

School Renewal Commission  
Regionalization Working Group  
Conference Call  
February 4, 2004  
4:00 PM

Present: Kris Goss, Steve Meloy, Jules Waber, Holly Raser, Madalyn Quinlan, Linda Peterson, Kirk Miller. Absent: Cathy Day, Ron Laferriere. Guests: Brian Tallbott, Paul Rowland.

### Agenda and Notes

1. Discussion of services available to support Montana through AESA (Brian Tallbott)
  - Research services
  - Review of Montana's current status and research available to assist with creating changes in the Montana structure
  - Recommendations to be considered
  - Costs and timeline to complete this work

### NOTES

- Colorado and North Dakota are working on ESD's right now. AESA is helping at no cost.
- In the past states chose 5 peer states and paired them up so that they can ask questions about existing efforts. Montana needs to match up with a couple people and outline what questions need to be asked. Need to look at what's working now and improve on that.
- Jules states that the 9 MASS Regions and the county superintendents currently in those regions would be an existing infrastructure to examine.
- Brian suggests building a strong plan with complete involvement that people could buy into.
- This subcommittee needs to put together what is currently happening and forward to Brian so that he can then match us up with other states that are similar and have developed good systems.
- Linda P. described the scenarios that dictate what moves forward and what gets in the way.
- Why did Racicot's Reinventing Government effort failed in the area of education.
- Brian will send the info from Ohio. They have overlapping services and have figured a way to make this better.
- Template that could be filled in by folks in the field. Ask current regional entities about finance, governance, etc. Would want to talk to curriculum coops, special education coops, and distance learning coops.
- Will also develop a list of the things that have been tried and why they didn't succeed.
- Brian will then review and see if he can match up with another state.

2. Review Oregon information forwarded by Jules Waber (Jules Waber)
  - Best info is the paper by Gerald Bennett "Oregon Education -- The ESD Connection"
  - Oregon's ESD's have base funding from state, they have taxing authority, and fees for services for local school districts.
  - Rep. Raser stated the need to provide cost efficiency so the state funds are seen as used purposefully to make things more efficient. Mentioned trust funds and grants for funding.
  - Time to review of the materials sent out would be beneficial for the working group.
  
3. Review of existing Interlocal Agreement laws and what would need to be done to allow expanded shared services to be allowable for Educational Service Agencies. (Madalyn Quinlan)
  - Attorney General must approve full Service Education Coop Issues - no taxing jurisdiction.
  - Lance Melton may have interlocal agreement information that we could use.
  
4. Discussion of the role of distance learning in regional service organizations (Steve Meloy and Paul Rowland)
  - A needs assessment is currently being conducted and it shows that there are a variety of needs that are being identified in a variety of subject areas. A perceived need exists.
  - There is concern that regionalization may duplicate services. An advantage is that a regional center knows the receiver better and can better judge the needs.
  - Curriculum issues still exist regarding how the service can be delivered to multiple districts. The question remains would be better to deliver the curriculum in a region rather than scattered throughout the state.
  - The concept of regional centers working with receiving client districts and the delivery happening from a statewide network is being examined.
  - This project only relies on on-line delivery. Paul Rowland described the project being piloted.
  - Rep. Raser mentioned the ability to think about services from traveling teachers.
  
5. Next Steps
  1. Template developed and list of entities to be contacted..
  2. History of tried attempts and reasons why they didn't meet success.
  3. Establish email contact with Brian Tallbott.
  4. Rule revision for distance learning sent to the Working Group.
  5. Technology surveys for review
  6. Working Group will read materials and meet at the Commission Meeting to establish another conference call time and date.

Thanks to each of the working group members for your commitment.