

**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
December 6, 2007**

Jim Morse, Superintendent of Schools for MSAD 47, called the meeting of the Regional Planning Committee to order at 5:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Vassalboro Community School in Vassalboro. He officially welcomed Hugh Riordan, newly appointed Superintendent of Schools for School Union 52. Dr. Morse noted that he and Eric Haley will co-host the meeting this evening to assist Mr. Riordan during the transition period.

Those in Attendance: Maryanne Bernier, Lee Cabana, Charley Clark, Robin Colby, Judy Coombs, Don Dufour, Elwood Ellis, Doug Eugley, Ralph Farnham, Jr., Lori Fowle, Jeffrey Frost, Monique Gilbert, Eric Haley, Melanie Jewell, James Jurdak, Linda Laughlin, Mike McQuarrie, James C. Morse, Sr., Nora Murray, Wendy Nivison, Constance Packard, Shelley Phillips, Paula Pooler, Don Poulin, Hugh Riordan, Debrajean Scheibel, Joel Selwood, Gary Smith, Phil St. Onge, Jack Sutton, Peter Thiboutot, Michael Thurston, Lauchlin Titus, Michael Tracy, David Trask, and Pam Trinward

Dr. Morse noted that not many subcommittee meetings occurred since the last Regional Planning Committee (RPC) meeting held on November 15, 2007. In terms of an Information/Communications Committee, that issue will be addressed in January. Dr. Morse reviewed conversations with Senator Mitchell regarding the expectation that the Department of the Executive Branch will amend the financing aspect of the consolidation law as quickly as possible. They are committed to that endeavor. If they stick to one size fits all then many of the consolidation efforts may shut down. In fact, many consolidation efforts have not yet got off the ground. The RPC recognizes that shifting debt to communities is a problem, but the way the law is written now there is no flexibility. What the Legislature wants to do is address the financial component of the law immediately. The Department will submit a bill to update the consolidation law in the upcoming Legislature. Once that law changes, when the RPC reconvenes, it will reopen decisions made in the fall and early part of November in terms of where the RPC thought it could be.

The other piece that is an issue is the repeal effort. If enough signatures are collected, they will be presented to the Attorney General's office by the second week of January. Then the repeal effort is on. Once that happens, the Legislature has several courses of action. One would be to accept language as presented and pass it. A second option would be to create a competing measure and have a choice for the voters with repeal effort with signatures as written and alternatives for the voters to consider. If enough signatures are collected, then there will be a push for the vote for the repeal effort in June so that school districts will then know as early as possible whether the law will be sustained or repealed. These are two major issues that will impact all of the discussions.

The RPC will now review subcommittee reports, with the understanding that there will not be many reports. Then it will break down into subcommittees to create a to do work list. Dr. Morse suggested that the Governance Subcommittee spearhead work regarding the Information/Communications Committee.

Laughlin Titus shared the reality in trying to communicate with the *Central Maine Morning Sentinel*. When the RPC last met, all agreed that Mr. Titus would draft a statement regarding the work of the RPC to date, send it to Eric Haley and Jim Morse for review, and then submit it to the *Sentinel*. This would be some conceptual piece to present to the paper. In his piece Mr. Titus addressed the required elements of the reorganization plan, including those pieces that are complete, in progress, and yet to be addressed. He also included what the RPC had listed as barriers. He then sent it to the paper for review. After multiple phone calls, someone from the *Sentinel* finally returned his call to let him know that the piece was too long. He presented an option of breaking the piece down into segments. The last response he received was that the *Sentinel* is not necessarily interested in doing this piece. He suggested that after tonight some members of the RPC may want to sit down with the *Sentinel* editorial board to let them know what is going on regarding consolidation efforts.

Eric Haley noted that he did not think that that was all bad. Much work has been done. The *Sentinel* is not covering this at all. Perhaps the RPC can get them to agree that every Friday there would be a guest editorial, for example, talk about governance in one piece and merging contracts in another, etc. The RPC may be able to do something, but it may take time to help with this.

Mr. Haley noted that at the last meeting he distributed a survey entitled, "Survey of RPC Members," from Walt Harris, Director of the Center for Research and Evaluation, at UMO. He asked if there was anyone on the Committee who did not receive that survey. The survey must be submitted by December 7. Basically, the survey queries RPC members about the consolidation process.

