

Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Report

August 2019

The Selectboards of Bernardston and Leyden arranged a joint meeting of the four towns comprising the Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD), (Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield and Warwick) and invited the PVRSD School Committee, the respective Finance Committees, and the PVRSD superintendent to discuss the School Budget deficit, the prospects of updating the Regional Agreement which was last amended in 1991, and the need to identify and implement initiatives that results in a more affordable and manageable School District budget over time.

It was agreed that the best way to accomplish the above was to appoint a committee, which later became known as the **HEART Committee (Honest Education and Retaining Trust)**, with its primary purpose focused on exploring potential options and making recommendations that would promote a more viable and sustainable School District budget going forward. Three representatives were appointed from each town along with three School Committee members while the superintendent served as an ad hoc member (Addendum A).

Members of the HEART Committee appointed a chair, established its name and agreed a facilitator would be beneficial to its work. To this end, the towns of Leyden and Bernardston applied for funding through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for facilitation services. Funding for a facilitator in the amount of \$6,000 was secured and **Community Action of Franklin Hampshire County** was chosen to facilitate.

With the assistance of the facilitator a mission, vision, and purpose were developed and the name of the committee was formally established as HEART, as noted above. Additionally, the Committee explored other district's initiatives in implementing cost saving measures, researched/discussed efficiencies and economy of scale collaboration and supported further research pursuant to the benefits of expanding the existing regional school district or the formation of a new one (Addendum B).

That research revealed that other districts received grants through the Division of Local Services, specifically the Efficiency and Regionalization (E&R) Grant Program. The Towns of Warwick and Northfield applied for the E&R Grant Program and secured \$25,000 on behalf of the HEART Committee.

An RFQ was developed by the Northfield on behalf of the HEART Committee and all proposals received were rejected per Mass General Law 30 B section 9. This was followed by a Sole Source Procurement (Addendum C) and The Abrahams Group was awarded a consultation Agreement on June 21, 2018. (Addendum D).

Mark Abrahams, Stephen Hemman, and Mac Reid provided the deliverables contained in the Sole Source Justification Agreement. A Financial Baseline Analysis was conducted to determine the present and future costs of the Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) and public presentations were provided for the communities and the School Committee (Addendum E-1, E-2; F).

Additionally, the HEART Committee sponsored a meeting for all rural school districts with a focus on re-envisioning sustainable rural schools in the Commonwealth. A summary of suggestions and ideas are included in Addendum F-1.

A series of Working Meetings were held with the HEART Committee and the consultants to update the Regional Agreement (RA), deleting obsolete or restrict language, adding language to conform with state regulations, and addressing issues, such as the closure of school(s) (Addendum G-1, G-2; H). The Consultants developed a School Choice Survey with the Superintendent responsible for its dissemination (Addendum I- 1 & I- 2). The results of the survey can be found in Addendum J- 1; J-2.

The HEART Committee recommended amendments to the RA and voted to forward those recommendations in the form of a final amended Regional Agreement document to the School Committee for their review and vote and in turn would be forwarded to the towns for voter approval at their respect Town Meetings (Addendum K; L-1; L-2).

Additionally, upon reviewing the data, the consultants suggested potential strategies for the School Committee to consider in realizing more efficiencies in its operation and the merits of researching the potential benefits of regionalizing with another school district, sharing administrative services and utilizing technology

and the sharing of staff in forming collaborative endeavors to provide other educational opportunities for students.

Although the original task of the HEART committee has been concluded, there remains much work to be done to make the district affordable and sustainable for the towns and the District. A summary of deliverables by The Abrahams Group pertaining to the work of the HEART Committee's focus on the Regional Agreement is noted in Addendum M.

As an aside, it should be noted that the towns of Gill and Montague applied for an E&R grant and included the PVRSD, after a vote of the PVRSC to support the exploration of further regionalization and sharing services. Although the scope of this research was beyond the realm of the HEART Committee, there remains strong interest of some members that this possibility be thoroughly investigated and if deemed beneficial, pursued with the towns and state.

Additionally, the four towns of PVRSD voted at their Annual or Special Town Meetings to create a regional school district planning committee in accordance with MGL Chapter 71, section 14 for the possibility of merging the school district into one larger district comprising multiple towns.

Appendix 1 provides a list of approved invoices relating to the scope of work executed in fulfilling the deliverables outlined in the grant.

Please note the final amount expended is \$ _____. Appendix 2.



Town of Bernardston
Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of February 1, 2017.

Select Board Members Present:

Andrew Girard, Chairman

Robert R. Raymond

Stanley Garland

Others Present:

(see attached)

Chairman Andrew Girard called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Andrew announced the meeting is being broadcast by BNCTV.

Warrants (week ending January 27th)

Andrew asked for a motion to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$32,277.58.

Motion by Bob, second by Stan. Motion carried.

Andrew requested a motion to approve the Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$68,376.91.

Motion by Bob, second by Stan. Motion carried.

