

RSU central office, board would cost more than the current system

By Elizabeth Deprey

FRENCHVILLE - Members of the St. John Valley Reorganization Planning Committee examined what might happen if school administration is centralized during the Jan. 22 meeting.

Jim Grandmaison of Fort Kent presented an analysis to the group outlining potential cost-savings and potential problems of having one administrator and one board of directors for the entire St. John Valley.

Similar comparisons will be completed for the other areas the governor said cost-savings should be found, including special education and transportation.

Grandmaison's data show that, currently, the fees associated with the boards of directors totals \$109,925. The costs associated with the superintendent's office total \$814,955.

The total cost for these two entities in the St. John Valley is \$974,920.

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Grandmaison outlined the number of employees in payroll, human resources, accounts payable, bookkeeping, receptionists and administrators.

Taking into consideration part-time employees, the current number is 14.45.

Grandmaison said that if the central officers are consolidated, the RSU will only need nine employees.

The total central office budget would then be \$939,000, and the total board of directors' budget would be \$121,500.

The total budget would be \$1,060,500, but costs would be incurred from satellite sites, bringing the potential total cost to \$1,185,500.

Grandmaison said some considerations are less personal contact between the administrator and community members.

He also said additional staff will be needed in schools for

things like ESL, truancy and Affirmative Action that the current office staff takes care of.

He said the location of the central office will be an issue, and that there will be costs associated with the transition from multiple systems to one.

The analysis also mentions there might be potential liabilities without adequate human resources employees.

There will also be added costs associated with the superintendent's travel.

The group also split into workgroups to continue to discuss future cost-sharing, potential cost-savings and what to do if a municipality votes out of the RSU.

No votes were taken, although Diane Tilton, the facilitator for the RPC, said the latter is almost ready to come to a vote.

The next meeting of the St. John Valley RPC is Feb. 5.