Jeff Frost noted that there was an interesting meeting with all technology people from all school systems. One of the conclusions was to share resources. That was a theme. The technology staffs were interested in what others had. They could share resources, for example, a moodle server. School systems are using moodle servers to develop courses. School systems could also share the training required. Another item discussed was that even if school systems don't consolidate, the tech staff would like to get together to review what others have. Also discussed was what the needs would be if districts did consolidate. Districts could consolidate staff in the technology area and, hopefully, growth would be minimized by collaboration and consolidation. The recommendation was that the RSU IT Departments come together to provide services. This would help find areas that could be shared.

Joel Selwood noted that the sharing of hardware and resources was a common theme. That was interesting given the number of IT people at the meeting. Discussed were opportunities that might arise from consolidated services, such as interconnection between the schools and what it might allow, as far as sharing classrooms and teachers. Where can we go with all opportunities that are now being used? It would provide for additional educational opportunities. At outlying schools there is no opportunity to take a class within walking distance. But students might be able to take a class via technology. Shared professional development and training will be an on-going effort.

Jeff Frost noted that money also could be saved in software licensing agreements. Even if our districts don't consolidate, some technology efforts could be regionalized.

Joel Selwood noted that there would be some up front costs in centralizing some of the services to have better collaboration and efficiencies. Up front savings are questionable. But the growth of IT is going forth.

Jim Morse noted that both MSAD 47 IT assistants came to see him since that meeting. They told him that he should have come to that meeting. "It was so cool." David Trask took out his computer. Size matters in technology. The smaller, the better. Will from Waterville and Rick from Messalonskee said, "Oh, man, this is so cool." It was like watching kids in a candy store. They fed off each other. This goes to show the energy of technology in our districts.

The meeting turned to Subcommittee reports.

Gary Smith noted that a couple of issues have arisen, and the state, through a revolving renovation fund program, has opened up priority funds. China has authorized the submission of an application for an air quality project in the middle school. Vassalboro has authorized the submission of an application for replacement windows. Applications are due next Friday. They won't know until March if funding is received. As these projects move forward, it is recommended that the RPC add these items to the debt that is already on the books.

The second request is for an RFP for energy programs. China and Vassalboro would use Siemens, and Winslow would be through Honeywell. Since the September meeting they have come forth and we now have proposals for them. These projects are attractive in that they pay for themselves in energy savings. The message from the town of Winslow is if this is a debt that would not be assumed by the RSU, then the town council would not approve it. Winslow's cost is \$700,000. Programs are attractive because Honeywell and Siemens guarantee that the programs will basically pay for themselves. The request from the communities of China, Vassalboro and Winslow is that these projects be included as part of the debt that was approved by the RPC back in September.

Doug Eugley noted that the RPC is looking for two things: Revolving Renovation Fund for \$1 million and just over \$1 million for a 12-year debt, which would be paid for through savings.

Eric Haley said he thinks there was some concern about the RPC not having a date of when it would accept local debt. He said he doesn't think our school systems are saying the RSU would assume local debt for these projects. He would hate to see a possible project get held up and not succeed because the RPC really doesn't have that authority. He said he would be very comfortable in saying the RPC would accept the local debt.

Jim Morse noted that these types of bondings are very common. Honeywell would honor its commitment that it's a guaranteed payback. He said he would concur with Eric Haley. What the RPC decided was that this Committee would have veto over what each independent school system would do, but would be informed of what they are doing during discussions. In SAD 47

we have chosen not to pursue this particular RRF at this time because the amount of money would be miniscule in terms of funding.

Eric Haley noted that there is another source of funding through QZAB (Qualified Zone Academy Bonds). Districts qualify for large projects through free and reduced lunch counts. Funding is available for 1.5%. We were notified just last week that there is \$769,000 available in funds from the state of Maine. It is an opportunity that we need to take and submit an application. He said he doesn't think we want to operate worrying we have to get approval from a committee. It would be the decision of each individual board.

Dr. Morse asked if he perceives this as an item the RPC would vote on or is the RPC accepting the report.

Pam Trinward noted she appreciates it, but she doesn't think the RPC needs to vote on this.

Gary Smith said there is much discussion about the assumption of local debt. He noted that if the proposed RSU were not in favor of this, it probably would not be approved in Winslow.

