

**Joint Meeting Minutes
Union #106, Union #104, and Lubec Consolidated
Thursday, April 8, 2010
6:00 p.m.**

A joint meeting was held between Union #106, Union #104, and M.S.A.D. 19/Lubec on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at Shead High School. In attendance were: Eastport: Shannon Emery, Meg McGarvey, William Bradbury, Mark DeSantis; Perry: Denise Harris, Eileen Curry, Ivy Turner, Traci Jamieson, Ariane Murray; Charlotte: Janet Moholland, Herbert Clark, Krista Vining; Alexander: Jan Sullivan, Patsy Hill, Rosa Subialdea, Steven Knowles; Lubec: Stephanie Page, Russell Wright, Barbara Sellitto, Charlotta Farmer, Sonja Bailey; Dennysville: Susan Corey, Howard McFadden; Pembroke: Katie Evans; Robbinston: Don Reynolds, Tom Critchley; Baring: Bob Olsson, Jack Fortier; Crawford: Esther Tozier, Sherry Rousell, Calais: Bill Cody, Michael Chadwick, Morgan Sherrard, Debbie Ames, Superintendent Brian Carpenter, Superintendent James Underwood, and Superintendent Terry Lux.

Stephen Knowles Chairman of Union #106 and Eileen Curry Chairman of Union #104 called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. Stephen Knowles explained that the intention of the meeting was to attempt to begin the process of putting together a Plan for an Alternative Organization Structure (A.O.S.)

Introductions were made of each committee member present along with a statement of which town they represented. Stephen Knowles then turned the meeting over to Superintendent James Underwood.

Jim Underwood spoke briefly about moving forward with the law signed April 1, 2010. He stated that documentation to aid in the development of an A.O.S., requirements of the plan, timeline, samples of four approved plans from Machias Bay, Central Lincoln, Dexter and Ft. Kent were available for all members to review.

One of the requirements being a vote being taken by each individual board at an individual school committee meeting of each school committee to agree to partner and submit a notice of intent to move forward must be signed and sent to the Commissioner of Education.

Terry Lux, Superintendent of Union #104 took the microphone and discussed the differences of an A.O.S. before the new law and an A.O.S. with the new changes in the law. She said that with the newest version the forming of an A.O.S. is possible and doable. The new law required that the Central Offices be combined and any line items that run through the Administration Services, as well as money saving plans through interlocal agreements for any services that can be combined within the A.O.S.

An Regional Planning Committee needs to be formed to write the plan for the A.O.S. which must consist of one board member from each town as well as an alternate, one town or city official and one member at large from the town or city.

The meeting moved right along and Item #2 of the Agenda was discussion with questions and answers between the board members and Superintendents.

Shannon Emery of Eastport school committee asked what the A.O.S. board would be responsible for doing.

Superintendent Underwood stated the the A.O.S. would do similar tasks of the present Union board with additional responsibilities in the areas of Curriculum, Assessment, Transportation and the Office of Special Education Director, and that the Regional Planning Committee will have the responsibility of making the decision as to how the members for the A.O.S. are chosen.

William Bradbur, Eastport School Committee asked why Lubec was being left out of the conversations like they were not present. Superintendent Underwood apologized to the Lubec Committee members and their Superintendent Brian Carpenter and stated that Lubec also needed to partner and if they chose to partner with us that he was in favor of it as he was sure all those present would be.

Barbara Sellitto, Lubec School Committee asked about weighted voting. Superintendent Underwood explained how weighted voting works.

William Bradbury, Eastport, questioned if weighted voting was figured on the population of the town or city or student population and asked if the student population was available. Superintendent Underwood stated that the R.P.C. would be the group that decided how the voting would be figured and that the populations were available and he distributed the current student populations.

Superintendent Underwood stated that the A.O.S. will make decisions on Curriculum and that a K-12 uniform curriculum is a requirement of an A.O.S. structure. Responsibilities of the A.O.S. Committee would be fiscal, curriculum, transportation and Special Education.

Michael Chadwick, Calais School Committee, asked how the Central Office will save money and who gets to be the Superintendent.

Superintendent Underwood said the penalty would be avoided, there would be one Central Office, one Superintendent, and that there would be savings, but the amount of savings has not yet been determined.

Krista Vining Rep. Charlotte wanted to know which town would keep the Central Office, who will maintain their jobs and who will not.

Superintendent Underwood stated that the R.P.C. will write into the plan the strategies for the A.O.S. to follow in regards to staff. Superintendent Underwood explained in other plans there is some a transitional period.

Susan Corey, Dennysville School Committee, asked about State Facilitators. She stated that the first go round with the attempt to form a Regional School Unit which was voted down by all towns was led by a State Facilitator. Susan questioned if we are now on our own to figure out an A.O.S.?

Superintendent Lux answered the question by stating that we are on our own basically with guidance from the staff within the Commissioner of Education's Office.

Meg McGarvey, Eastport School Committee, asked if towns could get out of this plan if they were not pleased with the way things were going.

Superintendent Lux stated that there is an escape route after one year in, but that the town has two years to find another group to partner with or the penalties will begin again.

Krista Vining Rep. Charlotte asked if Union #107 had said no to partnering with us.

Superintendent Lux and Superintendent Underwood both said that after a meeting with representatives from the Department of Education it seemed apparent that it would be impossible to form an A.O.S. with such a great distance between the partners. There are no problems or hard feelings but it made more sense to them to try to go north.

Stephen Knowles Chairman Union #106 called for a five minute recess to discuss whether or not the individual boards wish to partner and to vote on whether or not to sign the Notice of Intent.

Break over –

Stephen Knowles Chairman Union #106 asked for the Board Chairs of each town to announce their vote. The following were the results regarding the motion and vote taken to file the Notice of Intent to Submit a Reorganization Plan and to include as partners, all School Committees' SAU's that vote tonight to file the Notice of Intent.

Alexander – Jan Sullivan	4 yes 0 no – motion passed
Dennysville – Susan Corey	2 yes 0 no – motion passed
Crawford – Esther Tozier	2 yes 0 no – motion passed
Charlotte – Herbert Clark	3 yes 0 no – motion passed
Baring – Robert Olsson	2 yes 0 no – motion passed
Robbinston – Don Reynolds	2 yes 0 no – motion passed
Calais – Morgan Sherrard	4 yes 0 no – motion passed
Lubec – Russell Wright	5 yes 0 no – motion passed
Perry – Eileen Curry	5 yes 0 no – motion passed
Eastport – Shannon Emery	4 yes 0 no – motion passed
Pembroke – Katie Evans	Did not have a quorum

Superintendent Underwood told Katie Evans (Pembroke) that a special meeting could be held to vote, but it would have to be very soon in order to keep in line with the timeline. He stated that the RPC must meet next week to work on the plan.

Terry Lux explained that this is just the beginning, even with the RPC writing the plan for the A.O.S. The towns will still have the last say with a referendum vote as to whether or not they want to reorganize.

Janet Moholland, Charlotte School Committee, asked how they pick the town member and Superintendent Underwood said that would be up to the Charlotte School Committee.

Timelines were discussed and RPC meetings were set up for April 13th, 14th, 15th at Shead High School at 6:00 p.m. to begin the process of writing the plan.

Don Reynolds Rep. Robbinston moved to adjourn and Tom Critchley Rep. Robbinston seconded the motion, unanimous vote and the meeting/meetings adjourned at 8:00 p.m.