

**Joint Workshop Meeting Minutes
MSAD 12 School Board and Greenville School Committee
September 10, 2009 – The Birches in Rockwood**

Present: Noel W., Dick G., Scott M., Mark M., Linda G., Becky F., Denise P., Heather P., Rebecca B., Clarence B., Pete J.

- The meeting began with informal introductions and conversations over an AWESOME MEAL! ☺
- After food, Clarence Begin (Chair MSAD 12 Board) and Dick Gould (Chair, Greenville School Committee) and Pete Johnson opened the meeting up with a brief review of what to look for during the upcoming legislative session.
- **Legislative Topics to watch were:**
 - Reorganization. There will be legislation whether the repeal passes or not, so we need to be paying attention to them.
 - EPS funding. There may be some room to maneuver some small changes here to benefit Rural School Units. Large scale changes are probably NOT likely due to the complexities of the formula itself and how small changes impact all units across the state.
 - Charter Schools. Legislation will be brought to the Floor of both the Senate and house to allow for Charter Schools in Maine.
 - Funding Curtailments. When legislature opens, it is expected that Maine's Revenues may be as much as \$100,000,000.00 short. Cuts will need to be made. The percentage of cuts that will hit public education is not clear, but it will probably be significant.
- After legislative topics were discussed, the group moved into further discussions regarding how we may be able to create further collaborations to sustain our excellent educational systems in these tough economic times.
- **Collaboration Topics discussed were:**
 - Sharing teaching of some upper level courses using Tandberg. In order to do this, we would probably need to align our schedules and calendars more fully. This would not be as easy as it sounds as our two school units are very different.
 - Distance learning and technology are things to focus on for our future sustainability as geographically isolated units.
 - Attempt to bring Bingham more on board with our efforts. Continue to invite them to the table.
 - Charter schools – could we create collaborative programming under this umbrella? People brought up examples such as the

Forestry program that we once shared, or High Tech High concepts. Individuals mentioned using Rockwood as a central location to possibly share programs such as these.

- The discussion also brought up thinking creatively on any possible shared projects. Not necessarily thinking in terms of 175 student days, and so many hours per day, etc. Maybe year round programs that are formed in modules – standards based, etc. If we're going to greatly improve our schools we need to do so by thinking differently about structures instead of using the same ones we've used for 200+ years.
 - Starting earlier in Elementary School vs. waiting for MS/HS for these types of creative programs was also discussed.
 - We need to get teachers on board to help us "hatch" ideas about ways we can further collaborate.
- **The group agreed to the following general "Next Steps":**
 - Seek to read language on charter schools bill that will be brought to legislative session and, if appropriate, support the approval of that bill.
 - Figure out a way to get the two staffs together to brainstorm further ideas about how to continue to collaborate.
 - Keep lines of communication open and continue to have these types of meetings/discussions in the future.