Pam Trinward noted that if the RPC were taking a school, then it would assume the liability of the improvement costs.

Gary Smith said he brought this to the group, and they understand it.

Jim Morse asked if there is anybody who takes a strong stance in what Pam Trinward, Eric Haley and he have articulated.

Eric Haley noted that there is a movement to repeal the consolidation law. At first most people did not give it much thought, that it wouldn't receive the 55,287 signatures that it needs. He said he thinks it will get the signatures it needs, and said that once signatures are in, no legislative bills can be brought until after the referendum. Mr. Haley said the RPC should wait to see if the law does get repealed. He asked, "How many of us would still want to be sitting here in our heart of hearts if we weren't mandated to do it by the state? How many believe in consolidation as the way to go, as opposed to looking at the concept of a service center, such as technology, bussing, central office, where business of the schools is done like Mid-Maine Technical Center as a collaborative?"

Jim Morse said the RPC has established incredible work. We don't want that work to go by the wayside.

Eric Haley said he is very leery of the cost shifting issue that is going on at the state, and noted he met with Libby Mitchell regarding that issue. There are many good things that can be done academically. We all want to see the same things for our kids. We need to know where the savings are, for example, having one bus garage, one technology center, and one accounts payable office – all those pieces that are redundant. Mr. Haley said he has heard from people in different communities trying to get a feel for where this group is. If repeal is successful, the RPC may want to discuss a service center concept.

Jim Morse asked what would happen over the next five years if our original vision were not to consolidate but to regionalize. If the required signatures are gathered he thinks there is a high likelihood that the law will be repealed. Senator Mitchell and Representative Trinward serve on our Committee. They can see where the savings are. He said he agrees with Eric Haley that the RPC should move toward a service center. The education service center is a winning idea. It was a competing conversation in the last session. Unfortunately it wasn't given the time it deserved. As we get into January and see signatures are gathered, he said he would be in support that the RPC continues its discussion but change the focus from merged governance to merged services.

Jack Sutton said he would like to support that concept. He said he has been receiving calls from people in Belgrade asking what he thinks about the consolidation process. From what he has seen and heard he said he could tell them that he sees a potential for added costs of \$900,000 in salaries and \$650,000 in health insurance. He said he hasn't yet seen this Committee address the question of administrative segment – who stays and where the savings are. He said that right now he has to tell people that he is against it. He said that if there is a way to get real savings candidly without the school consolidation process, let's go for it.

Phil St. Onge said that this is the piece that is missing. The voters could get enough signatures to repeal the law. He said that this law could be repealed in this room by our boards, by our voters. He said that the chances of passing through each school board are almost nil.

Pam Trinward noted that if the voters turn it down, every one of our school systems would receive a substantial penalty. The Governor is looking for that.

Phil St. Onge said that our Districts would save money for something like a service center that Eric Haley talked about.

Eric Haley said that if the law does not get repealed, if asked, he would tell people that it would cost more. We will cut through administration. That will be a hard one to save. But he said he thinks there is a way if the law does not get repealed. School Union 52 will be disbanded but could become an RSU with 3,000 students. Messalonskee High school has 2,500 students. He said that both Union 52 and Messalonskee could go alone. Then we could come together as a service center.

Melanie Jewell noted that these school systems have already been looking at consolidating many of their services. She said that members of the RPC might not all think that school regionalization is the way to go, but consolidation of services and cost savings, bringing everyone up to the same levels makes sense.

Eric Haley asked if all would be interested in looking at a service center concept to save money.

Hugh Riordan asked if there is an estimate ballpark figure.

Judy Coombs asked if the service center would have one superintendent.

Jim Morse said that governance would not be merged. The service center idea would maintain the integrity of the school districts as they are now. The districts could voluntarily merge transportation, special education, nutrition, etc.

Eric Haley said there is actually no savings in superintendents' salaries. There is a lot of belief that if the positions of superintendents are eliminated, the state will save \$36 million. The law says that school boards have to honor superintendents' contracts.

Phil St. Onge asked if superintendents could be reassigned.

Eric Haley noted that superintendents could be reassigned. He said that the public is being misled when it is said that school districts will save on the superintendents' salaries. He said he thinks there will be much anger. He thinks they are setting us up for a big downfall. He doesn't see savings happening immediately, but perhaps over the next ten years.

Judy Coombs asked if it would be a priority to try to equalize teachers' salaries.

