

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

MSAD 59/53

9.20.07 at 6:30 pm

Madison High School

Mike Gallagher-Welcome to all

Sandy-Welcome to SAD 59

Introductions were given by each RPC member

Mike Gallagher-We will go through the 13 pieces of the document to work towards a plan to submit in December (each number on left refers to discussion regarding that portion of plan).

- 1) This one is done
- 2) What size do we want the regional board to be? He said groups need to get together and review.
 - a. Board-11 members based on population in each town.
 - b. Alan Linkletter- we do not want 22 people on the board, which is too many.
 - c. Next, Mike showed the breakdown of MSAD 59/53 population/percent of population per town for each. He discussed how you get board members to represent towns based on population.
 - d. Bob Hagopian discussed how he figured votes. Mike: you really only would have to tally weighted votes if there was a close (split) vote.
 - e. Sandy reviewed her experience in a union for weighted votes. Mike: you can't have more than 2% difference power from town. With one design it shows 7 members. Mike: would you want 15? Several members nodded they would. Each person was checked with to see if they thought 15 would be good. Bob: no need for odd number of members when the vote is weighted. Mike: this committee makes plan/recommendations to bring to each school board. Sandy agreed, and then it goes to the Commissioner for approval. Amy: I think that Brighton needs to have just one board member. It is very small.
 - f. Madison-3, Pittsfield-3, Starks-2, Detroit-2, Burnham-2, Athens-2, Brighton-1 for a total of 15.
- 4) Chair Pittsfield rec.that the new larger school board would make that recommendation.
 - g. Norman Dean suggested Local Advisory Board to deal with budget would be helpful.
 - i. Sandy/Mike: larger board would determine or recommend what advisory boards are needed. It is an option.
 - ii. Jennifer: we could have separate committees for negotiations, etc.
 - iii. Burnham: I think the larger board should look at budget issues.
 - h. There was a discussion regarding advisory board. Mike: we will vote to pass all articles on budget and then it will go to referendum; this is a new format.

- i. Discussion: Need a partner who will accept that MSAD 53 has MCI, which is a private school. All agreed: we want to follow law and keep high school and other schools.
 - i. Mike: administrative consolidation will affect central office the most. With MSAD 59/53 it is attractive we can stay the same.
 - ii. Sandy: over time we will see savings. Need to take care of staff as much as we can.
 - iii. Troy: we will see savings because we will not have a penalty, which would happen if we did nothing.
 - iv. Chair 53: we need to do a financial analysis.
 - v. Sandy: so far we have not received accurate figures from the state, to an accurate analysis.
 - vi. Bob: we want to keep taxes down and do what is best for students.
 - vii. Sandy: possibly in 2009 there will be dual systems run.
 - j. The group reviewed the cuts that the governor has already made (50% central administration, 5% SPED, 5% transportation, 5% maintenance).
 - k. Discussion about whether the vote would take place in January or July. It will depend on when the final plan is ready.
 - i. Norman Dean (Town Manager) reviewed information from the state; they indicate savings and better education.
 - l. The group moved on to the next part of the plan.
 - i. Mike: maybe we can get some conceptual agreement on #5.
 - ii. Some discussion on debt/liability. Sandy asked how MCI contract works.
 - iii. Chair 53: we have a multimillion dollar contract with bussing.
 - iv. MCI Board, no one from sad 53 sits on the board. Superintendent and chair are invited to those board meetings. Tuition is paid by MSAD 53.
- 5) Question, is there a choice there?
- m. Sandy, you may want to think about which buildings you will not want.
 - n. Chris asked for cost of Weston Avenue building and SAD 53 building (possibly close one office) which house administration.

Conferences coming up September 24th and 25th (Monday Portland on consolidation; Tuesday Bangor for RPC members to attend).

Chair 53: it may be easier to work on next questions after people have attended September 24-25 conferences.

Mike: homework-review parts of law for next meeting.

Next meeting: October 4th at 6:30 pm at Warsaw in the cafeteria.

8:00 pm meeting adjourned.