

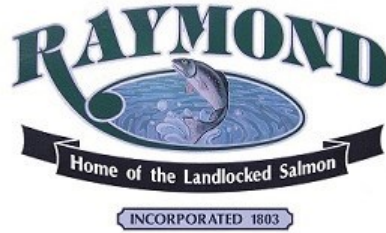
RSU Withdrawal Process Informational Brochure

On September 2, 2014, the Board of Selectmen voted to include a referendum question on the November 4, 2014 ballot in response to a citizen initiated petition started this past January and submitted with 352 valid signatures in accordance with Title 20 MRSA §1466.

The question would need to read:

“Do you favor filing a petition for withdrawal with the Board of Directors of Regional School Unit RSU14 and with the Commissioner of Education, authorizing the Withdrawal Committee to expend \$25,000 and authorizing the Raymond Board of Selectmen to issue notes in the name of the Town of Raymond or otherwise pledge the credit of the Town of Raymond in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for this purpose?”

Yes No



For more information contact:

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RESOURCES

Maine Department of Education

http://www.maine.gov/education/Withdrawal_Procedures_RSU_SAD/

Maine Law Title 20-A MRSA §1466: Withdrawal of a single municipality from a regional school unit

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec1466.html>

Town of Raymond Website

<http://www.raymondmaine.org/content/rsu-withdrawal-process>

Absentee Voting Request

<http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>

FAQ Regarding RSU Withdrawal Process

Q: Why is this happening?

A: A citizen initiated petition was circulated to withdraw from the RSU that needed at least 223 signatures. It was submitted June 10, 2014 with 352 valid signatures.

Q: Can the Selectmen choose not to move forward with the process?

A: No. In accordance with Title 20 MRSA §1466, a special Town Meeting or Referendum Question must be held to ask Raymond voters whether or not to officially start the withdrawal process. This question will be on Absentee Ballots as well.

Q: Will there be a public hearing?

A: Yes, there will be a public hearing held on October 14, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Raymond Broadcast Studio.

Q: What does the question mean?

A: If the withdrawal vote is favorable, written notices will be sent to the RSU#14 Superintendent and Commissioner of Education with the result of the vote and why withdrawal is being sought. \$25,000 would be allocated from the FY2014-15 Selectmen contingency for attorney fees and any other third party contractor such as an accountant.

Q: Can Windham "out vote" Raymond or stop the process?

A: No. This question will only be on the Raymond ballot.

Q: How did the figure of \$25,000 get decided?

A: This figure was based on the range that it may cost to do the investigation. It may cost more or less depending on the needs assessed by the Withdrawal Committee members.

Q: Who will be on the Withdrawal Committee?

A: The Selectmen will be charged with appointing a Withdrawal Committee comprised of 4 members:

- i. One member from the municipal officers.
- ii. One member from the general public.
- iii. One member from the group filing the petition.
- iv. One member of the regional school unit board who represents that municipality.

Q: Can the process be stopped by Raymond?

A: A Town vote must be called by the Board of Selectmen asking if the voters want to stop the process.

Q: How much will it cost to take our schools back over?

A. Questions regarding the budget, operations and staff costs will be part of the investigations of the Withdrawal Committee.

Q: Will all of the school buildings and equipment be returned to Raymond ownership?

A: All RSU property will need to be negotiated as part of the Withdrawal Agreement.

Q: Where will my child go to high school?

A: A 10 year agreement will need to be negotiated with either Windham or another surrounding Town. The Town will still maintain "School Choice" no matter what school Raymond has a contract with.

Q: How long does the process take?

A: It is a 22 step process and is dependent on the length of time it takes to conclude the research and finalize the Withdrawal Agreement. Another Public Hearing will need to be held for comments regarding the Withdrawal Agreement. The Withdrawal Agreement must be accepted by referendum vote before January 31st of that year the Town wishes to withdraw in order to withdraw by July 1st. Any vote after January 31st would not be effective until July 1st of the following year.

IMPORTANT DATES

Public Hearing:

Tuesday, October 14th, 7:00pm
Raymond Broadcast Studio

Referendum Vote:

Tuesday, November 4th, 7am-8pm
JSMS Gym