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School Administrative District Eight

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March 18, 2008

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

Dear Commissioner Gendron:

Please accept this letter as required, as a status/progress report on MSAD# 8, Vinalhaven's Alternative Plan. With the uncertainty of FY 09 funding and the projected loss of 50% of our Special Education subsidy we are not ready to submit our Alternative Plan at this time.

Presently, it would be irresponsible to imply or project with any certainty what the outcome of our budget development and deliberations will be considering the loss in State revenues, the Island economy and some of the new fiscal demands that we will face in the coming budget year.

Because of the above mentioned issues it is impossible to provide the required assurance "…. that the projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program" at this time.

Sincerely,

George Joseph
Superintendent of Schools
SAD 8
Vinalhaven Island