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Additional Information Available:

Contact your Regional Planning Committee representative or call your town office.

Please see www.kidsrsu.org for your Regional Planning Committee representatives contact information

JUNE 10th – Referendum vote on Consolidation / Regionalization

Regional School Planning Update



Kennebec Intra District Schools – A regional school unit formed in compliance with L.D. 499 (school consolidation), made up of Dresden, Farmingdale, Hallowell, Monmouth and Richmond schools. This legislation requires educational cost cuts (50% of administrative costs, 5% of transportation, 5% of Special Ed and 5% of building maintenance and grounds). These schools were selected because we share a common educational philosophy and allows us to retain local control without any one community dominating the group and ensures that our community schools will remain open.

What's happening now?

A Regional Planning Committee (RPC) made up of an elected official, a school board member and a community representative from each of the five towns is regularly meeting to develop the framework for consolidation.

Sub-committees (Governance, Finance, Publicity and Buildings and Grounds) are actively reviewing various aspects and details of consolidation.

Recommendations from these sub-committees will be submitted as a formal consolidation plan to the Department of Education (DOE) and will be used as a starting point by the new Regional School Unit (RSU) elected governing body. This plan must be approved by town voters.

How will we be represented?

Each community will elect local representatives to the RSU Board of Directors, based on community population. There will be three representatives each from Monmouth and Richmond and two each from Dresden, Farmingdale and Hallowell.

What are the potential benefits?

The members of the RPC are very excited about the possibility of increased academic offerings, such as additional foreign languages, fine arts offerings such as jazz band, the ability to utilize programs that may currently only be available at one of the schools (e.g. autism program for pre-schoolers) and the potential for increased athletic opportunities such as wrestling or swimming, which need larger numbers of students to sustain.

What about existing sports?

Current sports, such as soccer, basketball and baseball will continue as they are today, with teams at each high school, under the auspices of the Maine Principals Association.

What will happen if we don't do this?

The legislation specifies penalties for non-compliance

- Loss of a % of state funding for education for each town
- Loss of future state building aid for school construction/renovation

How can I stay informed?

All RPC meetings are open to the public. The schedule for all meetings, including sub-committee meetings, is posted on our website:

www.kidsrsu.org

In addition, the website contains links to all meeting minutes and information on legislative changes related to school construction.

Mark your calendars!

There are/have been public forums held/planned in each community, as follows:

Monmouth – December 14th, Monmouth High School

Dresden – January 16th, Dresden Elementary School

Richmond – March 12th, Richmond High School

Farmingdale and Hallowell – April 9th, Hall-Dale High School Theater