Jim Morse said that teacher contracts would not be merged to a service center. School districts would be in the same situation in which they are now.

Judy Coombs said that she is looking at over five to ten years as some money becomes available; it seems to her to be ironic that there are teachers in the whole region who are all doing the same job and, in some cases, with a \$5,000 difference in contracts.

Eric Haley said they know that. The market will change. Our Board thinks a lot of our teachers, and we don't want to lose them.

Judy Coombs said it would be nice if the Kennebec region were more equalized.

Don Dufour said he knows the city council can't give 1.5 mil. They will not be able to keep that pace. He said there needs to be better ways of being more effective or, schools will not be able to offer programming that the children need.

Jim Morse noted that the unspoken piece is the funding formula for the state, which actually gets capped in 2009-10. Every one of our school systems will be struggling to survive because we are chasing a financial cliff, as we have not before. The loss of state funding cannot be transferred to the local communities. That can't make up for state dollars. He said that the feeling he has in his heart is if this effort collapses and we reach 2009-10 with no plan, we will all be laying off loads of people. The smart move if the consolidation law is repealed, would be to move from governance consolidation to regionalized service centers because that is what will help us survive 2009-10 and beyond.

Jack Sutton asked about the work that has been done and how much it would take to make a first approximate estimate of what is financially sound and what the savings would be without going through months and months of work to come up with a first approximation estimate of the budget.

Judy Coombs noted that some of those have already happened. Food service has already consolidated.

Eric Haley said he spoke with Connie Brown, Superintendent of Schools for the Augusta Public Schools, and Dean Baker, Superintendent of Schools for MSAD 49, to see if they would be interested in sharing a service center. Why don't we do it by county? Do you really want to collapse school systems and save money to have a system in place now called county government?

Doug Eugley said that he knows his county services are going up.

Eric Haley asked if a service center were built, with a bus garage, a technology center with all the specialties, how long it would take to put together a proposal. Is Waterville willing to participate? Is Augusta willing to participate? He noted that there are some service centers in Pennsylvania, which he would like to visit.

Jim Morse stated that New York does it, and Pennsylvania does it.

Ralph Farnham, Jr. said that there would still have to be money – the end capital. When you talk about service center, you regionalize.

Eric Haley said that we would not regionalize and say it will cost anything more. He said Jim Morse is right in saying that he doesn't think any of our communities will give us any more. He said he thinks the savings will be in lower escalating costs, not necessarily money back in our pockets. Maybe we are only going up 2% a year. It might not be that we get a tax reduction. When consolidation is done 1.8 mil will immediately drop to 1.4, and that is not the reality from what he has seen.

Nora Murray stated that one of the issues we would have without the consolidation law is efficiency in dealing with staff and contracts. We would not have that with a service center as far as handling payroll benefits. You would have to have the amount of staff within the service center to deal with that issue. A service center would not be efficient in bringing contracts together.

Pam Trinward said that if there are really good people, it is all computerized. She noted that their payroll people don't read the contract; they just set it up.

Eric Haley said he would agree with Pam. How many people would you have full-time in payroll? In a service center, how many people would we need to handle five contracts? You would not have as many computers. Would you have more than a typical Central Office?

Jim Morse noted that the original Plan A was what Eric Haley articulated. What he thinks is happening tonight is there needs to be a plan B because we may still be facing a financial crisis in 18 months. The work that the RPC has done to date isn't for not if we decide to push this forward should the consolidation bill be repealed by the voters. We have to be working diligently on Plan A and still be working on Plan B regionalizing should Plan A be pulled from us by the voters. We will know in the first month of the New Year where repeal is, and we can continue forward, with Pam and Libby's support to have a bill and a legislative solution.

Phil St. Onge said he thinks there is a new plan just listening to what people have said. He thinks that everybody in this room is saying this is a good idea. We have something we agree on. What will the state do if the RPC has done due diligence for savings? They will say great.

Eric Haley said they could not stop School Union 52 from going on their own because they have 3,000 students. He said they couldn't stop Messalonskee because they have 2,500 students.

Phil St. Onge asked why the RPC was waiting. He asked what the hold up was.

Lori Fowle said that for Waterville to be a donut hole, the other districts have to state that they don't want to partner with Waterville. That is her understanding of a donut hole. If they break away, then it will be seen as a donut hole.

