

## Mark your Calendars!

### How can I stay informed?

ALL RPC meetings are open to the public. The schedule for all meetings, including subcommittee meetings are posted in the newspapers and on town public TV.

The RPC committee has scheduled several public forums to be held in all three (3) communities. We are pleased to jointly present our consolidation plan. In order to properly inform all residents of what consolidation will mean to you, your community and your children. You are encouraged to attend one or several of these meetings. The more you know the better informed you will be. These meetings are scheduled as follows:

Saco School Board  
Saco City Hall  
**September 9 7:00 pm**

Old Orchard Beach School Board  
Old Orchard Town Hall  
**September 10 7:00 pm**

Saco City Council  
Saco City Hall  
**September 15 7:00 pm**

Dayton Consolidated School  
Dayton Consolidated School  
**September 18 6:30 pm**

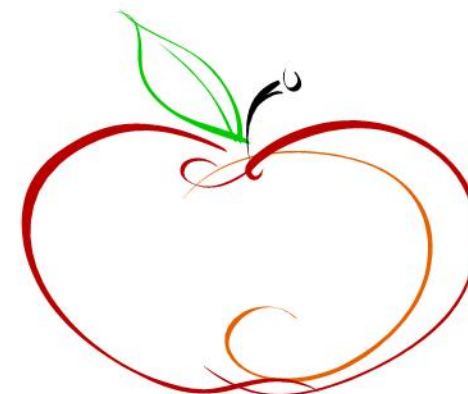
Old Orchard Beach City Council  
Old Orchard Town Hall  
**September 23 7:00 pm**

View school web-sites for more information [www.sacoschools.org](http://www.sacoschools.org) or [www.oobschools.org](http://www.oobschools.org)



Dayton, Old Orchard Beach Saco  
RSU #56

RSU #56  
Dayton, Old Orchard Beach,  
Saco



From the Sea  
and Sky  
Educating You On  
Our RSU #56

Public Forum  
Information Inside

# Dayton, Old Orchard Beach, Saco RSU #56

## Regional Planning Committee

A Regional Planning Committee (RPC) made up of members from Saco, Old Orchard Beach and Dayton Consolidated Schools have been regularly meeting to comply with L.D. 499 (school consolidation). The members include an elected official, a school board member and a community representative from each of the three towns. The purpose of this committee is to form Regional School Unit 56.

Recent legislation requires a 50% reduction in central office operation costs. The State recommended reductions are:

- 50% in administrative costs;
- 5% in transportation;
- 5% in Special Ed; and
- 5% in building maintenance and grounds.

## RPC Committee Members:

**Dayton: Millie Tuttle, Lisa Morse & Jim Trask**

**Old Orchard Beach: Peter Flaherty, Roxanne Frenette, Kay Dutton & Gary Curtis**

**Saco: Dave Galli, Ron Morton, Shirley Jones & Alan Cartwright**

**Superintendents: Mike Lafortune, Eric Matthew & Jack Turcotte**

Part of the work of the RPC was to form sub-committees such as governance, finance, publicity & buildings and grounds. The sub-committees have actively reviewed various aspects and details of consolidation.

## Which schools are included in RSU 56?

The following schools are included and will remain part of the RSU:

## High Schools:

Old Orchard Beach High School  
Thornton Academy \*Contracted Private School

## Middle Schools:

Saco Middle School and Loranger Middle School

## Elementary Schools:

Young, Fairfield, Burns, Jameson & Dayton Consolidated School

Saco, Old Orchard Beach and Dayton Consolidated schools came together to form RSU 56 because they share a common educational philosophy that provides students with the best education possible, while maintaining our neighborhood schools.

## What does consolidation mean for us?

Consolidation means that the school units of Saco, Old Orchard Beach and Dayton will consolidate administrative services to reduce the following departments; Superintendent, Special Education Director, Curriculum Coordinator, Business Manager, Maintenance Department and Transportation Director.

The focus of this brochure is to provide residents of our communities with objective information about school consolidation and the newly configured RSU #56. Committee members have spent the past year working with the new legislation dealing with school consolidation. The committee members have worked long and hard for the best for all communities.

## Does this mean our school will close?

**No**, this does not mean that your school will close. By State law, no school can be closed as part of the consolidation plan. We have written into our plan that no school will be closed for five (5) years. Only through approval of the voters after a recommendation from the school board can a school be closed. All schools will

continue to operate as they currently stand, however, some administrative and specialty teaching positions may be shared among each unit. Sharing of specialty positions can actually broaden services and programs to schools which are otherwise too small to support such services on its own.

## How will we be represented?

Each community will elect a local representative (s) to the RSU Board of Education, based on community population.

## What are the potential benefits?

The members of the RPC are very excited about the possibility of increased academic offerings. The elected RSU board will have the opportunity to expand services; whether academic, extra curricular or athletics, currently being offered in our schools.

## What about existing sports?

Current sports will continue as they are today, with teams at each High School and Middle School, under the auspices of the Maine Principals Association. We will also have the ability to utilize sports programs that may only be available at one school, with the potential for increased athletic opportunities.

## What will happen if we don't do this?

The legislation specifies penalties for non-compliance. Penalties reflect a percentage loss of state funding for education for each town. Also, a loss of future state building aid for school construction/renovation