



Long Island School

33 Fern Avenue, Long Island, ME 04050
Ph: (207) 766-4414 Fax: (207) 766-4414

REC'D APR 07 2008

April 1, 2008

Susan Gendron
Commissioner of Education
Maine Department of Education
23 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Commissioner Gendron:

This correspondence and information herein is submitted as a status/progress report of Long Island's Alternative Plan.

Given the unique conditions in our small island school operation, Long Island continues to meet and enhance efficiencies with stringent academic and fiscal operation standards maintained and managed in an accountable school operation.

The Long Island School Committee, town officials, school staff, community members and I are prepared to review questions and comments brought forward by the Department of Education.

Sincerely,



David Gaul
Superintendent/Agent

cc
Long Island School Committee
Long Island Board of Selectmen

Enclosures

Enclosures:

The following is presented in response to requests made by the Commissioner's correspondence dated Dec. 14, 2007.

- A. Copy of Dec.14, 2007 letter from the Commissioner

- B. Updated submittal page

- C. Cover sheet checklist

- D. Projected expenditures for Long Island for 2008-09 compared to current expenditures

- E. Assurance statement



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

December 14, 2007

David Gaul, Superintendent
Long Island School Department
Fern Avenue
Long Island, ME 04050

Dear Superintendent Gaul:

Thank you for the Alternative Plan that you submitted on behalf of Long Island School Department on November 29, 2007 for Department review for compliance with the school reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX.

I recognize how much time, effort and thoughtful work is required to complete an alternative plan and appreciate the efforts made, to date, by all those involved.

Members of my staff and I have reviewed the submission and offer the comments and notes listed below to assist you in completing the plan. If you make any substantive change(s) to any part of the plan beyond those listed below, please be sure to note those on the Updated Alternative Plan Cover Sheet Checklist, along with notation of those items that have changed per the notes contained in this response.

General Documentation (Submittal Sheet)

- All information submitted as required.
- The actual number of students for which the proposed RSU was fiscally responsible as of October 1, 2006 was 27. I am making you aware of this as this is the enrollment number that will be used in determining Essential Programs and Services funding.

Checklist/Plan Text Items

Items Checked "In Progress" or "Not Yet Started"

With respect to the items you checked as "in progress" or "not yet started", we are unable to complete our review until the additional information is provided. However, based on our preliminary review we would ask you to please note the following:

Exhibit A

Maine Department of Education
Alternative Plan Financial Review

School Administrative Unit: Long Island

1. 100% Essential Programs and Services

10/1/2006 Enrollment	Required Local	Additional Local	ED 281 Line 60 Subsidy	Taxes and Subsidy	100% EPS	Amount Over (Under) EPS	Percent Over (Under) EPS
27.81	\$ 206,679	\$ 156,917	\$ 16,122	\$ 379,717	\$ 241,980	\$ 137,738	56.92%

2. System Administration

FY '08 Budget*	K - 8	Assessment 9 - 12	Total	Less Revenues	Amount Over (Under) Assessment	Percent Over (Under) Assessment
\$ 18,311	\$ 7,690	\$ 2,275	\$ 9,965	\$ -	\$ 8,346	83.76%

Estimated 2008-09 100% EPS Allocation based on student counts used for 2007-08 funding = \$ 5,673

3. Operations and Maintenance of Facilities

FY '08 Budget*	K - 8	Assessment 9 - 12	Total	Less Revenues	Amount Over (Under) Assessment	Percent Over (Under) Assessment
\$ 36,826	\$ 20,478	\$ 7,259	\$ 27,737	\$ -	\$ 9,089	32.77%

Estimated 2008-09 100% EPS Allocation based on student counts used for 2007-08 funding = \$ 27,204

4. Special Education

FY '08 Budget*	Assessment	Less Revenues	Amount Over (Under) Assessment	Percent Over (Under) Assessment
\$ 20,158	\$ 30,975	\$ -	\$ (10,817)	-34.92%

Estimated 2008-09 100% EPS Allocation based on student counts used for 2007-08 funding = Not Available

5. Transportation

FY '08 Budget*	Assessment	Less Revenues	Amount Over (Under) Assessment	Percent Over (Under) Assessment
\$ 32,700	\$ 25,371	\$ -	\$ 7,329	28.89%

Estimated 2008-09 100% EPS Allocation based on student counts used for 2007-08 funding = \$ 24,103

*FY '08 Budget information from MEDMS Financial Reporting.

