

REC'D JUN 2 2011

ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

School Administrative Unit Submitting Alternative Plan:

- RSU 74

Contact Information:

Name: Kenneth L. Coville Superintendent of Schools

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North Anson, Me. 04958

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Date Plan Submitted by SAU: May 30th 2011

The intent to submit an alternative plan has been approved by the Commissioner in the approval of the Notice of Intent?

YES NO

(If NO, please explain.)

Alternative Plan Cover Sheet

(Please attach Alternative Plan as Exhibit A)

Plan Requirements				
Item	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Need Assistance ¹
Plan addresses how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that projected expenditures of RSU in fiscal 2011-2012 for the following areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.				
system administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
special education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
facilities and maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan addresses how cost savings will be achieved in fiscal 2011-2012 for the above four areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parameters for Plan Development				
Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes at least one publicly supported high school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of teachers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Agreements				
			Yes	No
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? <i>(not required, but encouraged)</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on the next page.

Exceptions to 2,500 minimum
Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible
(use Oct 1, 2006 numbers) : 843

Exception	Exception Claimed in Plan	Documentation Provided? (Please attach as Exhibit B)	
		Yes	No
Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demographics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Population Density	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Unique Circumstances	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Assistance Needs –

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

Law Reference/Required Element	Explanation of your assistance need	Assistance needed from whom?

ALTERNATIVE PLAN

SAU submitting: RSU/MSAD 74
Contact Information Kenneth L. Coville, Superintendent of Schools
Phone: (207) 635-2727
E-mail kcoville@msad74.org
Date submitted May 26th, 2011

DUE DILIGENCE

Beginning in 2008 and continuing to today the RSU/MSAD 74 Board of Directors has proceeded with due diligence in an effort to find partners with which to reorganize. RSU/MSAD 74 has completed the full reorganization process from letter of intent through positive referendum vote on three separate successive occasions. These occasions included attempting RSU reorganization with SAD 13 and SAD 59, an RSU reorganization with SAD 13 and an AOS reorganization with SAD 58. In each of the three instances the citizens of RSU/MSAD 74 voted in the affirmative for the DOE approved reorganization plan (most recently with a greater than 3 to 1 margin of approval) only to be frustrated in the attempt to become a conforming district by negative votes from our proposed partner communities. The most recent refusal from SAD 58 was on March 8th, 2011.

In addition, the School Board continued to issue invitations to these three school districts and RSU 9 as to whether they have any interest in joining in reorganization efforts with RSU/MSAD 74. In January 2010, email correspondence was sent to RSU 9, MSAD 13, and MSAD 59 inquiring if they had any interest in joining in reorganization into an AOS. At that time we received no response from MSAD 13, an informal personal contact response from the Superintendent of MSAD 59 that his Board was interested in collaboration and possible sharing of staff but not in reorganization, a written email response from the Superintendent of RSU 9 that his Board would be interested in collaborative initiatives but having recently converted to a conforming RSU were not interested in reorganization with RSU/MSAD 74. Also following the March 8th negative vote on AOS reorganization in MSAD 58 the Superintendent of RSU/MSAD 74 attended the next MSAD 58 School Board meeting and renewed the offer to join in a reorganization effort. MSAD 58 School Board members indicated they were not interested in pursuing reorganization at that time but would be interested in continuing and expanding collaborative initiatives.

During this time we have also pursued other interdistrict strategies for reducing costs without adversely impacting instruction. We have formed an collaborative agreement with RSU/SAD 58 for the sharing of a Special Education Director. We have entered into a cooperative agreement around sports programs creating interdistrict cooperative teams with RSU/SAD 59 reducing extracurricular costs. We have entered into an collaborative agreement with RSU/SAD 59 for transportation of students to the regional Technology Education Center reducing these transportation costs by half. We have joined a

cooperative purchasing group for our food services program. In the fall of 2010, we joined the Western Maine Educational Cooperative.

We have also taken several steps internally to reduce costs and preserve instruction for students. We have recently reorganized our bus routing eliminating bus runs thus reducing both annual operating and long term capital costs. We are in process of converting our schools to wood pellet heating systems producing significant annual savings. We have closed excess facilities (Central Elementary School, New Portland 2009, Embden Elementary School, Embden 2010) reducing maintenance and operating costs. We are conducting heating and lighting system retrofits based on building energy audits at Carrabec High School, Carrabec Community School, and Garrett Schenk Elementary School. We have reduced our district and building administrative staff over the past three years including reducing 1/3 of principals, eliminating separate Adult Education Directors and Food Service Directors and assigned these duties to Superintendent, and eliminated two office support staff positions. We have increased School Nutrition program efficiencies and participation reducing local contribution by \$50,000.

We continue to actively engage our neighbors in seeking cost efficient collaborative agreements. Most recently we have solicited SAD 13 to join us in the cooperative transportation of students to the regional Technology Education Center and have renewed our solicitation of RSU/SAD 58 to expand existing collaborative staff sharing to additional areas. Currently we are pursuing a collaborative initiative with RSU 9 to share a middle school level JMG program.

We have also given notice to our neighbor School Administrative Units that "RSU74/MSAD 74 is willing to file a Notice of Intent with any surrounding Regional School Unit or Alternative Organizational Structure and proceed as outlined in 20-A M RSA section 1465."

Plan Requirements:

System Administration

System Administration for the district is provided through a small central office staff consisting of the Superintendent and three support staff. In addition to the standard responsibilities of a central office, the Superintendent and office staff manage fiscal administration of all federal and state grants, fiscal and program administration of adult education, fiscal and program administration of the School Nutrition programs, and oversight of homeless students.

