



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

October 1, 2008

Cheryl Hoover, RPC Tri-Chair
661 Hudson Road
Glenburn, ME 04401

Dear Ms. Hoover,

Thank you for the Reorganization Plan that you submitted on behalf of the Glenburn, Orono, and Veazie School Departments on September 26, 2008 for Department review for compliance with the school reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX.

I recognize how much time, effort and thoughtful work is required to complete a reorganization plan and appreciate the efforts made, to date, by all those involved.

Members of my staff and I have reviewed the submission and offer the comments and notes listed below to assist you in completing the plan. If you make any substantive change(s) to any part of the plan beyond those listed below, please be sure to note those on the Updated Reorganization Plan Cover Sheet Checklist, along with notation of those items that have changed per the notes contained in this response.

General Documentation (Submittal Sheet)

- Please correct on page 2 of the Reorganization Plan Cover Sheet (checklist) the "Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible:" to 1,595, which reflects the October 1, 2006 student enrollment counts for Glenburn, Orono, and Veazie. The Department has been using the October 2006 counts since the inception of the reorganization law and you it is important to remain consistent with that.

Checklist/Plan Text Items

Items Checked "Complete"

With respect to the items you checked as "complete", please note the following:

** Required Elements*

4. Please correct the reference in Section 4.I. to local school committees, as these differ from school boards.

11. Please consider reviewing and adding language from the Drummond Woodsum workshop materials from June 2008 to this section, for a more complete description of the process. Also, any revisions to the plan would require Commissioner approval.

12. Each regional school unit's plan must provide an estimate of the cost savings to be achieved by the formation of a regional school unit and how these savings will be achieved in accordance with 20-A MRSA 1461(3)(A)(12) and in sufficient detail to provide clear direction for the new regional school unit. Please provide the information regarding estimated cost savings; and please consider using the guidance offered in the Drummond Woodsum workshop materials.

13-A. Please consider the implications this section may have on Section 12 (re: estimated cost savings). And include them in Section 12, if applicable.

We will review all items on the checklist again, upon your completion of the plan.

SUBMISSION OF REVISIONS:

Please provide the additional materials to complete your plan by Friday, November 14, 2008, to ensure that you meet referendum date requirements. Please include:

- Any additional data required
- An updated Submittal Page with Signatures
- An updated Cover Sheet Checklist
- A copy of this Response from the Commissioner.

I will respond no more than 14 days after the revisions/additional materials are refiled with the Department. As you are the contact person identified on the Submittal Sheet, this response is addressed to you but with the understanding that you will share it with your school administrative unit board members, RPC members and others involved with this Reorganization Plan.

Finally, what I am reviewing for approval is a plan (or a submission, if the plan is incomplete) which is by its very nature prospective, with steps yet to be taken or finalized; and any review comments or approval given are in relation to the elements required under P.L 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX but not the legality of all the activities proposed. Thus, I strongly recommend that you have your own legal advisor(s) review the details of any particular transaction proposed in your plan (particularly with respect to

the disposition of property, to debt, and to employee contracts/relations) as you proceed, to ensure the legality of the steps you'll be taking to implement the plan. If that review leads to any substantive changes in any parts of your plan, please be sure to submit an amended plan to the Department for our review and our file.

Again, my sincere thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan A. Gendron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan A. Gendron

cc: Doug Smith, Superintendent, Glenburn School Department
Kelly Clenchy, Superintendent, Orono/Veazie School Departments
Mary Jane McCalmon, Facilitator