

Mount Desert Island Regional School Unit **Reorganization Plan**

School Administrative Units (SAUs) submitting: Bar Harbor School Department, Mount Desert School Department, Southwest Harbor School Department, Tremont School Department, CSD #7 (Mount Desert Island High School), SAD #76 (Swans Island School), Cranberry Isles School Department, Frenchboro School Department

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Date submitted by SAUs: December 1, 2007

Proposed Regional School Unit (RSU) operational date: July 1, 2009

1. The units of school administration to be included in the proposed reorganized regional school unit.

Bar Harbor School Department
Mount Desert School Department
Southwest Harbor School Department
Tremont School Department
Frenchboro School Department
SAD 76 (Swan's Island School)
CSD 7 (Mount Desert Island High School)
Cranberry Isles School Department

2. The size, composition and apportionment of the governing body.

Each municipality will elect between three and six members to the regional board. Each municipal delegation shall determine which members will vote at regional board meetings on official business. (See below for the number of voting members allowed to each municipality.) All members of a municipal delegation may participate in RSU deliberations.

Town Census	Vote/1000	# of voting directors	vote/director	% vote of director	Town
4820	442	6	74	7.4%	Bar Harbor
2109	193	3	64	6.4%	Mount Desert
1966	180	3	60	6.0%	S.W. Harbor
1529	140	3	47	4.7%	Tremont
327	30	1	30	3.0%	Swans Is.
128	12	1	12	1.2%	Cranberry Isles
38	3	1	3	0.3%	Frenchboro
10917	1000	18	56	5.6%	

3. The method of voting of the governing body.

Weighted Voting (see number 2, above)

Each board member shall serve a 3-year term, except that the initial terms of the members of the first regional school unit board shall be staggered as provided by Section XXXX-40.

4. The composition, powers and duties of local school committees

Local school committees are to be created to govern K-8 schools in the following municipalities: Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor, Tremont, Cranberry Isles, Swan's Island, Frenchboro. Each shall have the composition, powers and duties as indicated below.

The local school committee members shall be elected in accordance with the procedures applicable to the election of school committee members in municipal school units:

TOPIC:	RSU BOARD OF DIRECTORS:	LOCAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE:
ELECTION OF MEMBERS	EACH TOWN WILL ELECT BETWEEN 3 AND 6 MEMBERS TO THE RSU BOARD WHO WILL SERVE ACCORDING TO THE ESTABLISHED VOTING WEIGHT PROCEDURES OF THE RSU AT RSU BOARD MEETINGS	ALL ELECTED RSU BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND ONLY RSU ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WILL SERVE ALSO AS MEMBERS OF LOCAL SCHOOL COMMITTEES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY FROM WHICH THEY ARE ELECTED.
OVERALL SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES	OVERSEE THE OPERATION OF THE MOUNT DESERT ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL AND THE MOUNT DESERT ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT'S CENTRAL OFFICE	OVERSEE RESPECTIVE LOCAL K-8 SCHOOLS
BUDGETING	ANNUALLY DEVELOP THE CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGETS AND THE MDI HIGH SCHOOL BUDGETS AND REPORT THE COMBINED RSU K-8 BUDGETS OF ALL SCHOOLS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) AS ONE K-12 BUDGET FOR THE RSU.	ANNUALLY DEVELOP RESPECTIVE K-8 BUDGET. REPORT APPROVED BUDGET TO THE RSU BOARD FOR REPORTING TO DOE.
REFERENDUM PROCEDURES (CURRENT STATUTORY TIMELINES WILL NECESSITATE MULTIPLE REFERENDA. A SINGLE REFERENDUM IS PREFERABLE)	CONDUCT ANNUAL RSU BUDGET MEETING FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL AND CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGETS, OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR THE BUDGET, AND, IF REQUIRED, FACILITATE A REFERENDUM ON THAT BUDGET ACCORDING TO THE ESTABLISHED TIMELINES IN THE LAW	FACILITATE PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF RESPECTIVE K-8 ANNUAL BUDGET WARRANT BY THE RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE BODY. IF REQUIRED, FACILITATE A MUNICIPAL REFERENDUM TO VALIDATE THAT BUDGET ACCORDING TO THE ESTABLISHED TIMELINES IN THE LAW. REPORT THE RESULTS TO THE RSU BOARD.
LOCAL ASSESSMENTS	ASSESS MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES OF THE RSU FOR CENTRAL OFFICE COSTS BY A FORMULA [STILL TO BE DETERMINED BY THE RPC] AND HIGH SCHOOL COSTS BY ESTABLISHED FORMULA OR SUBSEQUENT FORMULA MUTUALLY AGREED UPON BY THE MEMBER TOWNS	WITHIN EACH RESPECTIVE MUNICIPALITY ASSESS THE K-8 SCHOOL'S PORTION OF THE RSU BUDGET AND FORWARD THAT AMOUNT TO THE RSU