Eric Haley said it is going to take the right kind of wording.

Laughlin Titus said that for Vassalboro each of those options is inadequate. It would cost Vassalboro money if it gets into shared debt. When all aspects suggest financially that one of those lousy options is best, with the option of choice if Vassalboro were with the big group there would be more choice. As a Vassalboro public representative he said he is advocating for the big picture. He said the RPC needs to continue with what they are doing now until June. If the signatures come in then the RPC needs to look at contingencies of a service center as a viable option for the citizens. We need this option, and he said he advocates for the third option—one office, when we have done due diligence.

Doug Eugley said that based on Vassalboro's financial picture, he heard say that if the RSU came up with a funding model that could be presented to the DOE, it might be the same funding as is now. What kind of savings could we have with central service area, and what would central services be? He said he thinks it behooves the RPC to try to figure out what that would be as soon as possible. At this point he said he is having a hard time not believing that this is the right way to go.

Judy Coombs said that as she recalls there is a section of the law that says that prior agreements might still exist after the consolidation. What is to stop us from drawing up agreements before the actual vote, and then those would be in place? Are we locked into waiting to see if the law is repealed, or can there be a way to look at a way of extending what we already have?

Eric Haley said the RPC doesn't have to wait. It could say right now it doesn't believe in the savings. We think the state would accept that.

Judy Coombs said there is a section in the law that says that will be honored.

Jim Morse said that the RPC could form agreements like towns do and have contractual agreements. The RPC can say it wants to create a transportation center. It is possible.

Eric Haley said the issue is whether that is what goes on now. For example, Waterville has a contract with Messalonskee to service Waterville buses. Without having a service center, districts have to include those costs in their budgets and invoice other school systems. He said he thinks the best way is for it to become its own entity. Districts could pick and choose what services for participation in the service center.

Judy Coombs said that if there are 18 months before the vote, then those agreements could be formed before hand. That section of the law looks like to be an area that could be played out.

Joel Selwood said that with EPS funding for 2009-10, how it is being presented in the public by many people is as the be all end all of what education is supposed to be. The state has determined that. Maybe it is a financial model but that is not how it is being presented to the public. The state keeps changing the denominator to the equation. Whether this goes forward or not, he said he thinks the districts involved in this RPC have learned a lot about each other, and we will definitely continue to go forth. Costs have increased in fuel, etc. There will be financial challenges. We have made a lot of inroads in collaboration. Under due diligence this RPC obviously has to keep going. He said he doesn't see this RPC giving up this early in the process. He asked what would happen if any individual town votes down consolidation. What will we do? There was discussion of Union 52 becoming an RSU.

Eric Haley said that if China and/or Vassalboro or one partners with Waterville there would be 2,500 students, enough for one district. If one of those towns partners with Winslow there would be 2,500 students, enough for another district. Messalonskee is already above 2,500 students.

Charley Clark said that China and Vassalboro have some major marriage counseling that needs to be done. During this whole consolidation process there has been a lot of negativity that has come out of the school union. Whether the marriage counseling would work to put it back together, he doesn't know. He said that China may not necessarily partner with School Union 52 knowing what they know, but the school district would have to take all of China's students. He said the statement he would like to make is that the RPC is a bit premature in trying to can this to begin with. Plan B is always there. That is where Waterville as a board needs to work. Messalonskee as a board needs to work. China, Vassalboro and Winslow as individual boards need to work. The RPC must stay focused until it knows what will be.

Elwood Ellis said he is happy to find something to be positive about going into the Christmas season. He said he thinks this will work very well because this service center will be part of the money saving. It is part of the system, and it should be.

Eric Haley said the work the RPC is doing would play into that work. If you fully consolidate then you are your own service center.

Elwood Ellis said we can figure out what it will save us, and then we can answer Jack Sutton's question. The biggest thing, he said, is that he is still on a high from the future search meetings. He was encouraged by the attitude of this group that no matter what happens in Augusta there are still some things that can be done for our kids.

Eric Haley said that when comparing Maine education to the region, we do put a lot of our money into education of our children.

