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SAD 24 argues it was following Maine law regarding RSU plan

By Elizabeth Deprey

VAN BUREN — The SAD 24 school board meeting revolved mostly around discussion about Regional School Units.

Superintendent Clayton Belanger said the board will contact Department of Education Commissioner Susan Gendron to appeal her decision to withhold the district's subsidy check.

Gendron withheld the check when SAD 24 refused to submit a draft plan for the St. John Valley Regional School Unit by the Dec. 1 deadline.

Belanger said SAD 24 plans to argue that they were, in fact, following the law.

He said the district will also argue that the plan is incomplete, and the board did not want to agree to submit an incomplete plan.

Belanger said that until the decision is made, SAD 24 will continue to work through the reorganization process with

the Reorganization Planning Committee.

In other business, the school board also hired Robertine Rockwell, a secretary at the Van Buren Elementary, to be the cross-country coach at the middle school for the 2007-2008 school year.

SAD 24 will also take part in a program for gifted and talented students based on the Renzulli model for learning.

Above-average students will be given interest inventory exams, and teachers will modify their instructions to meet these interests.

The Renzulli model is named after Joseph S. Renzulli, a Raymond and Lynn Neag professor of gifted education at the University of Connecticut.

Renzulli broadened the definition of "giftedness" to include all children who are above average in ability, creativity, and task commitment.