

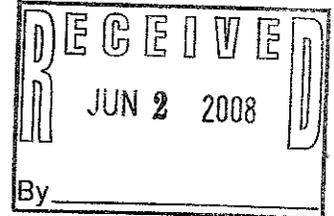
BRADFORD  
CORINTH  
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STETSON

## MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT No. 64

Office Phone 207-285-3334  
Fax 207-285-4343  
E-Mail: [suptoffice64@sad64.k12.me.us](mailto:suptoffice64@sad64.k12.me.us)

P.O. Box 279  
408 Main Street  
Corinth, Maine 04427

May 29, 2008



Mrs. Susan Gendron, Commissioner of Education  
Maine Department of Education  
23 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0023

Dear Commissioner Gendron:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 2008. Our RPC and Board of Directors are appreciative of the work of your team and prepared to resume their efforts to demonstrate due diligence in complying with the requirements of the reorganization law.

At the suggestion of Norm Higgins, I am writing to request that M.S.A.D. No. 64 be permitted to submit our Alternative Plan Submittal Sheet, Alternative Plan Cover Sheet (checklist), and Alternative Plan by June 30, 2008 rather than by June 13, 2008 as directed in your letter. The following paragraphs illustrate the rationale for the request.

The process our RPC and Board of Directors have followed in complying with the requirements of the reorganization law has been consistent. For the Notice of Intent filing, decisions made during joint RPC meetings with potential partners, the decision to file an Alternative Plan, and the submission of the February 1 and March 28 progress reports, the process has included a formal RPC recommendation to the Board of Directors and formal Board action authorizing the Superintendent to submit said reports. The process has worked very well and ensured that direct participation by both groups

To ensure that the same process is used to file the next iteration of our Alternative Plan by June 13, 2008, I will need to convene a meeting of our RPC to review, approve, and make a formal recommendation to the Board and convene a Special Meeting of our Board to obtain formal authorization to submit the plan. While not an impossible task, several factors make this difficult to accomplish by the 13<sup>th</sup>.

- The regular schedule of end-of-year school-related activities presents challenges to finding suitable dates to arrange meetings when a quorum can be achieved as both RPC and Board members are involved in many activities.
- In addition to regularly scheduled activities, our budget approval process further complicates the schedule. Our annual District Budget Meeting is scheduled for June 5 and our Budget Validation Referendum for June 10.
- As indicated in our March 28 submission, in light of legislative activity surrounding the reorganization law, our RPC and members of our Board have been engaged in an on-going review of education in M.S.A.D. No. 64 and discussion of the future of education in our District in lieu of pursuing work on our Alternative Plan. That process has included several evening meetings including conducting community forums in each of our five towns. While the process has been rewarding, it has added to the time requirements for many of our members.

As our Board of Directors conducts their regular monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month, a June 30 submission date would allow the opportunity to arrange the necessary meetings with fewer potential schedule conflicts and not impose an additional burden on our citizens who graciously and dutifully committed their time and energy to this process.

I appreciate your consideration of my request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Higgins", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel A. Higgins  
M.S.A.D. No. 64 Superintendent of Schools