

School Administrative District No. 53

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Burnham

Detroit

Pittsfield

Excellence in Education

Michael A. Gallagher
Superintendent of Schools

Regional Planning Committee

Minutes

10/17/07

Members in attendance: R. Downs, E. Kelley, B. Salisbury, J. Cianchette, G. Jordan, K. Ruth, W. Price, J. Laux, M. Hodgins, C. McCarron, B. Basford and Superintendent Gallagher

Item 1. Individuals around the table introduced themselves.

Item 2. Review of RPC activities – SAD #53 RPC and Board Chair R. Downs provided an overview of: the initial local public meetings and the data collected at those meetings; the initial meetings with SAD #48 and #38; the letters of intent that were submitted by the MSAD #53 Board of Education; and the letters of intent that were approved and those that were rejected by the Department of Education. He also provided information regarding follow-up conversations with SAD #48 in an attempt to secure a commitment to the consolidation process with SAD #53. Mr. Downs then focused on the initial meeting with SAD #59, and the decision to focus consolidation discussions with SAD #59 based on similar philosophies. He summed up his remarks by indicating that we continue to meet with SAD #59 and are working toward the submission of a plan that must be submitted by December 1, 2007.

Superintendent Gallagher distributed the results of data collected from a meeting held with individuals from the SAD #53 communities of Detroit, Pittsfield and Burnham. The list included their ideas about what they valued in SAD #53 and what concerns they had about consolidation. This lists served as a guide to the regional planning committee (RPC) in developing their philosophy for the consolidation effort.

Superintendent Gallagher then distributed the list of items that need to be included in the plan that is submitted to the Department of Education by December 1. There are 13 individual sections to the plan that needs to be submitted to the DOE.

The last handout included the consolidation timeline with which the district must comply in order meet the criteria established in the new consolidation law. It also included

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information about the new budget approval process that must be followed for at least the next three years. The new process is called the “budget validation process” and is a two part process. The district’s Board of Directors will prepare a budget and hold a district budget meeting. At the district budget meeting members of the public will be able to vote on 11 articles presented by the board. The articles can be amended from the floor and be voted upon. The district budget meeting will conclude when all the articles have been authorized by the attending citizens. The budget figures will be set for the next fiscal year. The second step of the process is to hold a referendum within 10 days of the district budget meeting to ask voters whether they support the budget or not. It will be just a yes or no vote. If it fails we will need to go back to step one and hold another district budget meeting, and follow the process through again. The one ballot question for the referendum is worded specifically in the law. The question will read: “Do you favor approval of the SAD #53 budget for the upcoming year that was adopted at the latest district budget meeting, and that includes locally raised funds that exceed the required local contribution as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act?” Yes No

A yes vote allows additional funds to be raised for K-12 public education.

A no vote means additional funds cannot be raised for K-12 public education.

The final wording is not accurate since it implies that the “yes” or “no” vote are specific to raising additional funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher