

RSU 73 – TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

MARCH 15, 2011 – 6:00 PM
JAY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Committee Members in attendance: Chair Ashley O'Brien, James Collins, Tom Goding, Mary Redmond-Luce, John Wakefield, Denise Rodzen, Superintendent Susan Pratt and Superintendent Robert Wall.

Chair Ashley O'Brien opened the meeting thanking all for attending. He stated that trying to keep continuity with the meeting tonight he would ask that following the presentations the committee will ask questions than it would be open to the floor for questions then back to the committee for final questions.

Motion was made by Jim Collins and seconded by John Wakefield to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2011 Transition Committee meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

I. BUS GARAGE

Superintendent Robert Wall reported that there will be 30 buses in the new RSU 73 fleet, all routes will be reviewed and programmed using transportation software to establish the shortest time for students on buses. The Jay Bus Garage was rebuilt in 2005 following a fire at the garage with 8,130 square feet of space. The approximate value of this facility is \$414,224, it is handicapped accessible, has cold/indoor storage for 10 buses with two heated bays, wash station and room for expansion. There will be room to store all of the buses in one place but the plan is to keep some buses at the south campus. We currently are looking at repairing our own fleet which will mean hiring a full time mechanic and a full time helper. We are also looking to renovate a portion of the bays to have additional space for repairs. There is also a plan to partition off a portion of the bays and install a waste oil heater. There will be some upfront costs that are fixed costs such as diesel fuel costs and fuel to heat the buildings. The combined gallons of diesel fuel for RSU 73 will be approximately 37,500 gallons.

II. COMBINED SPORTS & ACTIVITIES TEAMS

Sally Boivin and Gilbert Eaton reported that along with a co-curricular committee developed a list of the pros and cons supporting the logistics and feasibility of combining Jay/Livermore Falls High School sports teams beginning fall 2011. Some of the advantages would be that the rivalry from the past would be ended; it would give opportunity to offer sub-varsity sports as well as freshmen teams in several sports, as well as an opportunity to have new athletic activities. Some of the disadvantages would be no adjustment time to prepare for loss of community pride, new Varsity uniforms would need to be ordered for both high school and middle school, hiring of coaches would need to happen immediately, an athletic administrator would need to be in place immediately, policies and procedures would need to be reviewed, gyms/fields/schools will have to be re-painted and new signage on all schools/fields/gyms.

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Other questions that would need to be answered are the 9th grade students and where they would be, conference decisions – whether we will be combined class B or separate, hiring new coaches, use of fields for practices/contests, transporting student to/from practice fields, managing/maintaining fields, trophies/banners- what to do with them, booster groups and do we stay MVC or change to the KVAC.

III. FRESHMAN ACADEMY

James Holland, High School Principal reported on the Freshman program being considered for 2011-2012. He explained that the program provides a strong academic foundation with a strong student support structure that facilitates communication between teachers and with families. This new approach would help decrease Freshman failure rate and increase student achievement – increase graduation rate. He presented Freshman mid-year failure rates and year end failure rates for both RSU 36 and Jay school departments as well as the percentage of students who meet the state standard in the core subjects of reading, writing, math and science as well as graduation rates for both school departments. The goal for the Freshman program is to give Freshman a strong academic foundation, to provide a strong support system to monitor student progress and to help increase the passing rate of Freshmen students. The plan is that both college and career focused students would have a strong academic foundation in English, World Geography/History, Science and Math as well as career exploration in Industrial Arts, Culinary Arts and Technology as well as student electives in Art, Band, French and Spanish. There would be student support in the areas of teacher teaming, advisor/advisee program, reading 180, English extensions, Math extensions for student who find reading, English and Math challenging. Student sample schedules were also presented and reviewed.

IV. RSU #73 ORGANIZATIONAL FOUNDATIONS

Superintendent Susan Pratt stated that these presentations are being made to the transition board as conceptual ideas and that their role is to hear the presentations and make recommendations to the new board that will be elected April 19th. The other option is that the two boards that are operational right now could meet and make decisions if that is necessary.

Superintendent Pratt presented details on what the organizational management structure of the new RSU would be. The system level of support would be superintendent, assistant superintendent, one high school principal, two high school assistant principals, one middle school principal, one middle school assistant principal, two elementary principals, one half-time elementary assistant principal. The administrative team would also be made up of one director of special services, one half-time assistant director of special services, one director of transportation and facilities, one transportation assistant at 5 hours/week, one maintenance assistant at 2.5 hours/week and one transportation assistant at 20 hours/week, one technology director. As well as central office supports, business manager, payroll manager,

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accounts payable manager, and two administrative assistances. Superintendent Pratt further reviewed the organizational chart structure.

V. UP COMING MEETINGS/AGENDAS

March 22, 2011 – RSU 36 Board special meeting/Jay Board special meeting to review and consider action on the Freshman Program and combining the CoCurricular sports teams for 2011-2012.

March 29, 2011 – Transitional Committee Budget presentation.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:52 PM motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

/bhs