Minutes

- Regular Meeting, January 18, 2017. Motion by Bob to approve as written, second by Stan. Motion carried.
- Special Meeting, January 25, 2017. Motion by Bob to approve as written, second by Stan. Motion carried.
- Executive Session, January 26, 2017. Motion by Bob to approve as written, second by Stan. Motion carried.

Calendar & Announcements

Bob read aloud the events and activities in Town for the near future.

Citizen's Concerns – None

Appointments – None

BOS Minutes
February 1, 2017
(cont.)

New Business

Master Plan Implementation Committee

Seven (7) names have been forwarded for consideration to serve on the Master Plan Implementation Committee: Wendy Abramson (Agricultural Commission), Bill Hill (Conservation Commission,) Chris Wysk (Planning Board,) Jane Dutcher (Finance Committee,) Will Pratt (Board of Health,) John Lepore (Master Plan Steering Committee) and Celt Grant (citizen.) It is suggested the MPIC members serve 3-year terms and the committee size be no more than 9 to allow for 2 additional members to be appointed at-large. Bob motioned to appoint the names announced by Andrew to the Master Plan Implementation Committee each with a 3-year term and the MPIC have a membership of no more than 9, second by Stan. Motion carried.

PVRSD HEART Committee

Andrew summarized the meeting held on January 25th, where PVRSD member town representatives in attendance agreed to appoint an additional member to the HEART Committee for a total of 3 from each member PVRSD town. Stan said he would like to see a member from the community that has no association with the school system to promote objectivity. Bob said the FY18 budget is expected to be less than FY17 due to declining enrollment and reduction in staff. How that translates into a FY18 assessment for Bernardston remains to be seen. The Board decided to make an appointment at the next meeting February 15th after receiving inquiries from the public to serve. Bob said Joseph Arsenault who was not appointed originally in favor of Jack Killeen and Robert Keir could be a choice if there was no interest otherwise.

Hillside Pizza Liquor License Application

Hillside Pizza has applied for Beer & Malt restaurant license and is seeking approval from the local licensing authority, the Board of Selectmen. There are no issues with license quotas for this type of license in Bernardston. Stan motioned to approve the application, second by Bob. Motion carried and an ABCC Form 43 was signed by all 3 Board members. The application will now be sent to the ABCC for further vetting and approval. This could take some time.

Drug Kiosk

Police Chief James Palmeri reported to the Board the success of a no questions asked policy of receiving an unwanted prescription medicine program via a drop box at the Police Station. A total of 36lbs of has been collected to date. The Chief's correspondence is attached herein as part of the minutes.

BOS Minutes
February 1, 2017
(cont.)

Notice of Tax Title Taking

The Treasurer passed on notice of a recent tax title taking of 4 acres of open land at an address of 879 Huckle Hill Rd. The taking was executed as of January 18th. The Town is required to wait 12-months before considering a public auction.

Trash Compactor Bin

Gary Wetherby reports a trash compactor bin requires repair due to corrosion of the rails. The unit has been taken out of service by the FCSWMD due to its condition. Repair of the bin would be approx., \$2,500. A new bin is \$7,000. While the bin is under repair, the Town can rent a bin from the hauler at \$50 per month. Motion by Bob to authorize repair of the bin from the recycling revolving fund, second by Stan. Motion carried.

BES Use

The Franklin County Cheerleader Association is seeking approval of the Board to use the BES cafeteria Wednesdays from February 8th to Spring 2017 on a weekly basis. Bob Clancy, BES Principal, has signed off on the request. So moved by Stan, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Board of Health Clerk

Stan asked for clarification of the BOH Clerk line item as it appeared it was running out of money. Bob said there was an alternate method of paying the Clerk position but could recall the mechanics of the funding. The Town Coordinator will check with the Town Accountant.

Old Business

Town Hall Furnace

G&L Energy Services provided a certification of completion for the Town Hall furnace replacement project to the Selectmen for signature. A walk around inspection was conducted by G&L and Sandri Energy on January 18th. A final invoice of \$29,760.00 was processed this warrant cycle. Motion to sign the certificate of completion by Stan, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Voting Machine

Town Clerk Paul Luther plans to borrow a new voting machine for the May 1st election without obligation to purchase the same as he discussed with the Selectmen on January 18th. Paul will reconsider if there is an objection by the Board. There is no objection.

BOS Minutes
February 1, 2017
(cont.)

Comcast

The meeting with Comcast has been moved to March 15th and has been formally recognized by Comcast. This meeting is in regards to a service issue with a resident on Huckle Hill Rd.

Town Coordinator Report

Hugh Campbell reported on the following:

Selectmen's Annual Report 2016

A list of topics was handed out for the Board to consider for the 2016 Annual Report. The Board also accepted the proposed cover photo of the stone arch railroad bridge over Fall River with an Amtrak train crossing the same.

Town Hall floors

Jeff Gale inspected the Town Hall floors recently and will provide a quote to plug the holes in the floors where the old radiators were removed.

