

Regional School Units



China & Messalonskee: A NEW RSU

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Purpose of the Consolidation between China & MSAD #47

- ◆ Goal: to maintain or enhance educational quality and opportunities and to provide for a more financially efficient system, producing meaningful savings
- ◆ To increase central office and special education administrative efficiencies for Messalonskee and China
- ◆ To partner with a town of similar profile
- ◆ To build synergy between both systems
- ◆ To comply with the consolidation law



The Consolidation Law

- ◆ *In the spring of 2007 Governor Baldacci and the Maine Legislature passed the state biennial budget. Embedded in the budget was the language that required consolidation of Maine school systems from 290 to 80, with the goal of at least 2,500 students per Regional School Unit (RSU).*



The Consolidation Law

- ◆ Why the Governor Advocated for Consolidation
 - Declining Student Enrollment Statewide
 - Including Messalonskee
 - Taxpayer Revolt (TABOR)
 - SAUs : Too Many, Too Small and Too Inefficient



The Consolidation Law

◆ Originally Required

- the formation of a *Regional Planning Committee* (RPC), composed of civic, school, & community leadership, with the purpose of analyzing the pros and cons of a possible partnership and the creation of a regional agreement.
- *Areas the RPC needed to consider included cost sharing, EPS changes, cost savings/increases, governance, employee contracts, school choice and property, assets, and debt, as well as a transition plan*
- *The purpose of the law was to decrease the cost of administering the educational system.*

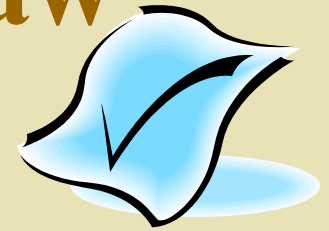




The Consolidation Law

- ◆ By July 1, 2009 all school systems in Maine will be replaced with either a **Regional School Unit (RSU)** or **Alternative Organizational Structure (AOS)**.
 - A **Regional School Unit** is very similar to a MSAD. It will be made up of member communities that have decided to share school governance through a common school board, superintendent and operational policies.
 - An **Alternative Organizational Structure** is new to the consolidation law. Participating communities will be defining a unique governance model for those communities participating in the AOS discussions.

The Consolidation Law



- ◆ **School Union: (China is part of SU 52.)**
 - *A school union is made up of several municipal school systems that choose to share the cost of a central office. Each member of the union is independent of the other members, and each town has its own school board.*
- ◆ **MSAD: (#47)**
 - *A Maine School Administrative District is made up of member communities that have decided to share school governance through a common school board, superintendent and operational policies. The School Board is independent of town/city government.*

The Consolidation Law



◆ MSAD #47 EXEMPT

- NO legal penalties if MSAD #47 fails to consolidate
- MSAD #47 has over 2,500 students.

◆ Penalties for Non-compliance

Affects China and many other smaller school systems

- additional 50% reduction in administrative support
- less favorable treatment for school construction
- reduction in EPS subsidy from 55% to 53.86%
- not eligible for Transition Adjustment

The State Funding Law

Essential Programs & Services (EPS)



◆ Three major components

- Enrollment
- State valuation of towns
- State's commitment to fund education

◆ Student enrollment

Fewer students results in less favorable treatment under general purpose aid for education, resulting in...

- A reduction in EPS subsidy

The State Funding Law

Essential Programs & Services (EPS)



◆ Three major components

- Enrollment
- **State valuation of towns**
- State's commitment to fund education

◆ State Valuation – Lakefront

Dramatic increases in the value of lake frontage in Belgrade, China, Oakland, Rome & Sidney has resulted in less favorable treatment under state funding resulting in...

- **A reduction in state subsidy**

The State Funding Law

Essential Programs & Services (EPS)



- ◆ **Three major components**
 - Enrollment
 - State valuation of towns
 - **State's commitment to fund education**

- ◆ State effort is the result of revenue forecasts.
- ◆ Difficult economic times results in fewer state dollars for education.
- ◆ Fewer State dollars for education will likely result in greater local effort and reductions in programs and staff.

