

To: David Katseff & Chris Andrade  
Fr: Mac Reid  
Re: Unilateral Withdrawal of Dighton or Rehoboth Grades PK-8

April 16, 2015

I had a conversation with Chris Lynch at DESE yesterday. She recently met with Jeff Wulfson and DESE legal counsel regarding the current language in the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District Regional Agreement. That is, the issue of whether either Dighton or Rehoboth are able to unilaterally withdraw from the grades PK-8 Region.

The bottom line answer is a qualified "Yes." That is, the basic intent of this language is acceptable to DESE. There are, however, some significant qualifiers such as follow:

- When the voters in each town vote on the amended Regional Agreement, the intent and the ramifications must be made very clear; specifically, what is the real impact of this action;
- Language must be developed to document what action needs to be taken to establish the two new grades PK-8 local school districts – e.g., what about any then current debt?; what about any shared facilities and capital equipment?;
- The DESE Commissioner must approve of the revised language now and also the actions to establish the two new local school districts at the time of withdrawal of grades PK-8; and
- The current withdrawal language will have to be made more specific and references will need to be made regarding what sections of the Regional Agreement would be modified if grades PK-8 were to be withdrawn from the Region.

Chris Lynch and DESE legal will help the RAAC develop language to be modified and inserted in the amended Regional Agreement. She will begin working with DESE staff to help prepare the necessary language and issues necessary to be included.

Please give me a call if you have any questions.

C Chris Lynch  
C Anthony Azar  
C Catherine Antonellis  
C Steve Hemman