Cushman Library

Dead River has scheduled installation of a new oil tank at Cushman Library February 9th.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Stan made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 6:43pm, Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Town Coordinator

_____, Chairman
Andrew I. Girard

Stanley D. Garland

Robert R. Raymond

Executive Session

Andrew stated the Board will be convening Executive Session. He asked for a motion to go to into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A Section 21 (6.) Stan motioned to do so, second by Bob. Andrew asked for a roll call vote: Stan aye, Bob aye, Andrew aye. Andrew announced the Board will not be reconvening into Open Session upon conclusion.



HEART Committee Background

The Honest Education and Retaining Trust Committee, the HEART Committee, formed in February of 2017 after the Bernardston board of selectmen called a meeting of concerned citizens, educators, and town government members on January 25, 2017. At the time, selectmen suggested that the District Agreement that frames how the towns in the Pioneer district collaborate to education our children might need to be revised to meet the district's current challenges. With declining enrollment and increased costs, continuing to finance the excellent education system we've built and collaborated on, guided by our District Agreement, has become increasingly difficult. The HEART committee came together in the hope that with a diverse membership of educators, town officials, and concerned citizens, we could come up with some ideas and solutions including but not limited to recommended revisions to the District Agreement.

The committee has met bi-monthly since February of 2017 and is guided by the following statement of purpose:

The HEART Committee (Honest Education and Retaining Trust) serves as a bridge between the towns (Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield and Warwick) and the Pioneer Valley Regional School District with its primary purpose of recommending and advocating for changes that promote high quality educational services for all students in a manner that is sustainable and affordable. These recommendations and changes may include, but are not limited to, the provisions of the District Agreement.

The HEART Committee is committed to reaching out and communicating with various stakeholders within the respective towns and working collaboratively to support, not supplant, the work of existing entities (i.e. School Committee, Boards of Selectmen, etc.) and to openly explore creative options, including those that address efficiencies and economies of scale for member towns and the regional school district.

Finally, the HEART Committee anticipates serving in an advocacy role that supports regional and state-wide efforts to increase revenues and manage the escalating expenses associated with operating a high performing school district.

Community Best Practices Grant Planning:

- Over time the HEART committee has identified the need for data to inform future district-wide decisions related to reducing expenses and minimizing cost increases while maintaining quality. As a citizen-based, volunteer committee, we also acknowledge the lack of time and expertise that committee members themselves can bring to this work.

KONO

CON

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD

www.northfieldma.gov

69 MAIN STREET NORTHFIELD MASSACHUSETTS 01360-1017

Willie Morales M P P Town Administrator

admin@northfieldma.gov

413.498 2901 x115

August 22nd 2017

Director of Special Initiatives Division of Local Services Department of Revenue
PO Box 9569 Boston, MA 02114

RE Northfield Voted Community Compact - Scope of Work

Dear Mr Powers,

The Northfield Board of Selectmen voted the scope for the scope of work herein attached below

Northfield Warwick Community Compact Statement of Work Project Managers:
Tracy Rogers and Sue O'Reilly McRae Sponsor: MA Dept of Local Services
(DLS)

Revision History Revision date Revised by 7/23/17

Tracy Rogers

Approved by

Description of change A idea outside data analysis and reduced amount of meeting facilitation support Removed Clean Sites and Plant Trees projects

Purpose

Northfield and Warwick, with assistance from the MA Dept of Local Services, wants to implement the local government best practices of Regionalization/Shared Services

Scope - Regionalization/Shared Services (Support HEART Committee)

All project tasks

Who is responsible

Due date

Task description

1. Issue bid for data analysis services

Town of Northfield

8/31/17

2. Review bids and choose firm

HEART Committee

9/15/17

3. Execute contract with data analysis firm

Town of Northfield.

9/22/17

Town of Northfield

9/30/17

5.

4. Contract with The Mediation and

Training Collaborative to continue to provide facilitation services with remaining grant

funds Work with data analysis firm to collect

and analyze data and produce a written

report of recommendations 6. Recommendations presented to the

School Committee 7. Hold public forums to share

recommendations

HEART Committee

1/31/18

HEART Committee

2/28/18

HEART Committee

4/30/18

Out of scope activities that are critical to the success of the project

1. The School Committee agrees to adopt some or all of the Committee's recommendations.

Deliverables

Research completed on ways to provide quality education at a more sustainable cost for its member towns. Feedback collected from residents of member towns A list of recommendations written by a data analysis firm, guided by the HEART Committee, presented to the Pioneer Valley Regional School Committee. The recommendations vetted by the School Committee are presented to the four members towns for annual town meeting votes, if necessary.