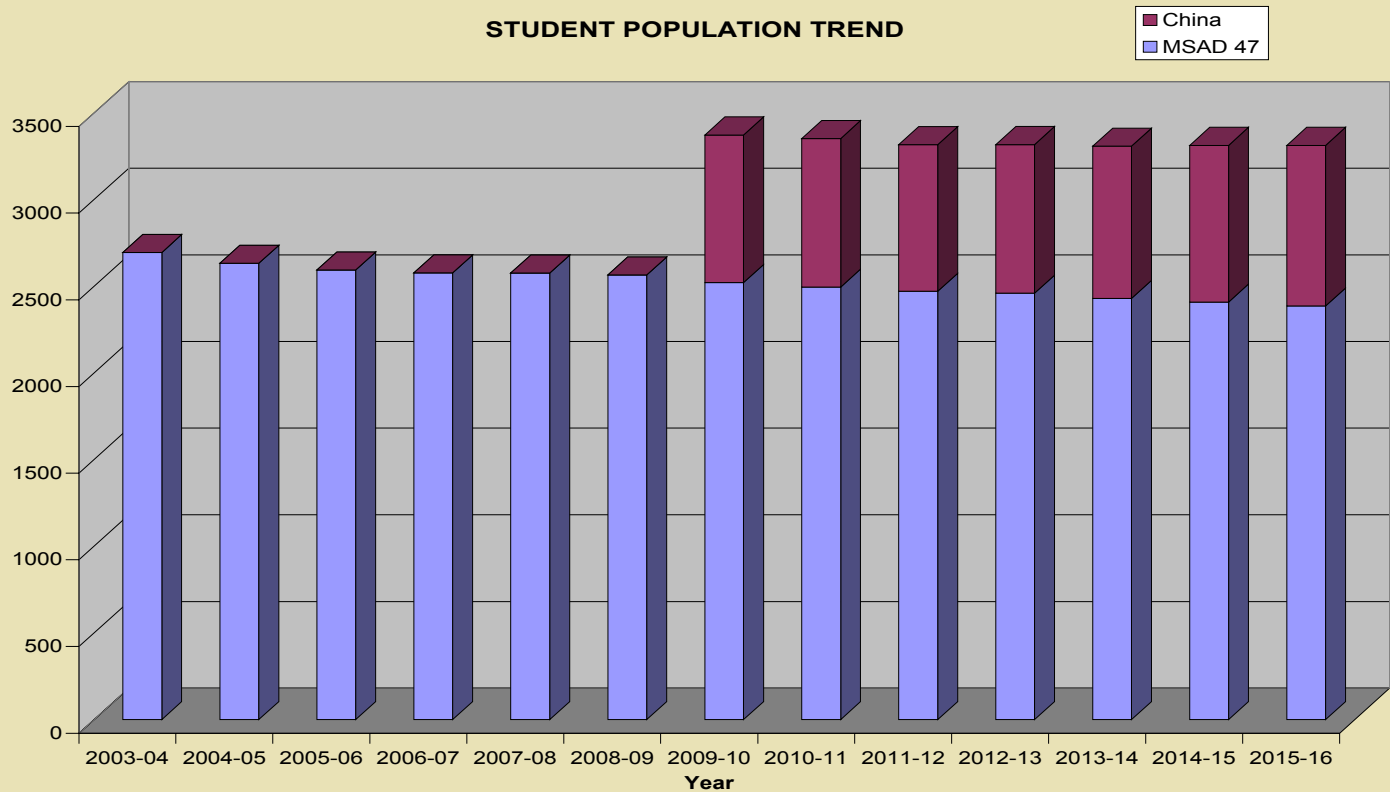
The State Funding Law

Essential Programs & Services (EPS)



- ◆ **Three major components**
 - Enrollment
 - State valuation of towns
 - State's commitment to fund education
- ◆ **High State Valuation + Fewer Students = Reduction in State Subsidy.**
- ◆ **China's students + MSAD #47 students + state effort will mitigate the loss of state subsidy.**

China & MSAD #47 Students Combined





Five Lakeside & Riverside Communities United for the Benefit of Our Children

Belgrade

Population: 3,209 (KVCOG 2006)

State Valuation:

2006 - \$427,750,000

2007 - \$542,100,000

2008 - \$566,350,000

Median Age: 40 (2000)

Square Miles: 43

Elementary

Free/Reduced: 31.6%

China

Population: 4,408 (KVCOG 2006)

State Valuation:

2006 - \$285,100,000

2007 - \$323,450,000

2008 - \$391,200,000

Median Age: 37 (2000)

Square Miles: 54

Elementary

Free/Reduced: 47.3%

The Largest & The Smallest

Oakland

Population: 6,202 (KVCOG
2006)

State Valuation:

2006 - \$343,100,000

2007 - \$376,950,000

2008 - \$443,650,000

Median Age: 37 (2000)

Square Miles: 27

Elementary

Free/Reduced: 42%

Rome

Population: 1,101 (KVCOG,2006)

State Valuation:

2006 - \$226,400,000

2007 - \$253,750,000

2008 - \$286,350,000

Median Age: 39 (2000)

Square Miles: 44



Joined Together For Mutual Benefit

Sidney

Population: 3,966 (KVCOG 2006)

State Valuation:

2006 - \$250,950,000

2007 - \$311,800,000

2008 - \$345,650,000

Median Age: 36 (2000)

Square Miles: 42

Elementary Free/Reduced: 29%

NEW RSU

Population: 18,886 (KVCOG 2006)

State Valuation:

2006 - \$1,533,300,000

2007 - \$1,808,050,000

2008 - \$2,033,200,000

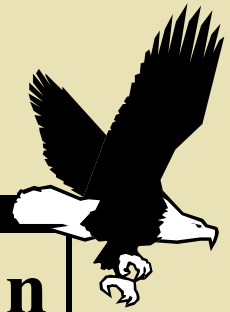
Median Age: 37.8 (2000)