OVERALL BUDGET REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING	MAINTAIN RECORDS FOR THE RSU COMBINED K-12 BUDGET AND SUBMIT REQUIRED REPORTS TO DOE RELATED TO K-12 BUDGET. DEPOSIT, WITHDRAW AND INVEST ALL RSU FUNDS. PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO RESPECTIVE LOCAL BOARDS MONTHLY K-8 BUDGET STATUS REPORTS.	RECEIVE RESPECTIVE MONTHLY K-8 BUDGET STATUS REPORTS FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE AND AUTHORIZE VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT
BALANCES AND CARRYOVER FUNDS	CONTROL BALANCES AND CARRYOVER FUNDS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL AND CENTRAL OFFICE ACCOUNTS AND PROVIDE RECORD KEEPING AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR ALL K-8 SCHOOLS' BALANCES AND CARRYOVER FUNDS	RECEIVE AN ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE TO BE USED IN LOCAL BUDGET DEVELOPMENT
GENERAL RESERVES	ESTABLISH AND OVERSEE GENERAL AND SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVES FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL-AND PROVIDE BOOKKEEPING AND MANAGEMENT OF ANY K-8 RESERVES	AT THE DISCRETION OF THE LOCAL BOARD, ESTABLISH AND OVERSEE GENERAL AND SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVES FOR RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOOLS.
BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE	MAINTAIN OWNERSHIP OF THE HIGH SCHOOL AND CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING(S), PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY, MAINTAIN OWNERSHIP OF RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOOL BUILDINGS, PROPERTY, AND EQUIPMENT
CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION PROJECTS	AUTHORIZE AND ADMINISTER RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND CENTRAL OFFICE	AUTHORIZE AND ADMINISTER RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOOL
DEBT RESPONSIBILITY	THROUGH ESTABLISHED COST-SHARING FORMULA OR SUBSEQUENT FORMULA MUTUALLY AGREED UPON BY THE MEMBER TOWNS, ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXISTING HIGH SCHOOL DEBT. APPROVE AND ADMINISTER FUTURE ASSUMPTION OF VOTER-APPROVED HIGH SCHOOL AND CENTRAL OFFICE DEBTS.	ASSUME RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXISTING DEBT FOR K-8 SCHOOLS, AND APPROVE AND ADMINISTER FUTURE VOTER-APPROVED K-8 SCHOOL DEBT
SCHOLARSHIP OR OTHER SPECIAL FUNDS	MAINTAIN HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP OR OTHER SPECIAL FUNDS AND ADMINISTER K-8 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS OR OTHER SPECIAL FUNDS	OVERSEE RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOLARSHIP OR OTHER SPECIAL FUNDS
STUDENT ACTIVITY FUNDS	MAINTAIN AND CONTROL HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUNDS. ADMINISTER K-8 ACTIVITY FUNDS	OVERSEE RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUNDS
FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS	ADMINISTER ALL FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT FUNDS	OVERSEE RESPECTIVE K-8 FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS FUNDS
FILING OF REQUIRED STATE REPORTS ETC...	RESPONSIBLE FOR FILING ALL REQUIRED RSU STATE REPORTS	RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL DATA REQUIRED FOR STATE REPORTING TO THE RSU CENTRAL OFFICE FOR FILING PURPOSES

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES (HIRING/REHIRING/OR TERMINATION)	ALL STAFF WILL BECOME RSU EMPLOYEES. THE RSU BOARD WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HIRING AND ALL SUBSEQUENT EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES FOR ALL RSU PERSONNEL ACCORDING TO STATE LAW, RSU POLICY, AND NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS	MAKE BINDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE RSU BOARD REGARDING K-8 EMPLOYMENT.
SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION OF STAFF	ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR ALL RSU EMPLOYEES	SUPERVISE RESPECTIVE K-8 STAFF ACCORDING TO THE RSU-DEVELOPED PROCEDURES
NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS	THERE WILL BE ONE RSU CONTRACT WITH THE RSU TEACHERS. THE RSU BOARD WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATING SUCCESSOR AGREEMENTS WITH THE NEW RSU TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION	NO RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA
STAFF SENIORITY AND REDUCTION IN FORCE PROCEDURES	TO BE DETERMINED THROUGH THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS	TO BE DETERMINED THROUGH THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS
PERSONNEL RECORDS	ALL PERSONNEL RECORDS WILL BE MAINTAINED BY THE RSU CENTRAL OFFICE	NO RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA
ASSIGNMENT OF STAFF TO SCHOOLS	DETERMINE HIGH SCHOOL STAFF ASSIGNMENTS	DETERMINE K-8 SCHOOL STAFF ASSIGNMENTS
ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS	ASSIGNMENT FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-12	DETERMINED AT THE LEVEL OF EACH K-8 SCHOOL
ESTABLISHING SCHOOL GRADE STRUCTURES	DETERMINE HIGH SCHOOL GRADE STRUCTURE	DETERMINE RESPECTIVE K-8 GRADE STRUCTURE
STAFFING PATTERNS AND CLASS SIZE	DETERMINE HIGH SCHOOL STAFFING GUIDELINES	DETERMINE RESPECTIVE K-8 STAFFING GUIDELINES
PROGRAMMING DECISIONS	DETERMINE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMING DECISIONS	DETERMINE RESPECTIVE K-8 PROGRAMMING DECISIONS
CURRICULUM DECISIONS AND SELECTION OF EDUCATION MATERIALS	APPROVE THE RSU K-12 CURRICULUM AND APPROVE THE SELECTION OF ALL 9-12 EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS	APPROVE THE SELECTION OF ALL EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AT RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOOLS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE APPROVED K-12 CURRICULUM

