

**Designing a New School District**

Lamoine/Hancock Discussions March 9, 2012

**PURPOSE:** The Towns of Hancock and Lamoine are in the process of deciding whether to withdraw from RSU #24. The Hancock Concerned Citizens and the Lamoine Local School Advisory Committee are exploring, with other towns, forming a school district (an “Alternative Organizational Structure” or AOS). The ideas below are a joint subcommittee’s **DRAFT IDEAS** (as of the date above). Our groups welcome representatives from other towns who might want to explore these possibilities with us.

Subcommittee: Lamoine: Brett Jones, Nate Mason, Gordon Donaldson  
Hancock: Rich Malaby, Beverly Johnston

**Our Goal.** To form a school district where central administration serves the goals and needs of our children and our towns – and not where the “administrative tail” “wags the school and town”.

**Our Vision.** Schools that are responsive to all children, challenging for all learners, welcoming to all parents, and responsible to the citizens and taxpayers of their communities.

**How the District Will Operate.**

**A. Our Schools**

1. Will be directly governed by the Town School Committee. (see B below)
2. Staff will have primary responsibility for instructional methods, student assessment, school-day schedules, student management, home-school coordination, and other instructional matters.
3. Shared Personnel: where possible and wise, schools will share teachers, specialists (Art, Music, PE, Guidance, nurse, etc.), and co-curricular staff in order to make education as effective in each school as possible.
3. Shared Programs: where possible and wise, schools will share curriculum, instructional materials, special programs for students, and professional development. The new district will coordinate curriculum and assessment in the core learning areas.
4. Shared Services: The new district will provide administration to share and coordinate special education, transportation, and business services. If wise, it might do the same for food service, technology services, facilities maintenance services and the like.

## **B. Our Towns**

1. School Committees will be reconstituted by the Town Meeting and function as they did before the RSU. The School Committee was disbanded when the RSU formed. They will:
  - a. set the education budget and oversee spending;
  - b. determine personnel needs, hire, and evaluate all school staff
  - c. oversee the educational program and its improvement
  - d. determine matters pertaining to student placement and policy, including ensuring high school choice
  - e. oversee school facilities, transportation, and special services
  - f. collaborate with the School Committees of other towns to make the District Office and services as effective and efficient as possible (through membership on the AOS School Board).
2. Board of Selectmen (and Budget Committee) will once again have a hand in setting the town's educational budget.
3. Town Meeting will once again vote on the educational budget and the programs and services for the town's children and youth (this was removed when the RSU formed)

## **C. The District Office/AOS School Board**

1. Major Responsibilities. The AOS School Board and district office:

### *High Quality Learning and Teaching*

- a. leads and supports the personnel and programs in all schools so that each student in each school succeeds;
- b. integrates the goals and practices of member schools to coordinate instruction and assessment that serve the core curriculum agreed to by each staff and School Committee;

### *Efficient Use of Public Funds*

- c. minimizes the costs of providing high-quality education by maximizing the benefits of joint management, purchasing and sharing of services both among the member towns and with other districts;
- d. provides management services that support the educational mission of each school, to include system administration (superintendent), special education administration transportation administration, business administration, and other functions as determined by the AOS Board and approved by member School Committees;

### *Minimizing Administrative Overlap*

- d. adopts policies and calendars that clearly serve the educational mission of all schools by providing consistency where necessary;

e. negotiates collective bargaining agreements which are consistent across member towns insofar as they promote high-quality performance by all employees.

## 2. Joint School Committee (the AOS School Board)

- a. Made up of (2? All?) members of member town School Committees
- b. Make decisions only regarding the responsibilities in C1; have no “veto power” over decisions that are the jurisdiction of School Committees (see B 1)
- c. Votes weighted according to student counts in each town (previous year’s Oct 1 and April 1 resident student counts, averaged)
- d. Union #92 Policies will provide the basis

## 3. Financial Responsibilities

- a. AOS services (see C 1) are the responsibility of all member towns.
- b. Each town’s share of this budget is proportional to student counts (previous year’s Oct 1 and April 1 resident student counts, averaged)
- c. AOS office and personnel costs must be affordable and clearly serve the educational goals of member towns, as they were in Union 92.

## 4. Staffing

- a. System Office Core Staff: Superintendent; Business Manager; accounting/clerk; administrative assistant/receptionist.
- b. Other Staff, Contracted Services, or Positions Shared with other Districts: special education administration; instructional/curriculum consultant; transportation administration; facilities administration  
(Whether these are employees of the AOS or “contracted services” or part of a collaborative with another district will depend on how many towns join the AOS.)

## 2010-11 Enrollments (K-12)

Hancock 318  
Lamoine 192  
Mariaville 65  
Otis 70  
Waltham 47  
Steuben 145