

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

10.22.2007 @ Madison Junior High

Page 1 of 5

Introductions were made. Handouts were passed

Carol McCarron	Community-Detroit
Barbara Basford	Community-Burnham
Alan Linkletter	Board, MSAD 59
Arleen King-Lovelace	Board, MSAD 59
Stuart Huff	Selectman-Burnham
Bob Downs	Board Chair, MSAD 53
Mike Gallagher	Superintendent, MSAD 53
Sandra MacArthur	Superintendent, MSAD 59
Troy Emery	Board, MSAD 59
Kathy Estes	Community-Madison
Jennifer Hebert	Board, MSAD 59
Gary Jordan	Pittsfield Town
Joe Miller	Community-Starks
Bob Hagopian	Community-Madison

Mike Gallagher: Last meeting we looked at #8. We now have financials to share. We are only estimating; we do not have actual figures at this time. Mike reviewed the financial obligations (sheet attached). The undesignated funds are what we would take in if we joined right now.

Next: Step #9 of the plan, document

Do we need a strategy for when RSU comes together? Taxes would go up this year if we consolidated now. We need to look at these questions and plan ahead.

Mike: When you plan next years budget, use some undesignated monies to cut the budget for the new year. Some of this could be revenues that we did not anticipate.

Sandy explained how this can affect the cash flow; there could be a problem. We want taxpayers in all towns to get credit for money paid. The credit always goes back to the taxpayer.

Bob (board chair-MSAD 53): Does this group need to make a recommendation on the undesignated fund balance to use for carry forward?

Recommendation: No more than 50%.

Mike: I am agreeable to that. If revenues build up, you try to drive back down.

Discussion on the 50% (Jenn: is everyone comfortable with %?)

Bob: We should work on concepts now.

Sandy: current rec. based on fund balance of June 2007. The actual will be based on fund balance of June 30, 2008.

Barbara: Feels this complicates the issue if it is too wordy.

John: We need to be careful not to leave loopholes.

Bob: we have to file by December 1<sup>st</sup>. This will give us some direction.

Sandy: If one of us went on a spending spree that could be a problem. The trust funds stay in MSAD 53; scholarships stay in MSAD 59

Bob: Would like to know later what the scholarships are used for. It is an impressive amount.

Sandy: Referred to p.2 of #9 showing blank; it should include total of both budgets at this time.

Mike: We are on state valuation funding.

Jenn: EPS would affect valuation? Most recent valuation to determine EPS.

Mike: We would suggest staying with the cost valuation model.

Part B #9:

Personnel Policies: need to review these. Most are reasonably similar; they come from same law firm.

Carol and Barbara: There would be dual policies first year.

In #11, Mike said he and Sandy would recommend option A (see #11 handout).

Barbara: Would you go through whole process again if it failed? Election process in both places if it fails?

Mike: Yes, because the plan would be different.

Barbara: What if it was just to answer a particular question?

Gary Jordan: I believe we would have to vote again.

Troy: I would recommend option A for #11. Others agreed.

#12, Sandy: We discussed transportation and facility director. We based our ideas on the Hampden model. She said the NCLB would be combined along with others. (see #12 handouts for breakdowns).

Day Treatment reimbursement costs were reviewed; how to set up this program. (Through MaineCare)

Bob: How we will cut the 5% from SPED and 5% from transportation/facilities. Do we have to eliminate these things (#12) before consolidation?

Mike: As for systems administration, we are running efficiently.

Sandy: Both districts are under 4% for central office.

Kathy asked about positions.

Sandy: we are running under 4%.

Alan asked about contracting for bussing.

Martha: When you get quotes, do you check on benefits for drivers?

Ray: What are costs for transportation for MSAD 53?

Mike will get costs together. The 50% cut on system administration cut to \$204/student.

Bob asked Sandy to look further into contracting with bussing. Possible: Cyr, 1<sup>st</sup> Student, Poland. She is going to ask if more joined (MSAD 53) what cost would be.

13A:

Sandy: Each district has to put a plan together to address individually.

Mike: Back page, systems administration.

Sandy reviewed Model 1 (Hampden) and model 2. A handout was passed out to review the costs of Hampden and costs of superintendent in MSAD 59/53.

Bob asked if there was another district to compare costs.

Mike: The commissioner is supposed to provide more examples. We need to realize that there is no "one size fits all".

$\$204 \times 2250 = \$459,000$  (Jennifer asked to look at #\\$)

Mike: Bus costs this year (bussing, co-curricular) \$590,000.

Sandy: Salary/benefits = \$410,000  
Heat/utilities  
Board/liability  
\$50,000 – legal, supplies  
Advertising, computer license

Alan: What are our transportation costs: \$855,588 MSAD 59.

Gary asked how far geographically do busses travel?

Alan: How do you know busses are in good shape? Do they have to meet certain standards? Mike answered yes, they are very efficient.

Arline: Will we keep both buildings open?

Alan: Athens is a central location for both districts; that is being looked at.

Bob (MSAD 53): Is the only cost saving a half FTE; after all of this work?

Sandy: Right now yes but we continue to look; suggested contracting payroll and accounts payable.

Bob asked about up coming contracts.

Sandy explained about working agreements.

13B:

Reviewed cost sharing options in regional school units.

Bob: We need to look at ways to do this so that taxes do not go up.

Jennifer: How do we get more out of EPS?

Sandy: Our labor market is different. It is supposed to change according to the state. Right now, cost savings for MSAD 53 would be what they would save in penalties.

EPS: Property value plus number of students.

Sandy: It is hard to predict because the state does not give us the numbers.

MSAD 59: 3.5 teachers over. Food Service. Transportation.

13C:

Reviewed election of initial Board of Directors. Handout attached (13C).

Sandy: Would actually have to work as a board before election took place.

Alan: The board needs to be elected before hiring a superintendent.

13D:

Tuition contracts and school choice.

Mike: May want to look at the new contract with MCI. The new RSU would support. Tuition rate at MCI is same as state.

Kathy: Who pays the extra in RSU if one is \$5,000 and the other is \$5,600.

IVF – 10% above tuition cost.

Mike: The towns of MSAD 53 pay it cost alone state average tuition. Do we want to allow school choice? We may want to establish a policy to address this.

Sandy: It would be interesting to see how Portland does this; they have 2 high schools. She will print the current MSAD 59 policy of intradistrict transfer.

13E:

Claims and insurance. November 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting will look at taking action to approve the plan to submit by December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Sandy: Can rename the RSU.

Mike: The new RSU

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

10.22.2007 @ Madison Junior High

Page 5 of 5

13G:

RSU with less than 2500 students. Mike reviewed this. We need to have conversations with MSAD 54.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at Warsaw or MCI at 6:30 pm (6:00 snacks).

Troy read a letter from MSAD 74 inviting MSAD 59 committee to a meeting (see copy of letter dated 10.16.07).

MSAD 59 RPC did not support attending the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.