

**SAD 5 / SAD 50 REORGANIZATION PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**October 30, 2007 – 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  
Nancy Jeffers, Rockland  
Audrey Buffington, South Thomaston  
Jeff Northgraves, South Thomaston  
Eric Hebert, Rockland

SAD 50

Jamie Doubleday, Thomaston  
Terry Driscoll, St. George  
David Cobey, Cushing  
Judith Zizza, Cushing

Superintendents – Judy Harvy, SAD 5

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

Facilitator – Mary Jane McCalmon

Recorder – Ann Matlack, St. George

1. Co-Chair Jamie Doubleday opened the meeting at about 6:30 PM.
2. **Minutes** – The minutes from the October 2 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Eric, seconded by David Cobey, approved as presented.
3. **Public Comment** – Jamie reported that “An Act to Ensure Support for a Model of Consolidated and Integrated Secondary and Post-secondary Education”, submitted by Representatives Rector and Mazurek, had been approved by the Legislative Council in Augusta by a vote of 9-0 and would proceed to the Education Committee this January. She thanked the Representatives, along with Representative Hannah Pingree, for their work on this bill.
4. **Old Business** – Mary Jane reported:
  - The Department of Education template was simply a cover sheet with a checklist and that the Committee should continue using the Drummond Woodsum template in their work.
  - The state will reimburse for legal fees. Each approved RPC will get up to \$2,500 and each SAU will get up to \$2,500; therefore, the work being done would be eligible for up to \$7,500 in reimbursement for legal fees. Mary Jane said this would only cover legal fees and not other professional services. This is in addition to the \$2,500 for miscellaneous clerical support.
  - The Department of Education will be preparing models for District Offices based on student populations. They will also prepared models for School Board voting based on 2006 census numbers.
5. **Timelines** – Mary Jane suggested creating a backward timeline, using the December 1 deadline and working backwards, to determine the meeting schedule. She will work with Jamie and David Matthews during the Sub-committee time to come up with a schedule.

Paul reported that he had spoken with Jim Rier of the Department of Education and that Mr. Rier had counseled RPCs to slow down. Paul said the DOE was expecting status reports to be submitted by December 1, not completed Plans, and they did not anticipate any new

consolidated school units by July 2008. Mr. Rier also told Paul that there would not be any funding available to help alleviate the cost-shifting problems that have come up, and that local RPCs would have the flexibility to come up with their own cost-sharing formulas. Paul said Mr. Rier was also not confident that the new RPCs would see overall cost savings

Mary Jane also reported that every bill submitted to the Legislative Council regarding consolidation of school districts had been killed and that the Legislature's Education Committee and the DOE would be addressing these issues. She said cost sharing, cost shifting and minimum contributions would be addressed by the Education Committee.

**6. Governance Sub-committee recommendations** – Paul presented a hand-out the Sub-committee had prepared, showing suggested dates for consolidation, election of a new Board of Directors, composition of the Board and suggested terms. However, since the Board composition was based on the 2005 census and not the 2006 census, some modifications may be required. The Sub-committee suggested:

- Referendum to be held June 2008, with an effective date of July 1, 2009
- New Board to be elected September 2008
- Equal representation of Board members, as opposed to weighted votes.
- A 14-member board composed as followed:

Cushing	1 member
Owls Head	1 member
Rockland	6 members
South Thomaston	1 member
St. George	2 members
Thomaston	3 members

While the Sub-committee had concerns about a Board with an even number of members and the large size of the Board, it was felt that tie votes would be a rare issue to deal with and that the work load of the new RSU would benefit from such a large Board.

The Sub-committee also recommended that SAD 5 and SAD 50 include funds in their next budgets for use by the new School Board.

Dave had also prepared a spreadsheet, showing how a 13-member board would satisfy State requirements. On this Board would, Rockland would have 1 fewer representative.

Jeff suggested that the referendum be held sooner than June, perhaps in March or April. Paul said the Sub-committee had been concerned the Finance Sub-committee's work might not be completed that soon.

Eric asked that the weighted vote concept be explained. Audrey explained that each Board seat would be assigned a value based on population figures for the different municipalities. Whenever a vote is taken, the value of the votes would be totaled to determine the outcome of the vote. She said that since the weight of each Board vote was based on population, and populations regularly changed the weight of the different Board votes had to be recalculated often, which was a time-consuming process. She was not supportive of a weighted vote.

There were also questions regarding the "Institutionalized Population" listed for Thomaston. In the 2000 census, 424 individuals were included. However, since that time, the prison

population has been moved to Warren. There were questions about how to deal with this error.

7. **Sub-committee meetings** – The Sub-committees met from 7:15 to 8:10 PM.

8 **Wrap-up** –

**A. Reports from Sub-committees:**

**Governance** – Paul reported the Sub-committee would probably recommend a 13-member board; would obtain the 2006 census numbers; and would recommend a referendum date that was earlier than June 2008 and did not coincide with budget votes.

**Asset & Liability Redistribution** – Eric reported the Sub-committee would be making their final recommendations at the next meeting.

**Contracts & Collective Bargaining** – Ruth reported the Sub-committee was having difficulties classifying personnel from the 2 different Districts; the job titles were hard to classify. They would be requesting help from the 2 Business Managers.

**Finance** – David Cobey reported the Sub-committee would need joint estimates from the Business Managers and Superintendents concerning staffing levels in order to handle Section 13A of the template. He said the Sub-committee would be making recommendations at the next meeting, but that there is no hard data to use in preparing a transition budget since all the data is estimated. Jeff said the Sub-committee had a list of information they needed and they would forward that list to the Business Managers and to the Committee Chairs.

Jamie reported that the cost-sharing group – the Business Managers, Board Chairs and Board Finance Chairs – were looking at cost sharing and also the cost shift. John Spear reported that the Business Managers believe they have determined what is causing the cost shift and were working on options.

**B. Meeting Schedule** – The Committee will meet again on November 13, but the location will be moved to the SAD 5 Board Room in the McLain School on Lincoln Street. Sub-committees are to forward their materials to Ann by Thursday, November 15, so that Ann can put all the material into the Plan template format. On Tuesday, November 20, Jamie, David Matthews and Ann will meet at City Hall to go over the Plan, so that the Plan may be sent out to the participating school boards and municipal representatives for review. On Monday, November 26, there will be a joint board workshop at 6:30 PM at Rockland City Hall, to which all participating municipal boards will be invited.

9. **Other Business** – Jamie reported that SAD 50 had received the \$2,500 for copying, clerical works, etc. She and David Matthews suggested the following distribution of funds:  
\$1,500 to Ann for clerical services (to be billed to SAD 50 in 3 installments)  
\$250 to each district for copying, etc.  
\$500 held in reserve

Jeff requested that the Committee discuss the start-up date they were shooting at for the new RSU. He said he was still convinced July 1, 2009, was the most appropriate date. David Matthews suggested waiting until later, when the Plan was closer to completion.

However, Jeff was concerned that until the Committee committed to a date, there were questions the Sub-committees would be unable to answer.

Jamie recommended that consolidation take place July 1, 2009. Members of the Committee were in agreement, with David Matthews agreeing that he could live with that decision.

Jeff also suggested the different Sub-committees review Section 13. This is a complex section of the template that brings together many aspects of the Plan.

**10. Adjourn** – The Committee will meet again Tuesday, November 13, at 6:30 PM in the SAD 5 Board Room, McLain School, Lincoln Street, Rockland.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Matlack, Recorder