Cost Estimates

Cost Type

Amount

Labor hours

External costs

Labor (consultants, contract labor) - Data Analysis Labor (consultants, contract labor)

- Meeting Facilitation Supplies Advertising

approx. \$20,000 approx. \$5,000

Schedule Overview

Estimated Project Completion Date: 4/30/2018 Impact of Late Delivery:

The four towns will have to wait until annual town meeting in 2019 to vote to approve the Committee's recommendations

Measures of Success

The project will be complete and successful when :

1. Recommendations are presented to the School Committee. 2. Changes needing a vote of member towns are placed on annual town meeting

warrants
GENOR

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD

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69 MAIN STREET NORTHFIELD MASSACHUSETTS 01360-1017

Willie Morales M.P P Town Administrator

admin@northfieldma.gov

413 498 2901 x115

Major Responsibility or Contribution Work with data analysis firm to research education best practices and make recommendations to the School Committee

Provide funding and technical assistance

Stakeholder Analysis

Name & Role HEART Committee Customer MA Dept. of Local Services Sponsor Willie

Murphy Northfield town

administrator Management

Manage contracts and expenses

Assumptions

Assumption: The School Committee is open to recommendations **Impact if**

assumption is incorrect: The recommendations may not make it past the School Committee to its member towns or will make it to the towns' annual town meetings, but will lack the support necessary to pass. **Assumption:** The

Committee can hire a data analysis firm for approximately \$20 000 to provide it with enough data analysis support that recommendations can be made to the School

Committee **Impact if assumption is incorrect:** The Committee will have to decide if it

wants to redistribute the grant funds and/or ask the four District towns to commit funds to support the project.

Best Regards,

Willie Morales, M.P.P Town Administrator

Consultation Agreement Between the Town of Northfield and The Abrahams Group

THIS AGREEMENT made as of the 21st day of June, 2018, is by and between the Town of Northfield, hereinafter called the TOWN, and The Abrahams Group, hereinafter called the CONSULTANT.

WHEREAS, the TOWN has entered into an Agreement The Abrahams Group to conduct an Efficiency and Regionalization Study of the Pioneer Valley Regional School District) to develop plans for increased operational efficiencies and potential regionalization among the Gill Montague and Franklin County Tech districts and

WHEREAS, professional services relating to the implementation of the project are sought to assist the TOWN in the timely achievement of the project objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE THE PARTIES HERETO DO AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT: The TOWN hereby engages the CONSULTANT to perform the services set forth herein and the CONSULTANT hereby accepts the engagement.

2. SCOPE OF SERVICES: The CONSULTANT shall perform the necessary services as described in the attached Scope of Work.

3. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TOWN: The TOWN shall assume responsibility for assisting the CONSULTANT insofar as possible for the purpose of efficiency and furnishing the CONSULTANT with information needed to satisfactorily complete the services.

4. REPORTING: The CONSULTANT will submit written reports to the TOWN on the status of professional services as specified in the scope of Work or at other times as required by an information request or reporting requirement by the HEART Committee

5. TIME OF PERFORMANCE: The services of the CONSULTANT are to

commence on or about June 25, 2018

and shall be undertaken and completed in sequence as to assure their expeditious completion. All services required hereunder shall be completed no later than August 1, 2019.

6. COMPENSATION: The TOWN will pay the CONSULTANT a total fee from project grant funds in amount not to exceed \$20,000.00, based on a mutually agreed upon invoice procedure.

7. WITHDRAWAL: Either the TOWN or the CONSULTANT may withdraw from this agreement for cause upon 15 days written notice. In case of withdrawal, all finished and unfinished material shall become the property of the TOWN. In the event of termination, the CONSULTANT will be compensated for services provided to the date of termination.

8. AMENDMENTS: This agreement may be amended as agreed to in writing by the signatories hereto.

9. NON-DISCRIMINATION: The CONSULTANT shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, handicap, or national origin.

10. INDEMNIFICATION: To the extent allowable by law, the CONSULTANT shall indemnify, defend, and hold the TOWN harmless from and against any and all claims, demand, liabilities, actions, causes of actions, cost and expenses caused by or arising out of or in connection with the services performed or delivered under this Agreement by reason of acts, inactions, omissions, negligence, reckless or intentional misconduct of the

CONSULTANT their agents or employees

11. CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE: The CONSULTANT must provide the TOWN with a Certificate of Insurance General Liability, if applicable, and Worker's Compensation

12. FORM W-9: The CONSULTANT must provide the TOWN with a

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification (W-9).

13. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** The CONSULTANT shall adhere to the mandates of the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Statute

14. **COPYRIGHT:** No material prepared in whole or in part under this agreement shall be subject to copyright in the United States of America or in any other country. All material produced under the terms of this agreement is public property and cannot be copyrighted by either the CONSULTANT or the TOWN

15. **SEVERABILITY:** If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid, the remainder of the agreement shall not be affected thereby, and all other parts of this agreement shall nevertheless be in full force and effect.

16. **ASSIGNMENT:** This Agreement may not be assigned by either party

17. **GOVERNING LAW:** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

18. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT:** This Agreement represents the entire understanding of the parties with respect to the subject matter address herein and superseded and cancels all previous agreements between the parties.

IN WITNESS thereof, the TOWN and the CONSULTANT have executed this agreement as of the date above written TOWN:

By:

Date: June 21, 2018

Bernard R. Kubiak, Interim Administrator

CONSULTANT: By: Mal al

Mark Abrahams Principal, Abrahams Group

pato 6/21/2018

Pioneer Valley Regional School District

SCOPE OF WORK EFFICIENCY AND REGIONALIZATION GRANT STUDY

1. Project Overview

The Town of Northfield and The Town of Warwick have received an Efficiency and Regionalization grant from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue on behalf of Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) to develop plans for increased operational efficiencies and potential regionalization among the Gill Montague and Franklin County Tech districts.

