

# **RPC**

## **Meeting Minutes**

February 25, 2008

### **I. Call to order**

**Paul Bridge** called to order the regular meeting of the Regional Planning Committee at 6:30 p.m. on **February 25, 2008** at PCMS.

### **II. Roll call**

The following persons were present: Kevin Jordan, DRHS Supt., Paul Bridge, Co-Chairman, Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Paul Stearns, SAD 4 Supt., John Parola, Peter Cooley, Onie Lougee, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, Charlotte Violette, Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt., Stephen Gudroe, Peter Devine, Michelle Ward, Charles Woodmancy, Dale Huff, Ray Freeve, Facilitator, William Digby, Cynthia Hall, Phyllis Cass, Anita Kain, Brad Deane, George Nuite, Rodney Farrar, Fred Sherburne, and Tom Goulette.

### **III. Voting**

**The following items were discussed and voted on:**

**1. Choose name for Regional School Unit:**

**Maine Highlands School Unit Yes 17 No 1**

**Main Stream School Unit Yes 1 No 17**

**Motion carried to use the name “Maine Highlands School Unit”**

**2. Select two (2) members from each SAU plus Superintendents and Co-Chairs to meet with members from SAD #41 (Milo), SAD #68 (Dover-Foxcroft), and School Union #60 (Greenville) to discuss potential for cooperation with educational programs.**

**Discussion was had that some members were not in favor of collaboration as there is too much going on with our meetings right now. It’s not that we won’t consider this in the future but right now is not a good time.**

**Vote: Yes 0 No 18 Motion carries. No selections made.**

**3. Approve a governing board for the Regional School Unit with a minimum of two (2) members from each municipality with the Town of Guilford having three (3) member and Dexter having six (6) members for a total of 29. The Board will use a weighted vote method. Each School Board**

member shall serve a 3-year term, except that the initial terms of the members shall be staggered as provided by XXXX-40.

**Discussion:** Paul Bridge had calculated different methods of members. Peter Cooley explained the decision to have at least two members from each municipality was to cover illnesses, vacations, etc. This item was a great concern to all members that they have representation on the new Board. He also explained that with 29 members it would be possible for the members to be on only one committee which would mean less work.

Peter Cooley made the motion to accept the governing board as recommended by the Governance Committee. Cynthia Hall seconded the Motion. Yes 18 No 1

**4. Approve student representatives to the Regional School Unit Board.**

**Discussion:** Some discussion was had regarding whether we needed to vote on this item or leave it for the new Board to work on. Mr. Reeve suggested that if we want this included in the new RSU we need to put it in writing in our plan. If we vote we want students as representatives they will stay after the new Board starts. The Governance Committee recommended that we have the student representatives on the board. It was confirmed that the student reps will have no voting power.

Peter Devine made the motion to accept the student representatives as recommended by the Governance Committee. Cynthia Hall seconded the Motion. Yes 18 No 3

**5. The RSU superintendent shall review school choice requests with RSU Board members of the towns from which the requests come.**

**Discussion:** Paul Bridge mentioned having an oversight committee similar to Mayo Hospital, rather than giving the Superintendent the power to make the decision on school choice for the kids that live in Districts that currently have school choice. Harmony and Willimantic have school choice. The Superintendent in Harmony handles the decisions currently. The Governance Committee recommended that this issue did not apply to our RSU.

Peter Cooley made a motion to keep the Governance Committee recommendation that this is not applicable to our RSU. Steve Gudroe seconded the motion. Yes 21 No 0. Motion carried.

**6. The additional local costs of operations of the Regional School Unit shall be shared among all the municipalities within the Regional School Unit on the basis of the following formula...**

**Discussion:** Peter Devine commented that the Governance Committee didn't get to discuss this issue at the last meeting and he didn't believe that this item was ready for a vote.

**Peter Devine made the motion to table this item for a future meeting. Peter Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**7. Review written documentation of tuition contracts and school choice.**

**Tuition contracts were discussed. A sheet was passed out which shows the Harmony Tuition Rates and the Willimantic Tuition Rates for the current year. Harmony also had tabulated the number of students they have tuitioned out to the area schools.**

**Election of the new board members: There was discussion and questions asked about how the new board will be elected. Ray noted that the Law tells how to elect the new members. Paul Bridge mentioned that most of the Towns have Town meetings and that is where the school board members are voted in. Dale Huff mentioned that we should include language that the new school board members terms should be staggered to allow for some stability with the new board. It was mentioned that we might need to have some legal advice regarding the new board member elections. Ray asked that we wait on paying for that legal advice until he has had a chance to ask questions to find out what other RSUs are doing. He will get that information to our Superintendents. The Superintendents also have the list of items that need to be completed prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Ray passed out a Referendum Timeline.**

**Steve Foster brought up concern regarding naming the RSU prematurely. He didn't recall any discussion that we needed to name the RSU prior to its starting. Ray stated that 90% of RSUs are being named. Steve Foster mentioned that naming the RSU might be a concern for the voters and that the voters may vote the RSU down just because of the dislike of the name. Ella Munday noted that this was a valid concern and that at our Town Meetings, our members should get input at the Town Meetings regarding suggestions of what they might prefer for a name. Ray mentioned that the new RSU may review the name after they are set up and that we could put language in our plan for them to do that. It was also mentioned that our votes this evening are tentative votes and that we can make adjustments to any items prior to submitting the plan. Our plan is a working document and at the end we will review it for changes. It is important that all members attend the meetings regularly and if they have issues with any of the items voted on, it get brought up early so that we are not at the very end of our deadline with a lot of new changes. Please make every effort to attend the meetings.**

**IV. Sub-Committee Work**

**Governance:**

After splitting up into sub-committees, the governance committee reported that they have one item to discuss and that is regarding Section 11. They expect to have language regarding that for the next meeting.

#### Property/Funds/Contracts

This committee reported that none of their sections, 5,6,7,8,13D or 13E were ready to be put into writing for a vote. They have reviewed the items requested from SAD 46 and will review the information from Harmony at the next meeting.

#### Cost Savings/Budget

This committee reported that they worked on the issue of saving money at the Administrative level. They do not foresee any cost savings.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Michelle Ward made the motion to adjourn. Anita Kain seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.