

**Cooperative School District Planning Board Meeting MINUTES**  
**Monday June 9, 2014 at 5PM**  
**Camp Calumet**

**Call to Order:** 5:04pm by Chair Jack Waldron

**Present:** Jack Waldron, Karl Ogren, Jane Davidson, Shannon Ames, Cheryl Littlefield, Lori Palmer, Mike Douglas (by phone), Ray O'Brien

**Absent:** Kirsten Greib

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Cheryl and seconded by Jane to approve the agenda. It PASSED unanimously.

**Approve Minutes of 5/12/14 meeting:** A motion by Jane seconded by Lori PASSED unanimously to approve the minutes.

**Public Input:** None

**Review and discuss notes for meeting with Matt:** Several questions had been posed to Matt Upton. We discussed the results. Generally an SAU can't hire staff that is not supervisory, such as a grade 4 teacher. Matt said typically a Cooperative is formed when there is a need to build a School where all parties benefit financially in this expensive effort. We are not doing building a new school. Our big plus would be reducing redundancy that the Superintendent has to live with by serving multiple districts, but the cost benefit would be minimal and the political costs would be high. The best way to deal with ownership of buildings would be for the towns to own the building and lease them to the Coop. Each board would still be in place because of owning the buildings so there are no advantages here. Members reviewed the rest of the questions. Matt discussed things we could do to minimize duplication. Technology, Curriculum, Transportation, and Food Services are fertile areas for cooperation. As we reviewed the questions three things were becoming clear: there are areas for cooperation, among the districts as they are currently configured, the benefits of a cooperative are minimal for us, and the political sacrifices to forming a cooperative exceed the benefits. The CBAs are a time consuming item for the SAU staff and when they all happen at once, other things are put on hold. Therefore a solution to the time consuming process should be developed. Policy development is another area for consolidation too. If all three districts had similar policies it would allow the SAU staff to avoid confusion.

Cheryl made a MOTION to FORM a COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT among Madison, Tamworth, and Freedom School Districts and Jane seconded. Discussion ensued around the idea that since we are not building a new building, a Coop would not be as desirable. However, we found many areas where we can cooperate within our existing structure. There was discussion about a scenario where the population of the schools lowered to a point where consolidation of students was desirable. We thought that school districts would have more

flexibility to tuition students to a variety of places if they were independent.  
The motion FAILED unanimously.

**Proposed Timeline through March 2015:** During September and October we should develop recommendations. During November and December we should prepare a report and in January we make a final report. We then discussed trying to make this schedule move even faster so it would be out to the public well before their annual meetings. Our report will highlight areas of cooperation that could show ways where things could be done differently or where temporary help could be used to maximize the Superintendent's and Business Administrator's time.

**Next MEETING:** September 22, 2014 at Camp Calumet

**Adjourn:** At 6:22pm Cheryl made a MOTION to adjourn and Jane seconded it. It PASSED unanimously.

**Submitted** by Ray O'Brien

DRAFT