This group seeks consultant services to assist with the following: the analysis of options, the development of plans, engagement with community, and the recommendation of solutions. These solutions are intended to advance a high quality education while ensuring financial sustainability for our communities.

The four areas of focus identified by the HEART Committee are: 1) school closing analysis, 2) sustainable models of administrative structure for the PVRSD district, 3) data gathering and analysis of the impact of school choice and charter on the district, and 4) recommendations for the updating of the PVRSD District Agreement.

The Town of Northfield is the awarding and contracting authority for this procurement. The selected consultant must be able to begin work immediately and work must be targeted for completion by August 1, 2019.

Key elements for which consultant services are sought are listed below:

Modeling - Consultant will model different scenarios for PVRSD, including the following:

1 School Closing Analysis - analysis of the impact of closing one or two of the smallest schools in the PVRSD district: Pearl Rhodes Elementary School in Leyden and Warwick Community School in Warwick.

Costs and benefits of closing one or both schools. Costs and benefits associated with the following such as: Impact on transportation times; are there rules and limits? Can towns be in the district for high school and have separate, independent elementary schools? If the district wants to close a school, what options does the town have to still have an elementary school and remain in the district?

Deliverables: a district-wide stakeholder meeting to gather community input as part of analysis and a district wide stakeholder meeting as part of results dissemination after analysis. Documentation of analysis shared with stakeholders.

Models of Administrative Structure given PVRSD's current financial constraints and reduced enrollment, what administrative structure is recommended?

Deliverables: Provide models that include cost/benefit analysis for sharing administration with Gill Montague Regional School District and/or Franklin

County Tech and for PVRSD without shared administration positions.

The consultant will explore several theoretical models. While it is **expected that these** are not the only possible future states, they will provide a continuum of possibilities from which recommendations can be drawn. Each option will be evaluated within **several broad domains of consideration. These include:**

Quality of education. How will the model impact the quality of education delivered and, corresponding, student outcomes?

• **Financial (Economic).** How does the model impact district and town finances?

Logistical/Organizational. What are the logistical and organizational considerations of the model? **Regulatory/Legal.** What regulatory and legal considerations are present for each model? **Political/Social.** What are the political and/or social implications of the model? **Contractual.** What are the contractual considerations that need to be addressed?

Data Gathering & Analysis:

3

Analysis of the impact of school choice and charter on the district. Analysis of why students are choosing out of the district and why students are choosing into the district. Also, what would the impact of school closure be on school choice families? Once students are accepted they are students of the district; if there is limited space due to school consolidation what's the impact on school choice families and what's our obligation?

Deliverables: development of a survey tool to be used to gather and report data

4 Updating the PVRSD District Agreement The research, data gathering and modeling involved in this grant process may result in necessary changes to the district agreement. The consultant will outline necessary changes. The HEART Committee will function as an amendment committee and will support the dissemination of information related to District Agreement changes during the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) and Town Meeting amendment process.

Deliverables: consultants will assist the HEART Committee in developing an updated District Agreement that will satisfy the legal requirements of DESE and will be ready for the district's annual 2019 meetings.

Additional Deliverables:

Ongoing Communication: Biweekly phone/email check in with the HEART Committee on progress on goals.

Meetings: Up to 3 evening public meetings with the PVRSD School Committee and the PVRSD community.

Summary Report for the Department of Revenue: consultant will provide the HEART

Committee with a summary of analysis and data gathering, a description of community engagement in the study, and recommendations for next steps. *This summary report will be provided to the Department of Revenue no later than August 1, 2019.*

Other Requirements:

a) The Town of Northfield may cancel this contract, in whole or in part, at any time whenever such an act is deemed in its best interest. b) The Town of Northfield reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any and all quotes/proposals if it deems so to be in the Pioneer Valley

Regional School's best interest.

Recognizing the complexity of requested analysis, it is fully expected that subcontractors with specific experiences may be utilized. If any part of the scope of services under this agreement is to be completed by a subcontractor, the consultant will provide a complete description of the services to be subcontracted for along with a complete description of the qualifications and capabilities of the subcontractor. As part of the agreement, The Town of Northfield reserves the right to approve or disapprove any and all such subcontractors and to revoke any approval previously given. This project is being funded through the Fiscal Year 2018 & 2019 Community Compact Efficiency and Regionalization Grant. An award made under this agreement will be subject to the terms and conditions of the grant award.

