



Select Board
401 Webbs Mills Road
Raymond, Maine 04071
207.655.4742

August 21, 2018

Robert G. Hasson, Jr., Commissioner
Maine Department of Education
23 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Raymond Citizen Petition to Withdraw from RSU 14

Dear Commissioner Hasson:

On August 14, 2018, the Raymond residents voted favorably (178 yes, 121 no) to begin the process of withdrawing from RSU 14. To the best of our knowledge, reasons that Raymond voters petitioned to withdraw from RSU 14 include:

- 1) The RSU has been unwilling to view the district as a whole where students are transported to utilize available space, wherever it is located in the district. For example, instead of transporting Windham students to Raymond to use available classroom space, the RSU is planning on a new middle school in Windham;
- 2) Although RSU towns voted to amend the Cost Sharing Agreement (CSA), the RSU is not using the revised formula to address all costs. The CSA identified that the cost of expansion of new footprints would be the sole responsibility of the town where the additional space was built, but the RSU is using lease agreements to create new footprints in Windham under which Raymond is required to participate in the costs;
- 3) Withdrawal would give Raymond the ability to control its own school unit for the education and best interest of its students, instead of participating in a larger school unit in which Windham has the overwhelming vote on the school board.

Sincerely,

Teresa Sadak, Chair

Rolf Olsen, Vice Chair

Marshall Bullock, Parliamentarian

Samuel Gifford, Selectman

Lawrence Taylor, Selectman

Cc: Sanford Prince, RSU 14 Superintendent
Christopher Howell, RSU 14 Assistant Superintendent
Paula Gravelle, DOE School Finance Coordinator
Susan Look, Raymond Town Clerk