

Statement by the Harpswell SAD 75 Withdrawal Committee

September 5, 2006

We have sent to the MSAD 75 Withdrawal Committee our proposal for key elements of the Withdrawal Agreement to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education.

The proposal contains the following elements:

1. Operating budget for the Harpswell School Committee based on Harpswell owning and operating the two elementary schools in the town. This budget has been developed by the Maine Department of Education using data from the District and the Town. It shows that the operating costs of this approach would be 9% (\$598,965) less than in the current year.
2. A division of the capital assets of the district, after the return of the two elementary schools to Harpswell, to reflect the net, depreciated contribution of Harpswell (\$6.9 million out of a district total of \$33.5 million). These funds would yield additional benefit to Harpswell, providing an annual cost reduction in the base year of 20% (\$1,324,335).
3. The proposal also contains items relating to the tuition arrangement at the Middle School and High School levels and liaison between a Harpswell School Committee and the MSAD 75 Board of Directors.

In making this proposal, which the Harpswell Committee believes covers major issues, the Committee has followed the directive of the Commissioner of Education and has attempted to preserve, to the fullest extent possible, the continuity of the educational experience of Harpswell students.

The Harpswell Committee recognizes that these proposals are subject to negotiation with the MSAD 75 Committee. It has proposed that, after a meeting to reestablish negotiating contact and to explain the Harpswell proposal and response to questions and comments about it, the two parties should meet in a concentrated effort to resolve issues. The Harpswell Committee proposes that any decision on activating mediation be delayed through these stages and considers that mediation may prove to be unnecessary.