUs and retaining employees: while employees could be terminated prior to the start date of the new RSU, any employees under contract to the 2 districts as of the inception date of the new RSU will move to the RSU. The Sub-committee, with the assistance of the District Business Managers, compiled a list of contract employees and collective bargaining units.
- d. Finance** – Bill explained that the task of this Sub-committee was to develop a transition plan and to develop an initial budget for the new RSU, and that there was still much work to be done in these areas. He said the Sub-committee recommended that shortly after the referendum establishes the new RSU (with a proposed referendum vote taking place next spring), a new Board of Directors be elected and tasked with hiring a Superintendent and developing the budget. In progress is the Sub-committee's work to develop transition costs for hiring the Superintendent and paying for other expenses the new School Board will incur. The Sub-committee also recommends that the new RSU Board develop personnel policies and use current SAD 5 and SAD 50 polices as templates. The Sub-committee continues to work on determining cost savings the State believes can be achieved with the new RSU.

In order to overcome the drastic cost-shift that would occur if the State's funding formula is used, a separate working group has been established to develop a new funding formula. Consisting of the Business Managers, Finance Chairs and Superintendents from both districts, the group has been examining how to mitigate the cost shift, perhaps over 2-3 years.

- e. General** – Jamie explained that the Committee's work was not finished yet. Among the most important issues to be addressed was how to mitigate the cost-shift, since the Committee understood that a plan with a cost-shift would never pass. Additionally, the Committee was working with the Business Managers and Superintendents to develop an "ideal district office." After the holidays, the Committee would reconvene to continue its work.

6. Comments & Questions

From School Board Members – Loren Andrews asked whether the savings the State was expecting – 50% from District Offices and 5% from transportation, buildings and maintenance, etc. – would be reflected in the 2008-2009 district budgets. Jamie said that while the State will be cutting EPS funding next year in anticipation of those savings even before the new RSU was in place, the school districts were under no illusions that those savings would occur. Therefore, budgets for 2008-2009 would be higher since the State would be cutting funding levels.

Tess Kilgour asked what the consequences would be if the petition drive to repeal the reorganization law prevailed. There was no real response since the required signatures have not yet been collected.

From Municipal Officials – Peter Haviland asked about the level of support for special education. He is concerned that with the increase in the number of students requiring special services, their needs will not be met. Mary Jane responded that while state funding would increase according to the number of students requiring the services, the funding levels would be 5% less than at present.

Penny Alley asked about having alternates for those communities with only 1 representative on the new RSU. Paul explained that there is no provision in state law that would allow for either alternates or absentee voting.

From Members of the Public – Terry Messing of Rockland asked what would happen if the referendum was voted down. Jamie explained that the Committee would go back to work to develop a plan that was acceptable. She also said that if SAD 5 and SAD 50 did not reorganize as a new RSU each district would face serious penalties from the State. Randy Robbins suggested a plan be developed to inform the public of the consequences of not passing the referendum.

Dan Breen suggested that there was confusion about reorganization and Many Flags and that it should be made clear that these were distinct issues.

George Emery wanted to know what the consequences were if the new Plan did not save money. Jamie said the State has been assuring RPCs that they will save money ... eventually; although perhaps not in the first or even the second years.

Loren Andrews asked about the impact of teachers' salaries on the budget. Jamie said that the State acknowledged that with different pay levels, the salary levels would be increasing. She said that if the 2 contracts were to be made equal today, it would cost \$200,000.

Tess Kilgour said that no State plan to save money every saved money and that the Committee should continue to be straightforward in explaining this to the public. Jamie said the Committee recognized that there would be no savings at the outset and that they were working to make the transition to the new RSU as less painful up front. It was the sentiment of the Committee members and other municipal officials that while the new RSU may not show the cost savings the State had promised, combining districts was ultimately in the best educational interest of all. And that while consolidation would not immediately result in Many Flags, not to consolidate would probably mean the end to Many Flags.

Anita Siegenthaler of St. George recommended that the Committee prepare a document for the public that would lay out the expectations for the new RSU and clearly explain what the public can expect of the new RSU.

7. **Other Business** – There was no other business.
8. **Adjourn** – The Committee adjourned its meeting at 7:40 PM.

**MSAD #50 SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
November 27, 2007 – Rockland District High School**

Present: Board Members:

Chair, Jamie Doubleday
Vice Chair, William Reinhardt
Secretary, Daniel Breen
Loren Andrews
Morris Berry

David Cobey
George Emery
Gregory Hamlin
Joanne Richards
Julie Sanborn

Superintendent: Judith Harvey

A. Call to Order – Board Chair Jamie Doubleday called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

B. Action Agenda

On a motion by David Cobey, seconded by Bill Reinhardt, the following motion was passed 10-0:

On a motion by Ruth Ann Hohfeld, seconded by Nancy Jeffers, the following motion was passed 9-0:

To submit the Reorganization Plan of SAD 5 and SAD 50 to the Commissioner of DOE as required by Chapter 240 of the Public Law, Part XXXX. It should be noted that incomplete sections exist as follows:

3.A(7) Assignment of other school contractual obligations only; 3.A(9);
3.A(12); 3.A(13); and Sec. XXXX-26, Parameter F

C. Adjournment – On a motion by Dan Breen, second by Joanne Richards, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

**MSAD #50 SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
November 27, 2007 – Rockland District High School**

Present: Board Members:

Chair, Kimberly Appleby
Vice Chair, David Matthews
Ruth Ann Hohfeld
Nancy Jeffers
Jim Kalloch

Tess Kilgour
Minda McVetty
Brian Messing
Julie Raye

Superintendent: Al Pfeiffer

A. Call to Order – Board Chair Kimberly Appleby called the meeting to order at 7:48 PM.

B. Action Agenda

On a motion by Ruth Ann Hohfeld, seconded by Nancy Jeffers, the following motion was passed 9-0:

To submit the Reorganization Plan of SAD 5 and SAD 50 to the Commissioner of DOE as required by Chapter 240 of the Public Law, Part XXXX. It should be noted that incomplete sections exist as follows:

3.A(7) Assignment of other school contractual obligations only; 3.A(9);
3.A(12); 3.A(13); and Sec. XXXX-26, Parameter F

C. Adjournment – On a motion by Minda McVetty, second by Tess Kilgour, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Matlack, Recorder