



## **Mount Desert Island Regional School System AOS - 91 Reorganization Planning Committee**

Meeting Outcomes, Agenda & Notes  
March 13, 2024, 5:30-7:00 pm

### **Meeting Outcomes**

1. Introductions and Teambuilding
2. Working Agreements
3. Overview of Upcoming Meetings/Outcomes

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Discussion/Guiding Question: Why is it important to you to serve on this committee?
3. Activity/Guiding Question: Describe your “work communication” patterns.
4. Breakout Groups: Discuss and generate working agreements.
5. Review Outcomes, Gratitude/Last Words, and Look to Next Month: April 10, 5:30-7.

### **Meeting Notes**

Discussion/Guiding Question: Why is it important to you to serve on this committee?

- Holly - Covid created new pathways, so this is great timing
- Tammy - bring outer island communities here and not be forgotten, those kids are very important to her
- Matt - interested in this group from how we can improve things generally, make them more efficient, and more effective to provide additional opportunities for kids across the district
- Brian - try and make sure what we're seeing in the arts is equitable across all schools
- Rob - bringing past experience with the district to the table, looking at some models to use as springboards for our dream of education here on the island and in Trenton
- Cindy - cohesiveness, which is one of the driving values of what we're talking about here
- Aaron - what counts is who shows up, the importance of kids showing up but also about being part of this group
- Lilea - Working from the top down, realizing that a good infrastructure and well-taken-care-of staff is the best way to take care of students, great time to evaluate
- Becky - Avoid this being a completely linear process, look at this with a wide scope, extremely interested in making sure we focus on the staff/faculty to make sure the students get the best of us, don't reinvent the wheel
- Susan - Make sure students are treated equitably across the AOS
- Jessica - doing the most with the resources we have
- Fred - budget and municipal funding aspect

- Keri - all about equity, giving all of our kids the same opportunities, sharing resources so we're not duplicating efforts across the district, saving taxpayers money, making good/strong choices
- Jan - impact on outer islands, allowing students most impact without transporting to mainland
- Jason - how does this affect our kids in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade on outer islands
- Darlene - how is this going to impact Cranberry Isles specifically, giving children varied extracurricular activities without having to go to boarding school
- Sarah - former ed tech at high school, here to listen and learn

Breakout Groups: Discuss and generate working agreements:

- Side conversations with the Owl make it very hard to hear what's going on
- Want Zoom participants to feel a part of it, a part of the bigger group, fine to stay in hybrid but still use breakout rooms or even smaller breakout rooms, mix breakout rooms with in-person participants
- Unique needs of off-island kids, want to make sure their needs are heard and taken into account, much different needs than those on MDI/Trenton
- Assume best intentions, Respectful, stay on topic, stay curious, gives honest opinion,, stays respectful of time, willing to put stake in ground but also be willing to move it, open info sharing, remind ourselves that we're all here for the collective good and not just the children and towns we represent; open information sharing, honesty
- Be fully present, be open to possibilities, push others' thinking, look at every issue from different perspectives, monitor air time, agree to take reasonable risks and share ideas (that's where the magic happens)
- Be kind, supportive, goal is the same (all here for the same reasons), be collaborative, try not to get off track, everyone has the opportunity to be heard and considered, understand the why, knowing what issues are, the education of it, showing up, do your homework, active participation, respect overall as-needed to keep things on track, maintain focus, what benefits the kids most first, then what supports staff; knowing history of past consolidation, agree to compromise, don't get dismissive/unwilling to hear alternatives;
- Judiciously transparent
- Speak loudly enough
- This is an open and new discussion to include all voices (versus bringing in pieces from old conversations/previous similar meetings)

Summary/Themes

1. Everyone in this group should be heard and considered. All voices are valued and necessary for this process, regardless of in-person/remote location.
2. Consider all perspectives and keep an open mind. Don't dismiss ideas too quickly.
3. Avoid side conversations and distractions. Full presence and participation are respectfully requested of everyone. Be mindful of the time.
4. Consider all the children impacted.
5. Assume good intentions and model respect and kindness.
6. Speak loudly for everyone to hear.
- 7.