

**REORGANIZATION REPORT
REORGANIZATION PLANNING COMMITTEE
REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #10
December 19, 2007**

The Reorganization Planning Committee for RSU #10 held its first meeting in August of 2007 to begin the planning process for nine towns in southwestern Hancock County. Through November the town of Surry met with two RPCs including the proposed RSU #10. Surry cast its lot with a combination of towns from the current School Union 92.

Subcommittees were formed and have been meeting to develop recommendations to the full RPC on the thirteen required components. Until recently the RPC had planned to present its reorganization proposal to the voters of each community in time for a referendum in June of 2008. This timeline is now in limbo as a result of the Commissioner's decision to deny the MDI reorganization plan, which our RPC is using as a model. As of its December 17, 2007 meeting, the RPC voted to suspend its work until the legislature tries a second time to decide on the rules for the consolidation process.

One significant and unresolved impediment to the formation of RSU #10 is secondary education. Six of the eight towns in the proposed RSU currently tuition high school students to area high schools. The majority of students from the six "school choice" towns attend the private secondary school George Stevens Academy in Blue Hill. The towns of Deer Isle and Stonington operate a public high school as part of a K-12 CSD.

In an RSU formed on the basis of the current law, the six towns (Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Castine, Sedgwick and Penobscot) that send few if any students to Deer Isle-Stonington High School would be able to control the budget and programs for DISHS. This is unacceptable to Deer Isle and Stonington. Furthermore none of these six towns has any interest in supporting the cost of DISHS as those towns fund secondary education entirely through tuition. One solution might be private and special legislation creating a 9-12 CSD under the umbrella of the RSU #10 administration separate from the K-8 RSU governance system.

The reorganization planning committee voted unanimously to include with this report a letter to Commissioner Gendron. This letter is included with the enclosed documents requested by the Department of Education.

School District

REPEAL

**TO: COMMISSIONER GENDRON
FROM: THE RSU #10 RPC
RE: LETTER OF CONCERN
DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2007**

Consolidation

Dear Commissioner Gendron;

Please be advised that at our December 17, 2007 RPC meeting that the RPC Members voted unanimously to attach this letter to our status report that was due December 1st, 2007.

- 1. It is the RSU #10 Regional Planning Committee's considered opinion that crafting a plan which requires either a loss of local control or cost shifting is pointless, because all of our communities would reject it by a lopsided margin. Consequently, we are attempting to create a structure which honors the intent of the law while minimizing its flaws.**
- 2. While there may be some savings through consolidation, any savings would be dwarfed by the added expenses caused by the law's requirement for district-wide contracts. The net result would be a more expensive system.**
- 3. Nothing in the law or the Department's guidelines actually addresses the issues involved in providing the educational services required by common sense and social conscience. Our RPC will continue to bear them in mind as we wait to see what, if any, modifications are made to the law.**

REORGANIZATION PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

(Each municipality in a School Union must be indicated separately.)

School Administrative Units Included in APPROVED Notice of Intent	School Administrative Units Submitting Reorganization Plan
BLUE HILL	BLUE HILL
BROOKLIN	BROOKLIN
BROOKSVILLE	BROOKSVILLE
CASTINE	CASTINE
DEER ISLE	DEER ISLE
PENOBSCOT	PENOBSCOT
SEDGWICK	SEDGWICK
STONINGTON	STONINGTON
SURRY	

Contact Information:

RPC Chair

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Date Plan Submitted: DECEMBER 2007

Proposed RSU Operational Date: JULY 1, 2009

Arthur Wittine, supt. Signature/Title	11.14.07 Date	Blue Hill SAU
Arthur Wittine, supt. Signature/Title	11.5.07 Date	Brooksville SAU
Arthur Wittine, supt. Signature/Title	11.7.07 Date	Castine SAU
Arthur Wittine, supt. Signature/Title	11.13.07 Date	Penobscot SAU
W. J. III Bd chair Signature/Title	12-4-07 Date	Deer Isle, Stonington - CS 013 SAU
Mary W. Cummins Signature/Title	12-10-07 Date	Brooklin SAU
Janet Anderson Chair Signature/Title	12-19-07 Date	Sedgwick SAU
Signature/Title	Date	SAU