** Required Items*

Each alternative plan must provide projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance in accordance with P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F). Please provide these projected expenditures; and please consider using the guidance offered in the Drummond Woodsum workshop materials.

In Exhibit A, we have included a comparison of (A) the 2007-08 EPS allocations for the four categories of system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance and (B) your unit's 2007-08 budget information (if available) for these four categories. Also included are estimated 2008-09 EPS allocations for system administration, transportation, and facilities and maintenance. I encourage you to review this information. NOTE: If the 2007-08 budget information is missing then it is likely that your unit has not submitted this information to the MEDMS Financial System; please see Administrative Letter # 20, dated 2/13/2007 for instructions.

Please address the requirement in P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F) that “. . . the projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program” by providing an assurance to that effect. Note: We will confirm this assurance against the information that was required to be submitted to the MEDMS Financial System in August, 2007.

A model for budgeting for system administration is available at www.maine.gov/education/supportingschools/planning.html.

The Department of Education will be issuing an RFP to procure routing software to be available statewide. It is the Department's intent to issue the RFP early in 2008 and have a contract signed with a vendor as soon thereafter as possible so that the software will be available to RSUs and municipalities as soon as possible. SAUs may begin to work with the system in FY 2008-2009 but will not be able to budget any cost savings until FY 2009-2010.

We will review all items on the checklist again, upon your completion of the plan.

** Parameters*

D. Please complete section.

Needs for Assistance

The Department's Reorganization Management Team will be contacting you shortly to discuss how best to address the needs for assistance you identified.

SUBMISSION OF REVISIONS:

Please provide the additional materials to complete your plan by February 1, 2008. Please include:

- Any additional data required
- An updated Submittal Page
- An updated Cover Sheet Checklist
- A copy of this Response from the Commissioner.

I will respond no more than 14 days after the revisions/additional materials are refiled with the Department. As you are the contact person identified on the Submittal Sheet, this response is addressed to you but with the understanding that you will share it with your school administrative unit board members.

Finally, what I am reviewing for approval is a plan (or a submission, if the plan is incomplete) which is by its very nature prospective, with steps yet to be taken or finalized; and any review comments or approval given are in relation to the elements required under P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX but not the legality of all the activities proposed. Thus, I strongly recommend that you have your own legal advisor(s) review the details of any particular transaction proposed in your plan (particularly with respect to the disposition of property, to debt, and to employee contracts/relations) as you proceed, to ensure the legality of the steps you'll be taking to implement the plan. If that review leads to any substantive changes in any parts of your plan, please be sure to submit an amended plan to the Department for our review and our file.

Again, my sincere thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education

Enc.

ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

School Administrative Unit Submitting Alternative Plan:

- Long Island

Contact Information:

Name: David Gaul
 Address: Fern Avenue
Long Island School
Long Island, Me. 04050
 Telephone: 766-4414
 email: Pineridgendg@netscape.net

Date Plan Submitted by SAU: April 1, 2008 (updated from 11-27-07)

The intent to submit an alternative plan has been approved by the Commissioner in the approval of the Notice of Intent? YES NO

(If NO, please explain.)

Alternative Plan Cover Sheet
(Please attach Alternative Plan as Exhibit A)

Plan Requirements				
Item	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Need Assistance ¹
Plan addresses how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that projected expenditures of RSU in fiscal 2008-2009 for the following areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.				
system administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
special education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
facilities and maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan addresses how cost savings will be achieved in fiscal 2008-2009 for the above four areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parameters for Plan Development				
Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes at least one publicly supported high school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of teachers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Agreements				
			Yes	No
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? <i>(not required, but encouraged)</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NA

¹ Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on the next page.

D. Long Island Projected Expenditures

	Projected 2008-09	Current 2007-08
System Administration	32,185	32,185
Transportation	33,500	33,500
Special Education	19,600	19,600
Facilities Maintenance	30,050	28,130

Action on projected budget for 2008-09 is scheduled for May 10, 2008 at the Long Island town meeting. The Budget has the full support of the School Committee, Town Finance Committee, and Town Selectmen.

E. Assurance Statement

Assurance is given that the projected Long Island's expenditures for 2008-09 as outlined in (D) will not have an adverse impact on the school unit's instructional program.