

19 July 2012

Meeting called to order at 1802 by Hilary Holm (RSU Board Chairwoman)

Introductions – Wiscasset Withdrawal Committee and RSU Withdrawal Committee

Election of Chairperson – Jeff Slack nominated by Mary Myers, no second. Mary Myers nominated by Jeff Slack, second Jason Downing. Vote 3-0-1 (Myers) electing Mary Myers as Chair

Mary presented list of questions to consider

Jason and Jeff will share duties of posting minutes of meetings

Jeff was chosen to be the person to contact the RSU office for information gathering and questions. Alan Hawkins (Superintendent) was present and advised due to no phone and internet that he would not be available until Wednesday.

Discussion on reaching out to citizens. Posting on the Town website as well as possible mailings were talked about. Also information in the newspapers. Short discussion on putting short Bio's of the committee members in the newspaper was discussed but decided against.

Timeline – The committee has 90 days from this meeting to present a withdrawal plan to the Commissioner of Education. This plan must be approved by the RSU Board within these 90 days. The Commissioner has 60 days after receiving the withdrawal plan to approve it. Once it is approved, the Commissioner will set a date for the vote by the Town. In order to have a valid vote 50% of the number of voters from the previous gubernatorial election must vote. A simple majority of this vote is needed to pass the Withdrawal Plan.

The RSU Board meets on the second Thursday of each month with their

next meeting on August 9th at the Wiscasset High School at 1830.

Hillary said the RSU is developing a new cost sharing formula that will most likely be voted on at the November 6th election. Discussion about possible exit plan for Town if they decide they like the new cost sharing formula and want to stop the withdrawal process. Not sure if a question would be allowed on ballot or not. Town has voted to form a withdrawal plan not just to look at options. Committee's job is to negotiate a withdrawal plan from the RSU and also have a plan for the future.

Talked about getting figures from one source (i.e.-superintendent) and also sharing information with the RSU Withdrawal Committee. There was an audit done in 2009. Jeff asked about getting the cost of each school individually. Hillary stated that the RSU Business Manager has that information but those numbers do not include district costs. Jeff stated that is what he would like to see. Also need to get agreement with RSU since there has been bonds taken out and property needs to be changed over.

The Committee needs a complete plan of the future education. Jeff stated that 90 days is rushing. Hillary stated other towns have started the process in January but are still working on it. The Commissioner of Education can grant an extension. Monmouth has a report they posted in the Kennebec Journal that may be worth reviewing about their withdrawal process.

Need to get all the details of withdrawal, current law is needed as it was recently changed.

Jeff will be the Liaison for the newspapers.

Discussed schedule for meetings. Jason asked if there is a timeframe a meeting has to be posted before we can hold it. Talked about getting into newspapers on time. Not believed to have a timeframe but at least 72 hours was thought to be adequate. Decided to meet next Thursday the 26th

at 1800 at the Town Office, if available.

RSU has a Finance meeting on Monday at 1630 in Westport

Jason mentioned we have two parts to the process. One is to negotiate withdrawal and the second forming a plan for the future, whether it be independent or joining another school district. Jason will contact area school districts to look into options.

Tim will get copies of Monmouth's report.

Meeting adjourned at 1906.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Downing