Reorganization Plan Cover Sheet
(Please attach Reorganization Plan as Exhibit A)

Required Elements							
Law Reference Item Number Sub-Chapter 2	Item	N/A	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Identified Barrier ¹	Need Assistance ²
3.A(1)	SAUs included in RSU		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(2)	Size of governing body		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Composition of governing body		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Apportionment of governing body		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(3)	Method of voting of the governing body		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.A(4)	Composition of local school committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Powers of local school committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Duties of local school committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(5)	Disposition of real & personal school property		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(6)	Disposition of existing school indebtedness (if not using provisions of section 1506)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disposition of lease-purchase obligations (if not using provisions of section 1506)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(7)	Assignment of school personnel contracts		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Assignment of school collective bargaining agreements		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Assignment of other school contractual obligations		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(8)	Disposition of existing school funds and existing financial obligations		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(9)	Transition plan that addresses the development of a budget for the first school year		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Transition plan that addresses interim personnel policies		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(10)	Documentation of the public meeting(s) held to prepare or review reorganization plan		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(11)	Explanation of how units that approve reorganization plan will proceed if one or more units do not approve the plan		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(12)	Estimate of cost savings to be achieved		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.A(13)	Such other matters as the governing bodies of the school administrative units in existence on the effective date of this chapter may determine to be necessary		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

¹ Please explain why this is a barrier and what assistance you need to remove this barrier on the next page.

² Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on page 3.

Parameters for Plan Development							
Law Reference Item Number Sub-Chapter 2	Item	N/A	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Identified Barrier ³	Need Assistance ⁴
3.B(1)	Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception ⁵)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sec. XXXX-36, Parameter B	When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.B(2)	Comprehensive programming for all students grades K - 12.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Includes at least one publicly supported high school		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.B(3)	Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.B(4)	No displacement of teachers		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	No displacement of students		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sec. XXXX-26, Parameter F	The plan must address how the school administrative unit will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that the projected expenditures of the reorganized school unit in fiscal year 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program ⁶		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Agreements							
						Yes	No
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? (not required, but encouraged)						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Exceptions to 2,500 minimum

Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible: 1,341 ^{1,320}

Exception	Exception Claimed in Plan	Documentation Provided? (Please attach as Exhibit B)	
		Yes	No
Geography	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Demographics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Population Density	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Unique Circumstances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

³ Please explain why this is a barrier and what assistance you need to remove this barrier on the next page.

⁴ Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on page 3.

⁵ Please note in the *Exceptions to 2500 minimum* section on next page

⁶ This requirement is only for those who plan to be operational as an RSU in fiscal year 2008-2009, in accordance with a Reorganization Plan that is approved by the Commissioner and by the voters.

Explanation of Barriers –

Please use this section to explain any/all barriers identified on the previous page as a barrier in completing your Reorganization Plan.

Law Reference/Required Element	Explanation of the barrier
3.A(2)	The 2% rule requires an RSU Board that is too large. Private and special legislation may be needed to allow for a smaller governing body.
3.A(3)	Method of weighted voting would be the same as a school union.
3.A(7)	Negotiation of unified collective bargaining agreements will cost too much or will lead to labor strife.
3.A(12)	Cost shifting, minimum subsidy loss, and unified collective bargaining agreements will be far more expensive than any savings from fewer central offices.
3.A(13)	Must have a procedure for withdrawal from an RSU.
3.A(13)	Governance of public high school by majority of towns that do not send students.

Assistance Needs –

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

Law Reference/Required Element	Explanation of your assistance need	Assistance needed from whom?
3.A(2)	Legislation repealing requirement that no board member's weighted vote varies more than 2% from other board members.	Legislature
3.A(3)	Legislation allowing RSU proxy vote.	Legislature
3.A(7)	Unified collective bargaining is too expensive.	Unknown
3.A(12)	Remove cost shifting and minimum subsidy losses.	Legislature
3.A(13)	RSU withdrawal mechanism is required for trust in this process.	Legislature
3.A(13)	Deer Isle-Stonington needs a 9-12 CSD through private and special legislation similar to MDI.	Legislature