The Town of Northfield is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

g) The consultant has been selected by The Town of Northfield without

regard to race, color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation,

disability, age, religion, political affiliation, or national origin. h) Any questions

pertaining to this contract should be directed in writing to

Tracy Rogers, Selectboard Chair Town of Northfield, at trogers.northfield@gmail.com.

or Michele Giarusso, Chair of the HEART

Committee at mgiarusso578@gmail.com 1) The fee for professional services and

expenses is \$20,000.00

2. Sharing of documents associated with this agreement may be addressed to:

**HEART Committee c/o Northfield Board of Selectmen 69 Main Street Northfield,
MA, 01360 Attention: Tracy Rogers**



TOWN OF NORTHFIELD

www.northfieldma.gov

69 MAIN STREET NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01360-1017

Bernard Kubiak Interim Administrator

admin@northfieldma.gov

413.498 2901 x115

Sole Source Justification: Abrahams Group

Contract amount: \$20,000.00

The Abrahams Group has particular expertise in the area of school finance, given the experience of its principal, Mark Abrahams, CPA. Mr. Abrahams has conducted numerous school audits, written extensively on school finances and provided training on Chapter 70 and other school funding legislation. At present he is serving as the fiscal overseer to two school systems.

The Abrahams Group was recently awarded a contract for similar services through a competitive procurement process with the Gill-Montague School District.

A discussion with the Community Compact staff, the time frame and amount of the grant all were considered in offering the contract to Abrahams Group.

Pioneer Valley RSD

FINANCIAL BASELINE ANALYSIS

NOVEMBER 19, 2018 COMMUNITY FORUM

Introduction

Gill-Montague contracted with The Abrahams Group and MARS to:

☐ Goals - Consultant will confirm and formalize the group's goals, further refining and articulating intended outcomes. This will include definition and consensus on educational quality indicators.

☐ Modeling – Consultant will model different scenarios for the three districts, including the following:

- ☐ “do nothing model” – a baseline starting with the FY19 budget for the three districts projected through FY 2023
 - ☐ a continuum of collaboration between GMRSD and FCTS, from shared staff, to shared student programs, to the creation of a comprehensive school on two campuses.
 - ☐ a continuum of collaboration between GMRSD and PVRSD, from shared central office administration, to superintendency union, to regionalization of the districts
 - ☐ collaboration among G-MRSD, FCTS, and PVRSD for shared staff and/or specialized student programs.
- These models will examine educational, financial logistical / organizational, regulatory/legal, and political/social considerations.

☐ Recommendations – Consultant will develop a set of recommendations based on the benefits/barriers of each model (or combination thereof) to be presented to and considered by the districts. This will include an engagement plan (communication, sharing, input) and an implementation timeline with key tasks and resources articulated.

Start Here

Introduction

The HEART Committee contracted with The Abrahams Group and MARS for the following:

- **School Closing Analysis** - analysis of the impact of closing one or two of the smallest schools in the PVRSD district: Pearl Rhodes Elementary School in Leyden and Warwick Community School in Warwick.
- **Models of Administrative Structure** – given PVRSD's current financial constraints and reduced enrollment, what administrative structure is recommended?
- **Analysis of the impact of school choice on the district.** Analysis of why students are choosing out of the district and why students are choosing into the district. Also, what would the impact of school closure be on school choice families? Once students are accepted they are students of the district; if there is limited space due to school consolidation what's the impact on school choice families and what's our obligation?
- **Updating the PVRSD District Agreement**-The research, data gathering and modeling involved in this grant process may result in necessary changes to the district agreement. The consultant will outline necessary changes. The HEART Committee will function as an amendment committee and will support the dissemination of information related to District Agreement changes during the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) and Town Meeting amendment process.

Introduction

Today's presentation includes the financial baseline

- ❑ The Do Nothing Scenario
- ❑ Projecting Pioneer Valley finances if the district "Does Nothing"
- ❑ Based on the FY19 budget
- ❑ Projections through FY23.

Today's presentation also includes an update on the other scope of services for both the Gill Montague and HEART Committee (Pioneer Valley) scope of services.

Data has been compiled from the Districts and DESE and DOR websites and thus are considered public information, that again, needs to be validated.

Presenters

Mark Abrahams, The Abrahams Group

Steve Hemman, MARS

Baseline Methodology

- ☐ Based on the FY19 budget
- ☐ Worked with the Finance Director to develop and document assumptions to project FY20 – FY23
- ☐ Revenues and expenditures were projected by line-item through FY23
- ☐ Numbers may be off due to rounding

Pioneer Valley RSD Baseline



Pioneer Valley

Deficit

- ☐ Pioneer Valley's financial numbers are not validated by DOR, DESE or a financial audit.
- ☐ Thus two scenarios are presented.
 - ☐ The first is based on the proposed legislation which allows the District to borrow up to \$2 million over a 10-year period
 - ☐ The second is based on the District's representation that the deficit is less than \$600,000.