Square Miles: 210

RSU School Board

	# Votes	# of Members	Votes per Member
Belgrade	170	2	85
China	233	2	117
Oakland	328	3	109
Rome	58	1	58
Sidney	210	2	105
Totals	1,000	10	

School Population (2007-08)



School	Population
<i>Atwood Primary School</i>	246
<i>Belgrade Central School</i>	290
<i>James H. Bean School</i>	348
<i>Williams Elementary School</i>	225
<i>Messalonskee Middle School</i>	583
<i>Messalonkee High School</i>	890
<i>China K-8</i>	498
<i>China (School Choice)</i>	305

Total: Messalonskee & China: 3,385

Student Population by Town

ED 281 2007-08

<i>Belgrade</i>	564
<i>Oakland</i>	1,113
<i>Rome</i>	148
<i>Sidney</i>	757
MSAD #47	2,582
China	803
Total	3,385



Governance & Transition

- ◆ **Board elected winter of 2009**

10 Board members:

2 Belgrade, 2 China, 3 Oakland, 1 Rome & 2 Sidney

- ◆ **Transition**

RSU Board, MSAD #47 & China Boards work together in winter of 2009

- ◆ ***Budget for 2009-10***

Developed in cooperation with MSAD #47 & China Boards

- ◆ **Regional School Unit**

Operational July 1, 2009

- ◆ ***Interim School Policies***

Developed in cooperation with MSAD #47 & China School Boards





MSAD #47

PK – 12 programs remain the same

Children in MSAD #47 school not impacted. Children in China schools not impacted.

Decline in MSAD #47 students is offset by adding China's students.

Nearly 180 student loss at MHS decline in students anticipated in next 7 years, while China projects a 93 student gain.

Cost of central office and special education administration shared.

Five towns share common costs.



China

◆ China Elementary and Middle Schools

- *Schools remain as they are.*
- *No China student will be bussed into MSAD #47 except by parental request.*

◆ High School Choice Remains

- *Erskine, as well as other high schools, remain an option for all China high school age children.*

Special Needs Programs

- *Messalonskee High School's Alternative Programs, Behavioral Programs, Multi-handicapped Programs, available to China's neediest.*

◆ Transportation

- *Students attending Erskine will be bussed.*

Consolidation Advantages


- Cost sharing of administration in central office & special education
- Equitable educational programming across schools and grades for the benefit of all students
- Greater resources (staff & funds) for curriculum and assessment development
- Coordinated support programs (GT/Title 1) to achieve greater opportunity
- Potential for cost savings in Special Education





Consolidation Advantages


- ◆ Total combined RSU student enrollment increases when the five towns merge, which affects state funding.
- ◆ Consolidation will mitigate the loss of state revenue due to combining China & MSAD #47 students.
- ◆ Creates opportunity for new ideas through “cross pollination” by communities, staff and students.
- ◆ The ability to share technology




Issues Yet to be Addressed

Merger Details Left to New RSU School Board:


- ◆ Governance/ Administration
- ◆ Policy Development
- ◆ Cost Sharing among towns
- ◆ Union Contracts
- ◆ Business Functions
 - Payroll, accounts payable, procedures and timelines

A collection of military medals and a compass are arranged on a light-colored surface. On the left, a blue and white checkered ribbon is pinned to a dark brown board. Below it, a blue ribbon with a circular emblem is pinned. Two silver star-shaped medals with intricate designs are also visible. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses lies across the center. In the bottom left corner, a circular compass with a white face and black markings is visible.

*This
consolidation
effort does not
involve the
closure of schools.
China and
Messalonskee
Schools are full.*

A collection of items including a chessboard, medals, a compass, and glasses. The chessboard is in the top left corner, featuring a red and blue checkered pattern with several pieces. Below it are two medals: one with a red ribbon and a circular emblem, and another with a blue ribbon and a star-shaped emblem. A compass is in the bottom left corner, and a pair of glasses is in the center. The background is a light-colored, textured surface.

*This
consolidation
effort preserves
School Choice.
China students
still may choose
the high school of
their choice.*

A collection of historical artifacts is displayed on a light-colored surface. On the left, there is a red ribbon with a circular emblem, a blue ribbon with a similar emblem, and a silver star-shaped medal with a central emblem. Below these are a pair of gold-rimmed glasses and a circular compass with a white face and black markings. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

This consolidation effort will benefit China and Messalonskee by providing a public high school for China and additional students to Messalonskee.

The Consolidation Law



◆ Key Dates

- **Summer of 2007:** formation of Regional Planning Committee
- **Notice of Intent Letter:** to Commissioner Gendron August 2007
- **Regional Plan:** to MDOE by September 2008.
- **Voting: November 4, 2008 !**
- **Election of an RSU School Board:** Winter 2009
- **Operational date:** July 1, 2009.

A collection of military medals and a compass on a wooden surface. The medals include a red ribbon with a circular emblem, a white star with a central emblem, and a blue ribbon with a circular emblem. A pair of glasses is also visible. A compass is in the bottom left corner.

Thank You.

*May I or Regional
Planning
Committee
Members present
answer your
Questions...*

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