

Afternoon, Joseph, and my apologies for not getting back to you more quickly.

I understand the confusion and I may very well have inadvertently added to it by talking with Doug McBride a week or two ago. When the GMUSD formed, it qualified for the tax rate adjustments due to the number of districts that merged. That meant the GMUSD was eligible for the \$150,000 transition facilitation grant, net of any monies received for the merger study grants.

Subsequent to the GMUSD vote, the voters in Ludlow and Mt. Holly approved their unification of their 3 school districts into one. As they were small in total and not enough districts to meet the tax rate adjustment criteria, the only way they could get the rate adjustments was by becoming one side of a side-by-side merger with GMUSD. While that allowed the Ludlow-Mt. Holly UUSD to receive the rate adjustments, there was not another (net) \$150,000 transition grant available since only one is allowed per side-by-side.

The question as presented to me was what was the net \$150,000 to be used for? My answer was, the money was intended to be used to offset any unforeseen costs as districts merged into unified school districts. However, the language as written did not specify that, nor was it written to specify any specific use outside of education purposes. But having sat through the legislative committee discussions as these grants were being discussed and created and written into law, the intent was for offsetting unexpected costs due to merger.

Should the money be used at the SU level to offset costs due to the GMUSD unification and the LMHUUSD unification? In my opinion, yes, but again, we (AOE) have no say in how the money is used due to how the language was written. But I do know what the legislative intent was, although it was not written, and that is what my opinion is based on.

Does that help clarify . . . maybe?

Brad

-----Original Message-----

From: Joseph Fromberger AN BD <joseph.fromberger@trsu.org>  
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2018 7:50 PM  
To: James, Brad <Brad.James@vermont.gov>  
Subject: Transition facilitation grant

Mr. James,

At a recent meeting of the new Two Rivers Supervisory Union Board the question of transition grants caused some confusion and differing opinions.

For background, the TRSU supervises two Unified School Districts. The Green Mountain Unified School District (GMUSD) and the Ludlow Mt.Holly Unified Union School District (LMHUUSD).

During the discussion it was generally assumed that the new Green Mountain Unified School District (GMUSD) created under the guidelines of Act 46 was eligible for a \$150,000.00 transition facilitation grant. The question that was unresolved was whether the Ludlow Mt.Holly Unified Union School District, formed under the auspices of T16, Paragraph 706b, also was eligible for the transition grant. Your help in resolving that question would be appreciated.

If a conversation would help my number is 802 875-3548.

Joseph