Pioneer Valley Baseline

1. Based on a \$2,000,000 Deficit Financing Bond, 10 Year, 5%

Sources of Funds	FY19				FY20				FY21				FY22				FY23			
	Actual	Revised	Budgeted	Projected	Actual	Revised	Budgeted	Projected	Actual	Revised	Budgeted	Projected	Actual	Revised	Budgeted	Projected	Actual	Revised	Budgeted	Projected
Town Assessments	8,913,690		9,205,774	9,435,918	9,671,816		9,913,612	10,161,452	Assume 2.5% annual increase											
State Aid	4,128,881		4,149,941	4,174,182	4,198,423		4,222,664	4,246,905	See Ch 70 tab											
Chapter 70	535,882		580,961	469,046	480,772		492,792	505,111	Net of non reimbursable riders											
Transportation	102,994		22,010	22,010	22,010		22,010	22,010	Level Funded											
Charter School Reimbursement	66,770		67,000	67,000	67,000		67,000	67,000	Level Funded											
Medicaid																				
Local Revenue	248,989		196,179	164,943	164,943		124,944	124,944	See T&F Calculation											
Tuition and Fees	3,049		2,000	1,500	1,500		1,500	1,500	Reduced and Level Funded											
Interest Income	15,004								Non reoccurring											
Other																				
Total Sources of Funds	14,015,260	14,223,865	14,334,600	14,608,465	14,844,521		15,128,922													
Uses of Funds	FY19				FY20				FY21				FY22				FY23			
	Actual	Revised	Budgeted	Projected	Actual	Revised	Budgeted	Projected	Actual	Revised	Budgeted	Projected	Actual	Revised	Budgeted	Projected	Actual	Revised	Budgeted	Projected
District Administration	3,744,587		4,273,039	4,747,721	4,963,736		5,227,122	5,473,970	See District Budget Tab											
Bernardston	1,335,509		1,328,769	1,362,945	1,398,034		1,434,060	1,471,051	See District Budget Tab											
Leyden	509,190		455,507	468,240	477,281		486,835	500,307	See District Budget Tab											
Northfield	1,562,183		1,461,763	1,489,392	1,538,027		1,577,697	1,618,431	See District Budget Tab											
Warwick	796,240		650,379	667,158	684,388		702,082	720,253	See District Budget Tab											
Pioneer	3,343,248		3,290,725	3,377,387	3,466,988		3,559,138	3,653,921	See District Budget Tab											
Shared Staff	1,523,277		1,302,035	1,334,586	1,367,951		1,402,149	1,437,203	See District Budget Tab											
SPED	1,184,915		1,461,648	1,471,781	1,508,576		1,546,290	1,584,947	See District Budget Tab											
Total	13,999,149	14,223,865	14,927,211	15,404,979	15,937,172		16,460,084													
Excess (Deficiency) of Sources over Uses	16,111	0	-592,611	-592,611	-798,515		-1,092,651	-1,331,162												
Cumulative																				
Numbers may be off due to rounding																				