POLICY MAKING	DEVELOP, APPROVE, AND MODIFY ALL HIGH SCHOOL, CENTRAL OFFICE, AND RSU-LEVEL POLICIES	REVIEW, REASONABLY ADAPT AS LOCALLY NECESSARY, ADOPT AND ENFORCE RSU-LEVEL POLICIES
SCHOOL CLOSURE	MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER THE FUTURE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL AND CENTRAL OFFICE	MAINTAIN CONTROL AT RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOOLS
EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	CONTROL HIGH SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	CONTROL RESPECTIVE K-8 EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS
EXPULSION POWERS	RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT EXPULSION HEARINGS	RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPECTIVE K-8 STUDENT EXPULSION HEARINGS
TRANSPORTATION	RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION BEYOND DAY TO DAY TRANSPORT OF STUDENTS TO AND FROM SCHOOL	RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPECTIVE K-8 TRANSPORTATION AND DAY-TO-DAY TRANSPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL CHILDREN TO AND FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL
BUS PURCHASES	OVERSEE HIGH SCHOOL BUS PURCHASES AND ADMINISTER ALL RSU BUS PURCHASES	OVERSEE RESPECTIVE K-8 BUS PURCHASES AND BUDGET AT THE K-8 SCHOOL LEVEL FOR SCHOOL BUS PURCHASES OR OTHER TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS AND LEASES
LUNCH PROGRAMS	OVERSEE HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM, BOOKKEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL RSU SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS	OVERSEE RESPECTIVE K-8 LUNCH PROGRAMS. PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY BOOKKEEPING ASSISTANCE TO RSU CENTRAL OFFICE.
ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS ETC...	OVERSEE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL AND TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE. OVERSEE ADMINISTRATION OF ALL K-8 GIFTS THROUGH THE RSU CENTRAL OFFICE	MANAGE GIFTS DEDICATED TO RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOOL
ESTABLISHMENT OF ANNUAL SCHOOL CALENDAR	DEVELOP AND APPROVE THE K-12 SCHOOL CALENDARS FOR ALL RSU SCHOOLS	STRIVE FOR UNIFORMITY, BUT MAKE UNIQUE CHANGES AS NECESSARY TO THE RSU CALENDAR AND ADOPT FOR RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOOL.
INSURANCES	OVERSEE AND MAINTAIN ALL INSURANCE POLICIES	NO RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA
ASSORTED OUTSIDE CONTRACTS (HEAT/SNOW ETC...)	OVERSEE OUTSIDE CONTRACTS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE CENTRAL OFFICE	OVERSEE OUTSIDE CONTRACTS AT RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOOL, COMBINING CONTRACTS WITH OTHER RSU MEMBERS WHEREVER ADVANTAGEOUS.
LEASE AGREEMENTS	OVERSEE LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE CENTRAL OFFICE	OVERSEE LEASE AGREEMENTS AT RESPECTIVE K-8 SCHOOL, COMBINING LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER RSU MEMBERS WHEREVER ADVANTAGEOUS.

DISTRIBUTION OF STATE SUBSIDY	RE-ALLOCATE STATE RSU SUBSIDY TO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS FOLLOWING POLICY [DETERMINED BY THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE]	
REDISTRIBUTION OF POWERS BETWEEN THE RSU BOARD AND THE LOCAL SCHOOL COMMITTEES	TO BE PLANNED AT THE RSU BOARD LEVEL AND THEN SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS FOR APPROVAL IN EACH AND EVERY AFFECTED TOWN. FAILURE TO WIN APPROVAL IN ANY AFFECTED TOWN CONSTITUTES A VETO	

5. The disposition of real and personal school property.

See number 4, above.

6. The disposition of existing school indebtedness and lease-purchase obligations if the parties elect not to use the provisions of Section 1506 regarding the disposition of debt obligations.

See number 4, above.

7. The assignment of school personnel contracts, school collective bargaining agreements and other school contractual obligations.

