

BERRIEN COUNTY-WIDE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

NOTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2010

A meeting of designees from Berrien County's 14 local school districts' and two K-8 districts' Boards of Education was held on Thursday, June 10, 2010 in Conference Rooms B, C & D of the Administrative Conference Center, 711 St. Joseph Avenue, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Berrien RESA Board President Sharon Kalling.

Members Present (see attached).

II. Introduction

Berrien RESA Superintendent Jeff Siegel welcomed guests and reviewed the objectives of the meeting. Superintendent Siegel suggested that the meeting serve as a forum for discussion of ideas and provide local districts and Berrien RESA with a better understanding of what Berrien County's educational goals should be.

III. Revenue Enhancements-

Jim Palm, Berrien RESA Assistant Superintendent, discussed revenue enhancement options. After open discussion, it was suggested that Berrien RESA Business Office staff create a report highlighting millage options (special education millage, Headlee override and/or enhancement millage scenarios) and the amount of revenue that could be potentially generated through the options. It was also suggested, **after the informational report is distributed**, that Boards discuss revenue enhancement options and implications for their districts. Attendees also suggested reviewing the Special Education Reimbursement Formula as it may relate to distribution options relative to additional millage. It was mentioned that a timeline be created to examine revenue enhancement options which would include identifying upcoming election dates and local district bond proposals.

It was also suggested that, should local districts be interested in pursuing revenue enhancements, a special superintendent subcommittee would be established to organize a campaign.

IV. Shared Services-

Kevin Ivers, Superintendent of Bridgman Public Schools discussed shared service opportunities for local districts at the RESA and local levels. It was suggested that Berrien RESA might provide a web location or forum for local districts to share their needs and services. Superintendent Siegel suggested an online portal be created that would allow superintendents to post shared

service information. In the meantime, email between and among superintendents should suffice.

V. Legislative Advisory Forum-

Superintendent Siegel offered the possibility of establishing a proactive, county-wide voice relative to education legislation. Discussion centered on the prospect of organizing select board members and superintendents to discuss such issues directly with legislative leaders, as well as provide opportunities for legislators to utilize this group as a resource when developing or debating education legislation.

VI. Additional Suggestions-

It was suggested that a second county-wide board meeting be held. It was also suggested that a survey be created and disseminated to attendees for input about additional topics, suggestions and ideas.

Attached, is a list of those board members and superintendents who attended the meeting. Additionally, for those individuals who attended the meeting, please complete the linked survey. <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22AMQUT3S3P>

Jeff Siegel,
Superintendent