Joel Selwood said that on the EPS there is only so much state money, even though the law says 55%, the state would keep changing the denominators. Boards have made decisions on what is essential for their towns. Some towns have not had to support a high school but only through tuition. He said he thinks the RPC needs to be very careful in moving forward in how we are thinking now and what happens in January in terms of cost sharing. It will need to be decided as a whole what our EPS is for our districts. We are not all coming from the same belief and offering the same services. We don't have the same services and costs reflected. It is not in our hands right now but may be in January. Debt service is just a small piece of it.

Lori Fowle said that one concern regarding the regional service center right now is that we are thinking the number of administrators will be reduced. In moving forward with possibility of having a regional service center, we are now looking at three administrative units and maybe an additional one. It may be hard to move forward. How do we move from the three that we are into another one? If you will consolidate, why won't you have a service center in this consolidation?

Eric Haley said that consolidation is a service center because it will be brought into one office. He said that as he looks at this, he is seeing the emotional issue of local control school boards.

Lori Fowle said that in Vassalboro it would come down to costs. If there are savings in cost centers, why are we not looking at that?

Eric Haley said that having a service center does not mean that teachers or insurance have to be equalized. He said that that is where he thinks there will actually be savings. He said his heart is looking at a service center where we can show some savings, and he thinks can happen. He said he believes this group has done some good work. We appreciate what is going on in each other's systems. We have done it in a professional and respectful manner. He said he believes a service center is where we can actually make some savings. He apologized for having side tracked the agenda.

Lori Fowle said she agrees with this and she thinks it can be blended.

Pam Trinward said 80% of everyone's school budgets is in contracts. To equalize contracts it will cost \$1 million plus. The cost of consolidation is in contracts. So, if there were a regional service center there would not be those costs.

Melanie Jewell said she thinks the reason why we have not done that early on is when we went through the letter of the law and what had to be done and what our charge was, consolidation of regional services was not part of the charge. We can talk about it, but up until this point the focus has not been about this because we had to deal with personnel, transition, finance, governance. That is why we have not gone into that direction. It certainly is a step off chart from here because this foundation has been laid nicely from all these subcommittees. We had to put all these other pieces together first.

Jack Sutton said he thinks we are missing a piece of the dollar amount of administrative savings there are in consolidation. If there are not savings administratively let us put it on paper and balance it out and show the public and everyone else what the bottom line effects will be.

Jim Morse said that there is a solid foundation for January if we are forced to consolidate. But if law is repealed we can go to a service center. He said he thinks that is exactly how we should move this agenda forward. If we have flexibility of law, then we move forward.

Doug Eugley said that certainly it seems this is something the RPC should be working on now. The RPC must find cost savings.

Jim Morse noted that he doesn't think that Mr. Haley should have apologized for bringing up this discussion.

Laughlin Titus said that there has been no discussion regarding privatization, noting that someone out there in the private sector, for example, might want to do payroll.

Doug Eugley made a motion, and Phil St. Onge seconded the motion, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2007 meeting as printed. Motion carried.

At this time Jim Morse asked if there were any questions from the audience.

James Jurdak noted that he has been participating and watching. He said he does work in the Augusta Public schools. He said he concurs with some of the opinions that were stated tonight. He said he thinks a service center is a good idea. He said he has asked for financial information three times. Specifically, he requested copies of each SAUs detailed worksheet of the over/under EPS for both FY 2007 and FY 2008. Also requested were copies of each SAU's student enrollments for the past five years, by school and by grade. He also asked for any information that is available on how consolidating the five SAUs will impact the over/under EPS, reduce other costs, improve educational opportunities and performance for students, and improve operational efficiencies. He indicated that he has received the requested information from MSAD 47, but not yet from China, Vassalboro, Waterville, and Winslow. He said he knows it is a lot of work, but he would like to see some data. Mr. Jurdak said he would like to see where

local money is being spent. He said that EPS formula for administration effective 7/1/08 is going down 40%. He said he hasn't seen anything in the minutes or anything from the RPC and that it needs to be done. He said the public really needs some data. There can't be three systems. There have to be savings.

Eric Haley said the only place that reductions can be seen is in the business of schools. There are two places where money can be saved, one is in Central Office, and the other is in high school programming. None of us will agree that we want higher class ratios. However, he said that money to be saved is in central office and high school.

James Jurdak said that as a taxpayer in Oakland, he thanks the RPC. The Committee has done a tremendous amount of work. "This taxpayer appreciates it."

The next meeting of the RPC is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2008 at Belgrade Central School in Belgrade.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.