

RSU 21 Timeline

September 2006—MSAD 71 begins meeting with Wells-Ogunquit to discover cost savings through collaboration and sharing of services; the most obvious savings is running one bus to Portland for students from both districts attending PATHS. Other avenues for savings are explored but some are stymied by state law.

January 2007—Governor Baldacci proposes consolidating all 288 Maine school districts to 26 regional districts in 12 months.

April 2007--The Legislature passes a revised plan that requires consolidation of districts to achieve 80 districts with two options for implementation—open by July 1, 2008 or July 1, 2009. Districts not joining an RSU will incur penalties.

July 2007—First meeting of Wells-Ogunquit, Arundel, and MSAD 71 districts to begin discussions on possibilities for consolidation

August 2007—Wells-Ogunquit leaves to pursue other options; Arundel continues to explore working with Saco while working with MSAD 71.

October 2007—Arundel and MSAD 71 agree to merge; the Regional Planning Committee begins meeting.

November 2007—A preliminary consolidation outline is presented to the public and is submitted to the State Dept of Education.

January to April 2008—The Legislature begins reviewing consolidation law; changes made to include an Alternative Operating Structure (similar to school union). RSU 57 Planning Committee continues to meet to plan districts' merger.

October 21, 2008—Commissioner Gendron finally approves the plan for Arundel and MSAD 71, after half a dozen rejections. Public Hearing is held at KES.

November 4, 2008—All three towns approve the merger plans...Arundel 1436 to 747; Kennebunk 4393 to 2293; Kennebunkport 1714 to 733.

November 24, 2008 –Joint School Boards meeting; Dr. Manuel appointed Interim Secretary for RSU; set January 27, 2009 for RSU Board election; discuss budgets and contract negotiations timelines.

December 1, 2008—State Board of Education issues RSU 21 Certificate of Organization; official operating date July 1, 2009.

December 16, 2008—Meeting with local legislators, three towns select boards and budget boards, and both school boards to discuss budget curtailments.

January 21, 2009—Candidates Night hosted by MSAD 71; Asst Supt Wayne Dorr moderates. Candidates answer questions and share views of education.

January 27, 2009—Election of RSU 21 Board of Directors; absentee ballots available.

(MSAD 71 Board and Arundel Board continue running their respective districts until RSU 21 opens on July 1. Dr. Manuel continues to serve as Interim Secretary for RSU Board until RSU superintendent is hired.)

February 2009—First Board meeting to elect interim chair and vice chair; orientation; locate an office; hold Superintendent Search seminar; organize and post Superintendent hiring notices; accept applications; begin work on budgets; organize Negotiations teams; begin work on mission/vision/goals; direct administration to begin work with Transition Teams for various departments. Board begins work on Policy, Human Resources, Facilities, Finance, Curriculum, and Advisory Committees. Organize a search/contest for naming new district.

March 2009—Board reads superintendent applications; interviews candidates; appoints community interview committee to interview final candidates; hires superintendent; works on mission/vision/goals; works on budgets; works on Negotiations; begins work on personnel policies. Set calendar for 2009-10 school year. Administration continues Transition Team work. Board continues work on Policy, Human Resources, Facilities, Finance, Curriculum, and Advisory Committees.

April 2009—Board and Superintendent work on budgets; work on Negotiations; work on personnel policies. Board continues work on Policy, Human Resources, Facilities, Finance, Curriculum, and Advisory committees. Administration continues Transition Team work. Name the district; organize a search/contest for district logo.

May 2009—School Budget meeting and Budget Validation Referendum (citizens approve budget); work on Negotiations; work on personnel policies. Administration continues Transition Team work. Board continues work on Policy, Human Resources, Facilities, Finance, Curriculum, and Advisory Committees.

June 2009—Negotiations; personnel policies; any other work needed for completion of merger. Administration continues Transition Team work. Board continues committee work.

July 1, 2009—RSU 21 opens.

At first board meeting after July 1, 2009, Board must elect a chair and vice chair, appoint committees, and continue negotiations along with all other Board duties.