

RSU 73 – TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

MARCH 8, 2011 – 6:00 PM
JAY MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY

I. Welcome and Introduction of Committee members

Superintendent Susan Pratt welcomed and thanked everyone for attending this first meeting of the Transition Committee.

Ms. Pratt introduced members of the Transition Committee as follows: Robert Wall, Superintendent, Susan Pratt, Superintendent, Stacie Lowe, Jay Business Manager, as non voting members along with John Wakefield, Livermore Select Board member, Ashley O'Brien, RSU 36 School Board Chair, Mary Redmond-Luce, Jay School Board Chair, Tom Goding, Jay Select Board member, James Collins, Livermore Falls Select Board member, as the voting members.

II. Appointment of a chair to serve during the life of the committee

Motion was made by Mary Redmond-Luce and seconded by Tom Goding to nominate John Wakefield as Committee Chair.

Motion was made by Jim Collins and seconded by John Wakefield to nominate Ashley O'Brien as Committee Chair.

John Wakefield expressed thanks for the nomination but respectfully declined as he is very busy with his current position and feels he does not have the time to commit to the extra time that committee chair would take.

There being no further nominations the committee voted.

The vote in favor of Ashley O'Brien as Committee Chair was (4) four with Ashley O'Brien abstaining.

III. Discussion of sub-committee support

Elected Chair O'Brien stated that he and Mary Redmond-Luce have discussed the concern that two communities were represented by two members and that the community of Livermore Falls only had one representative. They would recommend that Denise Rodzen be appointed as a non-voting member of the Transition Committee, as representative from Livermore Falls.

Motion was made by Mary Redmond-Luce and seconded by Tom Goding to appoint Denise Rodzen as a representative from Livermore Falls to the Transition Committee. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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IV. Establishment of a meeting schedule

Superintendent Robert Wall presented a Power Point, reviewing the duties and timeline of the Transition Committee.

The duties of the Transition Committee are to create a Transitional plan to include a detailed budget for the first operational year of the new RSU. To present a comprehensive analysis of what budget supports will be essential and what savings can be realized in the first year of operation of the RSU; and; create a process of curriculum mapping that will be developed so that clear curriculum expectations can be presented prior to the start of the first school year.

The proposed date for the first Transitional Committee review of the proposed budget is Tuesday, March 29th. The staffs will meet jointly on March 17th and 18th to review the curriculum and will continue during the months to follow. The administrative team will do its final review of the proposed joint budget on March 14 & 16.

Superintendent Wall reviewed the cost of running school systems, student numbers, student offerings and what is expected and needed for student achievement. He further reviewed the most immediate need to better apply funding and resources to serve students better, the need to respond creatively to the challenges of creating a new culture, and the need to speed up the decision processes and to spread out the decision-making power (and responsibility) as well as a need to put into practice a system that better uses our human capabilities.

Superintendent Wall stated that there are many many good things in each district that together we can make this a really special place for our kids. We will need to know what is important in our communities, are we using our resources in the best way we can and will our actions and the things we support make the learning process better? Serving students is our common interest and our combined assets can better support our students. This is our opportunity to do a wonderful job for these kids in our community.

The election for the new school board members is April 19, 2011, the clerks will certify the election results to the interim secretary, the interim secretary tabulates certified voting results of each municipality and totals the votes. The interim secretary notifies each clerk, each candidate, and the Commissioner of Education of the final results and the name/address of persons elected. The State Board sets the date of the first RSU Board meeting; and notifies each director by registered mail – projected to be early May. The new board will review the proposed budget, and process/vote on the new superintendent.

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The budget will be approved at a district budget meeting – proposed for May 24 and the referendum (yes/no) vote on that budget is set for June 14th.

Superintendent Wall reviewed the total enrollment for both Jay and RSU 36 from 1999-2000 to the current 2010-2011. With the declining enrollment in both school departments it has been difficult to offer programming that has been offered in the past. The projected enrollments for LFMS and JMS (grades 6, 7, 8) combined would be in the range of 366 students. With the Jay Middle School capacity at 580 – 627 students, there would be plenty of room to support the combined numbers for both schools. This amount of students in this building would be much more cost efficient.

The combined projected enrollment for the two high schools is 529 students. The capacity for the JHS is 494-565 students which would make the ability to have all the students there very tight.

There are operation of plant savings by putting these two systems together to create more efficiencies that can be used toward education.

Superintendent Wall stated that they are working to generate an impact sheet that shows the impact on taxes for property owners and will show what taxpayers will pay on their taxes in each of the three communities.

Superintendent Pratt stated that they have looked at every detail of this budget and believe that this is the time to make smart moves and do it right the first time.

V. Up Coming Presentations

The following concept presentations are planned for Tuesday, March 15th at 6:00 PM at the Jay Middle School Cafeteria.

Bus Garage – Bob Wall

Freshmen Academy – James Holland

Combined Sports Activities – Sally Boivin/Gilbert Eaton

Organizational Foundations – Susan Pratt/Bob Wall

VI. Adjournment

At 7:34 PM motion was made by Jim Collins and seconded by John Wakefield to adjourn.

/bhs