

Litchfield, Sabattus, and Wales
Reorganization Planning Committee
Minutes of Meeting
January 28, 2008

Members present: Michael Tardy, Vicki Russell, Gregory Gill, Robert Gayton, Carrie Ivey, and Robert English.

Also present: Susan Hodgdon, Chris Trenholm, Bill Cummins, Curt Jack, Cathy McCue

Meeting called to order at 6:08 PM with 5 members present; 6th member arrived at 6:15 PM.

Moved by Vicki Russell, Seconded by Gregory Gill to accept the Minutes of January 7, 2008 as published. Motion passed 4-0-1 (M. Tardy).

Members discussed Plan article 9.A. "Transition Plan for Budget Development". It was agreed that the language provided by Drummond Woodsum would be used. Chris Trenholm provided some information on possible costs of funding a start-up RSU Board and Superintendent prior to the new RSU becoming an official organization. Following discussion on how much may be needed to fund the interim operations and how it would be raised, the following action was taken:

Moved by Vicki Russell, Seconded by Mike Tardy to insert \$150,000.00 in suggested article as an amount the new RSU board would be authorized to expend prior to July 1, 2009. Voted 6-0-0 for approval – Motion passed.

Moved by Mike Tardy, seconded by Robert Gayton to allocate these costs using the cost sharing formula to be established in Article 13-B of the Plan. Voted 6-0-0 for approval – Motion passed.

The Chair requested that the Superintendent request from the Department of Education the funding authorized for RPC expenses (\$2,500) and additional legal fees resulting from RSU formation.

Discussion moved to the topic of a fair cost allocation/sharing formula. Possible allocation methods were discussed, with their positive and negative results. While no set allocation method, or percentages was agreed upon (RPC members desire to have more discussions and larger representation,) it appeared that some mix of property evaluation and student population would result in the fairest model. At present there is nothing in the law that allows for changes in the method once adopted as part of the Plan, but anything is possible in future years if the method needs to be reviewed.

Discussion was held about informing the community members of where we are in the Plan development and what is included in the Plan. There are many rumors and we need

to begin to get correct information into the communities. Information letters will be drafted for mailing to all postal customers of the three towns. Additionally, we can use the local school newsletters and web sites as other ways to get information out.

The RPC set a deadline for completion of the Reorganization Plan: March 3, 2008 (with submittal later that week). It is requested that all members of the Committee be present for that meeting so we can vote as a whole on the plan. Local School Committees should vote, at their February meetings, to authorize their Chair to sign the Plan once it has been approved by the RPC. They do not need to wait until after the RPC has completed its work before they can authorize forwarding the Plan to the Department of Education.

The Committee will continue to meet every Monday from 6 – 8 PM at the Central Office until we have completed our work. The RPC encourages members of the public and staff to attend.