

BUCKSPORT, ORLAND, MSAD 18
REORGANIZATION PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
6:30 pm Monday, December 10, 2007
Jewett School Conference Room

0. The meeting was called to order by Facilitator Ann Bridge at 6:30 pm. Laurie Boardman presiding.
Members present: Wayne Ames, Laurie Boardman, Millard Clement, Tom Foster, Guy Haney, Rob Howard, Roxanne Mushrall, Roger Raymond, and Jennifer Riefler.

Members absent:

Facilitator: Ann Bridge

Superintendent: Judy Lucarelli

Others present: Don Houghton (The Enterprise), Rick Newman (MSAD 18 alternate), Boo Upton (Orland), Tim Emery (Bucksport), Donald & Joyce Unterseher (Orland), Cyndi Wood (Ellsworth American), Tom Taylor-Lash (Orland Board alternate)

1. Moved by Wayne seconded by Guy to approve the minutes of the 11/26/07 meeting as revised to specify "public" hearing on budget in minutes, and correct the submitted Plan accordingly. Motion carried 9-0.
2. Report on data requested at previous meeting: Superintendent Judy Lucarelli presented data on the cost differential between the collective bargaining agreements for teachers and ed techs, and a line item comparison of budgets for the 3 school systems. The cost differential for collective bargaining agreements is \$204,848 in the current year.

Roger raised concerns about XXXX-45.5 that the Commissioner should be informed about the impact of collective bargaining agreements being merged. This could have a significant impact on citizens deciding whether or not to consolidate.

Moved by Roger, seconded by Guy that the co-chairs of the RPC write the Commissioner to inform her of the substantial concern about the cost of collective bargaining with consolidation, and the likely impact this will have on whether citizens will support reorganization. Motion carried 9-0.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Plan Item 7: Assignment of School personnel contracts, school collective bargaining agreements, and other school contractual obligations

Judy was asked to rewrite the proposed language so every current position is covered in items A-D.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Plan Item 8: Disposition of existing school funds and financial obligations, including undesignated fund balances, trust funds, reserve funds, and other funds appropriated for school purposes

Judy was asked to provide copies of three audits to RPC members and to get copies of additional trust funds from towns

Other points raised:

- Schools will continue to maintain checking accounts for student activities and PTO.

- Clarify what happens to accounts receivable.
- Cost of filling oil tanks, whether tanks should be filled.
- Purchase of materials using 08-09 monies for use in 09-10.
- Payment for 09-10 building insurance occurs after July 1, 2009.
- Expenditures in the spring before the operational date are for the prior year only.
- Supt and municipal officials review each AP warrant to clarify which items are for current and which for future years.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Plan Item 12: Estimate of the cost savings to be achieved and how these savings will be achieved

Judy provided comparisons of 07-08 budgets for the school systems. Consider any areas that may result in savings.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on small unit item C: Plan Consistent with State Policies

There was discussion of program implications and how consolidation will affect changes in offerings or choice within the RSU. More data is needed to address this.

7. Schedule Two Meetings:

- Confirmed meeting scheduled for 6:30 pm January 7 at Jewett School
- Scheduled one additional meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday January 14 at Jewett School

8. Develop Agenda for Next Meeting

Continue to work on remaining Plan items, revisit items based on Commissioner's response to Plan submitted 12/1/07.

9. Identify additional data to be provided at the next meeting

- Identify program differences by school for consideration in addressing Policy items.
- Cost analysis of staffing differently: pk-1, 2-4, 5-8, 9-12 w choice
- Calculate what percentage of the total budget would the increased salaries be. Provide a combined total budget for the current year to calculate this.
- Jim Rier will be meeting with each proposed RSU, to discuss financial info and possible cost-sharing options. Invite him when we are further along in the discussion of cost sharing.
- How to help citizens understand the issues relating to consolidation, penalties, possible impact if this is repealed.

10. Moved by Guy seconded by Tom to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 9-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.