

**Rochester/Wakefield School Boards  
AREA Agreement Review Committee Minutes  
School Department Board Room  
November 3, 2014  
5:30 PM**

**DRAFT**

**Rochester Members Present:**

Mrs. Kathy Dunton  
Mr. Daniel Harkinson  
Mr. Robert Watson

**Wakefield Members Present:**

Mr. Stephen Brown  
Mr. Relf Fogg

**Also Present:**

Mr. Michael Hopkins  
Mrs. Mary Moriarty  
Dr. Anthony Pastelis

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with a quorum present; members participated with the pledge of allegiance.

The Committee reviewed the AREA Agreement and discussed the amendment as approved by the Rochester School Board; change language from 10% of each grade level to *10% of the total students in grades 9-12*. One area of concern for Wakefield members are the yearly increase in tuition costs due to an increased budget in Rochester. The consensus was to not establish an end date to the Agreement; if an end date was to be considered it should be five to ten years from the date the Agreement goes into effect.

Members discussed the recommended procedural sequence for amending the AREA Agreement. Mr. Brown will request the Wakefield Board amend their November 5<sup>th</sup> Agenda to include review of the AREA Agreement as amended. Superintendent Tursi should be able to respond with the Board's decision by Thursday.

*Adjournment*

Mr. Watson moved, second by Mrs. Dunton, to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Daniel Harkinson, Chair  
Rochester School Board

# **Rochester School Department/Wakefield School District AREA AGREEMENT**

## **ROCHESTER AREA SCHOOL Rochester, New Hampshire**

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into pursuant to Chapter 195-A of the New Hampshire Statutes Annotated, as amended, for the School District of Wakefield.

A. The name of the Authorized Regional Enrollment AREA School shall be the Rochester Area School, located in Rochester.

B. The Wakefield School District shall be the sending district, and the Rochester School District shall be the receiving district; and together they shall form the region which shall be served by the Rochester Area School. The receiving district shall be responsible for Grades 9–12.

C. The rate of tuition shall be determined annually and shall be the estimated cost of current expenses per high school student in average daily membership, as estimated, for the year immediately preceding that for which the charge is made. A rental charge of 2% shall be included in the tuition rate and shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of RSA 194:27, based on the fair capacity of the Rochester Area School buildings. The tuition rate shall be estimated by the receiving district not later than December 31 of each year preceding the year the charge is made and the sending district shall be notified in writing at that time.

D. The initial date of operating responsibility shall be July 1, XXXX. The amended AREA Agreement shall be effective July 1, XXXX.

The school board of the sending district may, each year, approve attendance at, and pay tuition to, any school district other than the Rochester Area School for a total of not more than ten percent (10%) of *the sending district's students in Grades 9-12. each grade level covered by this Agreement (i.e. grades 9-12).* Said approvals may continue, at the discretion of the sending district school board, until graduation of approved students. The receiving district shall be notified of any such approval on or before June 1 prior to the school year in which said students would have entered the Rochester Area School. The school board of the sending district also may pay tuition for students requiring special education to attend an approved school providing such education. If the school board of the sending district has approved the maximum number of placements permitted above, additional students may be approved for such placement by mutual agreement of the superintendents of the sending school district and the receiving school district, if said placement is in the best interest of the students, in accordance with RSA 193:3.

E. The receiving district shall bill the sending district on a triannual basis and the sending district shall pay said tuition rate on a triannual basis not later than November 21, March 3, and June 16. The tuition for a student who attends a portion of the full school year shall be the product of the weekly rate and his average daily membership until April 1, after which time the full tuition rate will be charged.

F. There shall be annually at least two joint board meetings, (October and April) of the Wakefield and Rochester Area School Boards for the purpose of consultation and advice about any and all matters of joint interest.

G. The Rochester Area School shall give the sending district progress reports and attendance reports for all students enrolled under the provisions of this Written Plan.

It is understood that the same student regulations will apply to the students from the sending district as to those of the receiving district.

H. Any incentive aid, as provided under RSA 195-A:10, I and II, shall be credited to the sending

district of Wakefield in the amount made for the students from each district in the Area School according to the grade level in which they are enrolled.

I. The written plan may be amended by the several districts comprising the region, consistent with the provisions of RSA 195-A, except that no amendment shall be effective unless the question of adopting such amendment is submitted: (1) at an annual school district meeting to the voters of the Wakefield School District, voting by ballot with the use of the check list after reasonable opportunity for debate in open meeting, and unless a majority of the voters of said district shall vote in favor of adopting such amendment, and (2) at a regular or special meeting of the Rochester City Council at which there shall be a reasonable opportunity for debate in open meeting, and unless a majority of the city council members shall vote in favor of adopting such amendment. Furthermore, no amendment to the written plan shall be considered except: (1) at an annual meeting of the Wakefield School District and unless the text of such amendment is included in an appropriate article in the warrant of such meeting, and (2) at a regular or special meeting of the Rochester City Council and unless the text of such amendment is included in an appropriate Resolution considered at such meeting. It shall be the duty of the school board of each district to hold a public hearing concerning the adoption of any amendment to the written plan at least ten days before such annual meeting or city council meeting and to cause notice of such hearing and the text of the proposed amendment to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the area before such hearing.

**For the Rochester School Board**

\_\_\_\_\_  
, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

**For the Wakefield School Board**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Name], Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

**For the New Hampshire Department of Education**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Name], Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

## **Recommended Procedural Sequence for amending the Rochester/Wakefield AREA Agreement**

- |                          |   |                        |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Initial meeting of the AREA Agreement Review Committee  | [1/27/2014]            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Develop proposed language   | [3/18/2014]            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Legal review with superintendents/legal counsel   | [         ]            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Second meeting of AREA Agreement Review Committee – approval if ready   | [         ]            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Submission to State Board of Education for review   | [         ]            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | State Board approval process  | [90 days from receipt] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Submission to respective school boards [if approved by NHDOE]   | [         ]            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Notice and implementation of Public Hearing   | [January]              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Finalize submission to School District Meeting (Wakefield) and City Council (Rochester) for legislative body approval | [February or March]    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Execute contract, if approved, and submit to NHDOE  | [by April 30]          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Effective date, July 1, XXXX  |                        |