

***Durham, Freeport, & Pownal
Reorganization Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2007***

Rm. 17~ Morse Street Elementary School~Freeport

Members Present: Amber Snell, Wesley Bennett, Allan Purinton, John Gleason, Fred Palmer, Marge Migliaccio, Rick White, Nelson Larkins, Paul Shumann, Jennifer Kaplan, William Crain, Tim Giddinge, Sherry Dietrich, Cliff Ruprecht

Advisors Present: Shannon Welsh, Superintendent of Schools, Durham; Elaine Tomaszewski, Superintendent of Schools, Freeport; Joe Feeney, Superintendent/Principal, Pownal

Also Present: Cathy Messmer; Business Manager; Durham, Diane Boucher; Business Manager; Pownal and 10 members of the public

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bob Kautz, Facilitator, at 7pm.
- Mr. Kautz gave an explanation of what his role as Facilitator is for the Reorganization Planning Committee.
- Icebreaker/Introductions were conducted.
- Mr. Kautz explained the reasoning for the Reorganization Planning Committees.
- Mr. Kautz recognized the public audience and explained the proper protocol for audience participation was to pose questions to the Committee in writing so they could be addressed in an orderly fashion if appropriate (pertaining to the discussion at hand) or at the following meeting.
- A copy of stated meeting norms (ground rules) were reviewed and discussed. The committee was in consensus that the norms would be followed at future meetings.
- The Public Law regarding reorganization was reviewed by Mr. Kautz
- The question was posed of who would be responsible for the payment of legal advice to Planning Committees~the response was that the State does have some funding available for support of Regional Planning Committees (RPCs).
- There was discussion within the group regarding the budget process for continuing separate school districts (with RPCs still in planning stages) and for what the budget process would be if the RPC had been approved of which would then be considered a Regional School Unit (RSU).
- Cost sharing and cost shift was discussed as it pertains to different communities.
- The School Consolidation Timeline was reviewed and discussed. The December 1, 2007 deadline was discussed as it pertained to the RPC and the legality of when plans needed to be complete as to have communities considered an RSU for the coming school year of 2008.
- There was discussion of whether or not the RPC could submit their plan later than December 1, 2007 and still be able to go to referendum within their communities to be considered an RSU by the 2008 school year or would the RSU not take place until the 2009 school year. Mr. Kautz offered to clarify this notion with the State of Maine. There was also discussion of how these deadlines affected each community differently.
- The Reorganization Plan was introduced and reviewed.

- The consensus of the committee was to focus and respect the December 1, 2007 deadline to its fullest ability as they consider their work urgent within their respective communities.
- The committee agreed to meet as a whole group for the first 15 minutes of every meeting, break into sub-committees and then come back to meet together for the last 15 minutes.
- The committee agreed that meetings would take place on every Wednesday for the next three weeks from 7pm to 9pm and rotate meeting places between Freeport, Pownal and Durham. The dates of Oct. 10th at Pownal Elementary, Oct. 17th at Durham Elementary, and October 24th in Freeport were set.
- The committee also agreed to videotape the whole committee sections of the meetings for public viewing.
- Mr. Kautz asked for a consensus of how to voice opinions on topics (thumbs up, half-way up, or down). The committee agreed to use this option and also revisit discussion if there were more than two members who disagreed on the topic in question. If the committee could not come into agreement voting was discussed.
- The question of having uneven members within the different communities was discussed and the committee agreed that each community would have a total of 4 votes. If a community member was absent during a vote the consensus was that that member would support how the other members from their community voted.
- The committee discussed the election of Chair or Co-chairs and the agreement was that the committee would be steered by 3 Co-Chairs (1 from each community).
- The subcommittee structure was introduced and discussed. It was recommended that each community have representation on each sub-committee.
- A discussion of whether or not the public should participate in sub-committees took place and the consensus was that the public would have valuable input within the sub-committee structures. The RPC will determine how members of the public will be selected and appointed to subcommittees.
- The committee agreed as a whole to discuss among their community members where each member would best represent their community within the structure of the committees and elections for Co-Chairs would take place at the following meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted by S. Brewer 10-4-2007