

Andy Julow \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Garity \_\_\_\_\_  
Seth Chastenay \_\_\_\_\_

**Joint North Hero / Isle LaMotte School Board Meeting**

**North Hero Minutes**

**July 28, 2010**

**7:00 P.M. GISU Office, North Hero, VT**

**In Attendance:** School Board – Andy Julow - Chair  
Seth Chastenay  
Jennifer Garity  
Superintendent – Dick Taylor  
North Hero Principal – Joey Bennick  
Isle LaMotte School Board, Teachers and Principal  
Guest - Corrine Julow

**Call Meeting to Order**

The North Hero portion of the meeting was called to order by Andy Julow at 7:05 PM

**Adjustment to the Agenda**

- None

Discussion on what is RED (Rural Education District)?

Created in 2010 Legislative Action as Act 153.

An RED is basically the following:

1. New District comprised of two or more school districts (Union School District)
2. Governed by one school board composed of members from all towns involved in RED
3. Schools are protected from closure for 4 years (unless their town chooses to close them, they may be extended)

Why ILM and NH?

1. Similar Challenges, similar mindsets, similar experiences with consolidation discussions
2. Preserve small town control and feel
3. Opportunity for genuine partnership
4. Fiscal savings?
5. Peer interaction, both schools have very small classes by grade level
6. Expanded opportunity

What an ILM and NH RED may look like in the schools,

1. Administrators views
  - a. Reviewed strengths in each school
  - b. What each town could contribute
  - c. There were concerns on how this would actually be implemented while utilizing both buildings, and not compromising learning time with travel and inconsistency in staffing for the students
  - d. The Principals were tasked with coming up with a detailed idea of how the schedules and programs could work.
2. Staffing, Union and Non-Union
3. Fiscal savings may not be there if maintaining 2 buildings / schools – need to build on opportunities and strengths.
4. Some staff is already shared between the schools
5. Transportation could be challenging, depending on how the scheduling is set up.

What an RED might look like in the towns

1. One school board for both towns, proportional, weighted or at large
2. Joint vote on school budgets
3. Potential 2 or 3 year budgets
4. Separate tax rates and CLA

There are incentives as part of Act 153 for the process

1. Tax rate reductions
2. \$20,000 reimbursement for study costs
3. Both schools keep small school grant for 5 years
4. Tax rate cannot increase or decrease by more than 5% for 4 years

How would an ILM an NH RED be different than the Addison county model, Hero elementary and the futures committee?

1. Size
2. Community protection - still keep schools for 4 years
3. Opportunity for real partnership?

Next steps

- Joey and Diane will meet before the next meeting to try to work out logistics of schedules, staffing, transportation, etc. Possibly during combined in-service on Aug 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Dick Taylor will contact legal for opinions on Act 153, possible scenarios and ramifications thereof.
- Dick will also try to get Tom O'Brian of Superintendent of Addison County to come to the next GISU board meeting, to discuss their current state, what went wrong, and what went right.

At 8:19 Seth made a motion to adjourn the North Hero Portion of the meeting, Jennifer Gariety seconded. All motioned in favor.