The central office has historically operated and continues to operate in a fiscally efficient manner well below the 4% cited for highly efficient systems statewide (2.7% for 2011).

	FY11	FY12
PK-12 budget	\$ 8,707,090	\$ 8,703,161
Supt Office	\$ 235,309	\$ 236,555
% of budget	2.7%	2.7%

Facilities and Maintenance

We have aggressively pursued reducing costs in facilities and maintenance over the past few years. In FY09, our expenditures were \$1,224,640 which has been reduced to \$1,121,976 for FY12. A significant contribution to this is an aggressive energy efficiency project currently in process. This includes professional HVAC systems and controls, audits of our schools, and implementation of the recommendations of those audits combined with conversion from heating oil to wood pellets as the primary heating fuel for the four schools of the district. This integrated system wide approach will reduce future heating fuel costs by approximately 65% and save over \$70,000 a year after capital debt service costs. In addition we are in process of developing a comprehensive computerized capital management system which will allow us to develop a comprehensive district wide facilities maintenance plan increasing efficiency, safety, comfort, and functional usefulness of the facilities.

	FY11	FY12
PK-12 budget	\$ 8,707,090	\$ 8,703,161
Facil. & Maint.	\$ 1,120,141	\$ 1,121,976
% of budget	12.9%	12.9%

Transportation

In the area of transportation, we have reorganized bus routes to eliminate runs while keeping average student travel times below previous levels. We are in the process of implementing an updated comprehensive preventive maintenance program for vehicles which will include digital tracking of all vehicle maintenance and repairs to provide actionable information in relation to patterns of repair needs and driver performance/patterns. Overall, our transportation costs have declined from FY09 when they were \$696,451 in expenditures to FY12 budget of \$680,389 despite rapidly rising fuel costs.

	FY11	FY12
PK-12 budget	\$ 8,707,090	\$ 8,703,161
Transportation	\$ 664,389	\$ 680,389
% of budget	7.6%	7.8%

Special Education

Over the past year significant changes have allowed us to reduce the special education budget while increasing services to students. First, we are now sharing a Special Education Director with a neighboring district. Secondly, we have reorganized our use of federal funds to maximize these revenues. Third, we have reorganized instructional staffing to eliminate lost time transitions between school buildings and through schedule conflicts. Fourth, we have realigned our contracted providers to maximize the skill sets of in house staff complemented by special skill sets of contracted services. Fifth, we have increased our capacity through staff training to accommodate higher need students in district rather than using out of district placements. As a result, despite the loss of IDEA, ARRA, and Maine Care funds for the coming year, (approximately \$230,000 revenue loss) we have still been able to reduce the local budget cost by approximately \$157,000.

	FY11	FY12
PK-12 budget	\$ 8,707,090	\$ 8,703,161
Special Educ.	\$ 1,574,220	\$ 1,417,230
% of budget	18.1%	16.3%

Collaborative Agreements

Somerset Career Technical Center

Member of Western Maine Educational Collaborative

Member of Capital Area Alliance Purchasing Group

Collaborative Agreement for sharing Special Education Director with MSAD 58

Collaborative Agreement for cooperative sports teams with MSAD 59

Collaborative Agreement for Career and Technical Education transportation with MSAD 59

Collaborative Agreement for provision of JMG program by State JMG office

Collaborative Agreement for provision of PK programming by KVCAP/Head Start

We are currently in process of seeking to form collaborative agreements with:

RSU 9 for the provision of Middle School level JMG program

MSAD 13 to include them in transportation for Career and Technical Education

KVCAP/Head Start for expansion of PK and development of child care facility

We have also extended invitations to all of our neighboring school districts to join us in exploring other opportunities for collaborative initiatives. On June 1st we will be meeting with the MSAD 13 Board to discuss such possibilities.

Instructional Impact

The savings and efficiencies listed in this plan will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program in RSU/MSAD 74.

Plan Requirement

RSU/MSAD 74 is willing to file a Notice of Intent with any surrounding Regional School Unit or Alternative Organizational Structure and proceed as outlined in 20-A MRSA section 1465.

Attachment B

Unique circumstances Exemption

MSAD/RSU #74 has attempted to become a conforming SAU on three successive occasions

In 2008-2009 MSAD/RSU #74 engaged in Reorganization Planning Committee process in development of an approved RSU proposal with MSAD #13 and MSAD #59. MSAD/RSU #74 voters approved the proposal but MSAD #13 and MSAD #59 voters did not.

In 2009- 2010 MSAD/RSU #74 engaged in Reorganization Planning Committee process in development of an approved RSU proposal with MSAD#13. MSAD/RSU #74 citizens approved the proposal but MSAD #13 citizens did not.

In 2010-11 MSAD/RSU #74 engaged through Reorganization Planning Committee in development of an approved AOS proposal with MSAD#58. MSAD/RSU #74 voters approved this proposal but MSAD #58 did not

MSAD/RSU #74 has throughout this time period made continued overtures to all neighboring districts indicating a willingness to work towards reorganization to no avail.

At this time MSAD/RSU #74 has renewed these overtures by notifying our neighbor districts that

"RSU74/MSAD 74 is willing to file a Notice of Intent with any surrounding Regional School Unit or Alternative Organizational Structure and proceed as outlined in 20-A M RSA section 1465"

Signature Page

Ernest S. Corbett
Signature

Superintendent
Role

5/27/11
Date

John W. Cunniff
Signature

Board Member
Role

5/27/11
Date

H. Wayne Regli
Signature

Board Member
Role

5-27/11
Date

Signature

Board Member
Role

Date