See number 4, above.

8. The disposition of existing school funds and existing financial obligations, including undesignated fund balances, trust funds, reserve funds and other funds appropriated for school purposes.

See number 4, above.

9. A transition plan that addresses the development of a budget for the first school year of the reorganized unit and

interim personnel policies.

The budgets for the first school year of the reorganized unit will be developed by the respective governing authorities as described in number 4, above.

Personnel policies will be developed by the RSU board and adopted by local boards as described in number 4, above.

10. Documentation of the public meeting or public meetings held to prepare or review the reorganization plan.

A public forum was held on November 14, 2007, at Mount Desert Island High School. Minutes of the meeting are attached as Exhibit 10-A .

11. An explanation of how units that approve the reorganization plan will proceed if one or more of the proposed members of the regional school unit fail to approve the plan.

If the plan is rejected by the voters in any of the following municipalities: Mount Desert, Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, or Tremont, the region shall not be formed under this plan, and the SAUs shall re-start the process to form a regional school unit with the same or other SAUs. Rejection of this plan by any of the following municipalities: Swan's Island, Cranberry Isles, or Frenchboro, shall not prevent formation of the new RSU.

12. An estimate of the cost savings to be achieved by the formation of a regional school unit and how these savings will be achieved.

Cost savings from this plan are not projected.

13. Other matters determined to be necessary.**13-A. Election of initial board of directors.**

Within 30 days of the issuance of a certificate of organization for the regional school unit by the State Board of Education, the members of the school boards of the school administrative units within the regional school unit shall conduct a joint meeting for the purpose of

electing an interim secretary of the regional school unit and determining a date for the election of the initial board of directors of the regional school unit. The interim secretary shall notify the municipal officers of the member municipalities of the regional school unit of the date of the election. The election shall be conducted in accordance with Title 30-A Chapter 121 of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended by Section 1473(2) of Chapter 103-A of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, except that the election duties of the secretary and board of directors of the regional school unit shall be performed by the interim secretary. The duties of the interim secretary shall include:

- 1) notification of the municipal officers of the date of the election;
- 2) furnishing nomination papers at least 10 days before the deadline for filing nomination papers;
- 3) receipt of completed nomination papers in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473;
- 4) preparation and distribution of election ballots in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473;
- 5) receipt of town clerk's certification of the results of the voting in each member municipality;
- 6) tabulation of the town clerk's certification of the results of the voting in each municipality;
- 7) accepting any recount petitions that may be filed pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473; and
- 8) totaling the votes cast for each candidate and notifying the clerks in each municipality, the candidates, and the Commissioner of Education of the final results of the voting and the names and addresses of the persons elected as directors.

In accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473(1), the clerk of each municipality within the regional school unit shall forward the name(s) and address(es) of the director(s) elected to represent that municipality to the State Board of Education with such other data

with regard to their election as the State Board of Education may require. On receipt of the names and addresses of all of the directors, the State Board of Education shall set a time, place and date for the first meeting of the directors and give notice to the directors in writing, sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address provided by the municipalities.

13-B. Tuition Contracts and School Choice

1. Tuition Contracts

The following tuition contracts are in existence as of the date of this plan between the governing bodies of the SAUs listed below and MDI High School for students in grades 9-12. All contracts are in effect as 7-1-05 and expire on 6-30-2010:

1. Hancock School Committee
2. MSAD 26 School Board
3. Lamoine School Committee
4. Surry School Committee
5. Trenton School Committee
6. Otis Mariaville School Committee

Each of the above tuition contracts will be assumed by the RSU unless terminated prior to the operational date.

2. School Choice

The following SAUs offer some or all of their students a choice of which school to attend:

SAU	Description
SAD 76, Cranberry Isles School Department and the Frenchboro School Department	All students in these SAUs in grades 9-12 may choose to attend any secondary school approved for tuition purposes. Each SAU pays the maximum allowable tuition for each student.

Grade levels in the existing SAUs that have choice of schools as of the operational date shall continue to have the same choices in the RSU.

13-C. Claims and Insurance

Continuity of claims and insurance shall be ensured with the assistance of counsel.

13-D. Fewer than 2,500 students

As approved by Letter of Intent, the proposed RSU will serve fewer than 2500 students and qualifies for an exemption to that requirement for the following reasons:

- (a) The special conditions of island geography limit the practical boundaries for regionalization.
- (b) Demographics, including student enrollment trends and the composition and nature of communities in the regional school unit;
- (c) Economics, including existing collaborations to be preserved or enhanced and opportunities to deliver commodities and services to be maximized;
- (d) Transportation;
- (e) Population density of less than 100 per square mile; and/or
- (f) Other unique circumstances including the need to preserve existing or developing relationships, meet the needs of students, maximize educational opportunities for students and ensure equitable access to rigorous programs for all students.