Pioneer Valley Baseline

2. Based on a \$600,000 Deficit Financing Bond, 10 Year, 5%

Sources of Funds	FY19				FY20				FY21				FY22				FY23			
	FY18 Actual	Revised Budgeted	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected
Town Assessments	8,913,690	9,205,774	9,435,918	9,671,816	9,913,612	10,161,452	9,435,918	9,671,816	9,913,612	10,161,452	9,435,918	9,671,816	9,913,612	10,161,452	9,435,918	9,671,816	9,913,612	10,161,452	9,435,918	9,671,816
State Aid																				
Chapter 70	4,128,881	4,149,941	4,174,182	4,198,423	4,222,664	4,246,905	4,174,182	4,198,423	4,222,664	4,246,905	4,174,182	4,198,423	4,222,664	4,246,905	4,174,182	4,198,423	4,222,664	4,246,905	4,174,182	4,198,423
Transportation	536,882	580,961	469,046	480,772	492,792	505,111	469,046	480,772	492,792	505,111	469,046	480,772	492,792	505,111	469,046	480,772	492,792	505,111	469,046	480,772
Charter School Reimbursement	102,994	22,010	22,010	22,010	22,010	22,010	102,994	22,010	22,010	22,010	102,994	22,010	22,010	22,010	102,994	22,010	22,010	22,010	102,994	22,010
Medicaid	66,770	67,000	67,000	67,000	67,000	67,000	66,770	67,000	67,000	67,000	66,770	67,000	67,000	67,000	66,770	67,000	67,000	67,000	66,770	67,000
Local Revenue																				
Tuition and Fees	248,989	196,179	164,943	164,943	124,944	124,944	248,989	196,179	164,943	164,944	248,989	196,179	164,943	164,944	248,989	196,179	164,943	164,944	248,989	196,179
Interest Income	3,049	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	3,049	2,000	1,500	1,500	3,049	2,000	1,500	1,500	3,049	2,000	1,500	1,500	3,049	2,000
Other	15,004						15,004					15,004								
Total Sources of Funds	14,015,260	14,223,865	14,334,600	14,606,465	14,844,521	15,128,922	14,015,260	14,223,865	14,334,600	14,606,465	14,844,521	15,128,922	14,334,600	14,606,465	14,844,521	15,128,922	14,334,600	14,606,465	14,844,521	15,128,922
Uses of Funds	FY19				FY20				FY21				FY22				FY23			
	FY18 Actual	Revised Budgeted	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected
District Administration	3,744,587	4,273,039	4,537,721	4,759,686	5,027,642	5,280,456	4,537,721	4,759,686	5,027,642	5,280,456	4,537,721	4,759,686	5,027,642	5,280,456	4,537,721	4,759,686	5,027,642	5,280,456	4,537,721	4,759,686
Barnardston	1,335,508	1,328,769	1,362,945	1,398,034	1,434,060	1,471,051	1,362,945	1,398,034	1,434,060	1,471,051	1,362,945	1,398,034	1,434,060	1,471,051	1,362,945	1,398,034	1,434,060	1,471,051	1,362,945	1,398,034
Leyden	508,190	455,507	466,240	477,281	488,635	500,307	508,190	455,507	466,240	477,281	500,307	508,190	455,507	466,240	477,281	500,307	508,190	455,507	466,240	477,281
Northfield	1,562,183	1,461,763	1,499,392	1,538,027	1,577,697	1,618,431	1,499,392	1,538,027	1,577,697	1,618,431	1,499,392	1,538,027	1,577,697	1,618,431	1,499,392	1,538,027	1,577,697	1,618,431	1,499,392	1,538,027
Warwick	796,240	650,379	667,158	684,388	702,082	720,253	796,240	650,379	667,158	684,388	702,082	720,253	740,811	759,138	777,697	796,240	720,253	740,811	759,138	777,697
Pioneer	3,343,248	3,290,725	3,377,387	3,466,988	3,559,138	3,653,921	3,377,387	3,466,988	3,559,138	3,653,921	3,377,387	3,466,988	3,559,138	3,653,921	3,377,387	3,466,988	3,559,138	3,653,921	3,377,387	3,466,988
Shared Staff	1,523,277	1,302,035	1,334,586	1,367,951	1,402,149	1,437,203	1,523,277	1,302,035	1,334,586	1,367,951	1,402,149	1,437,203	1,471,781	1,508,576	1,546,290	1,584,947	1,623,670	1,662,384	1,701,098	1,739,812
SPED	1,184,916	1,461,648	1,471,781	1,508,576	1,546,290	1,584,947	1,184,916	1,461,648	1,471,781	1,508,576	1,546,290	1,584,947	1,623,670	1,662,384	1,701,098	1,739,812	1,778,526	1,817,240	1,855,954	1,894,668
Total	13,999,149	14,223,865	14,717,211	15,200,929	15,737,692	16,268,570	13,999,149	14,223,865	14,717,211	15,200,929	15,737,692	16,268,570	16,799,441	17,330,312	17,861,183	18,392,054	18,922,925	19,453,796	19,984,667	20,515,538
Excess (Deficiency) of Sources over Uses	16,111	0	-382,611	-594,465	-893,171	-1,137,647	16,111	-382,611	-594,465	-893,171	-1,137,647	-1,375,218	-1,668,789	-1,961,860	-2,254,931	-2,548,002	-2,841,073	-3,134,144	-3,427,215	-3,720,286
Cumulative																				
Numbers may be off due to rounding																				

Pioneer Valley Rural Aid

- ☐ The District received a rural aid award letter from DESE in October 2018 for \$92,593.
- ☐ DESE has not announced whether the District will receive rural aid beyond FY19.
- ☐ Rural aid receipts are to be placed in a special revenue fund. While guidance has not been received as to the specific use of the funds, it is likely that the District can transfer eligible general fund expenditures to the Rural Aid SRF which will free up \$92,593 in the general fund.
- ☐ This number is NOT included in the baseline scenarios at this time.

Pioneer Valley

❑ Pioneer Valley presents its budget by DESE State Object Codes

❑ The major growth assumptions are

Object	% Annual Increase
Sub. No 1-3	2.5%
Contract SVCS 4-5 + Supplies	2.5%
6	2.5%
7	0.0%
8	0.0%
Health	7.0%
Prop Ins	5.0%
Trans	2.5%
Tuition	2.5%
Heat, Electricity	6.0%

Deficit Loan Payment Amount Assume \$200,000 a year for 10 years

Contribution to Supplemental an amount equal to 0.25/0.50/0.75/1.00 per cent of the gross amount of the regional district budget for the prior FY

Major Funding Sources Chapter 70 Key Terms

- ❑ A **foundation budget** is calculated for each school district, representing the minimum spending level needed to provide an adequate education. The foundation budget is adjusted each year to reflect changes in the district's enrollment; changes in student demographics (grade levels; low income status; English language proficiency); inflation; and geographical differences in wage levels.
- ❑ A **local contribution** represents the amount of local appropriations required to meet net school spending. This is a town-wide calculation, one each for the four member towns.
- ❑ A **local district contribution** is the amount of the town-wide calculation, allocated to each of the regional districts to which each town belongs.
- ❑ **Chapter 70 Aid** represents the amount of state aid to finance the state share of the foundation budget. Chapter 70 aid is generally composed of Foundation Aid, and or Minimum Aid.

Chapter 70 Key Terms

□ The sum of the local contribution plus Chapter 70 aid is the required net school spending. Required net school spending must be equal to or greater than the foundation budget. In general, the foundation formula is:

Required Net School Spending = Local District Contribution + Ch 70 Aid

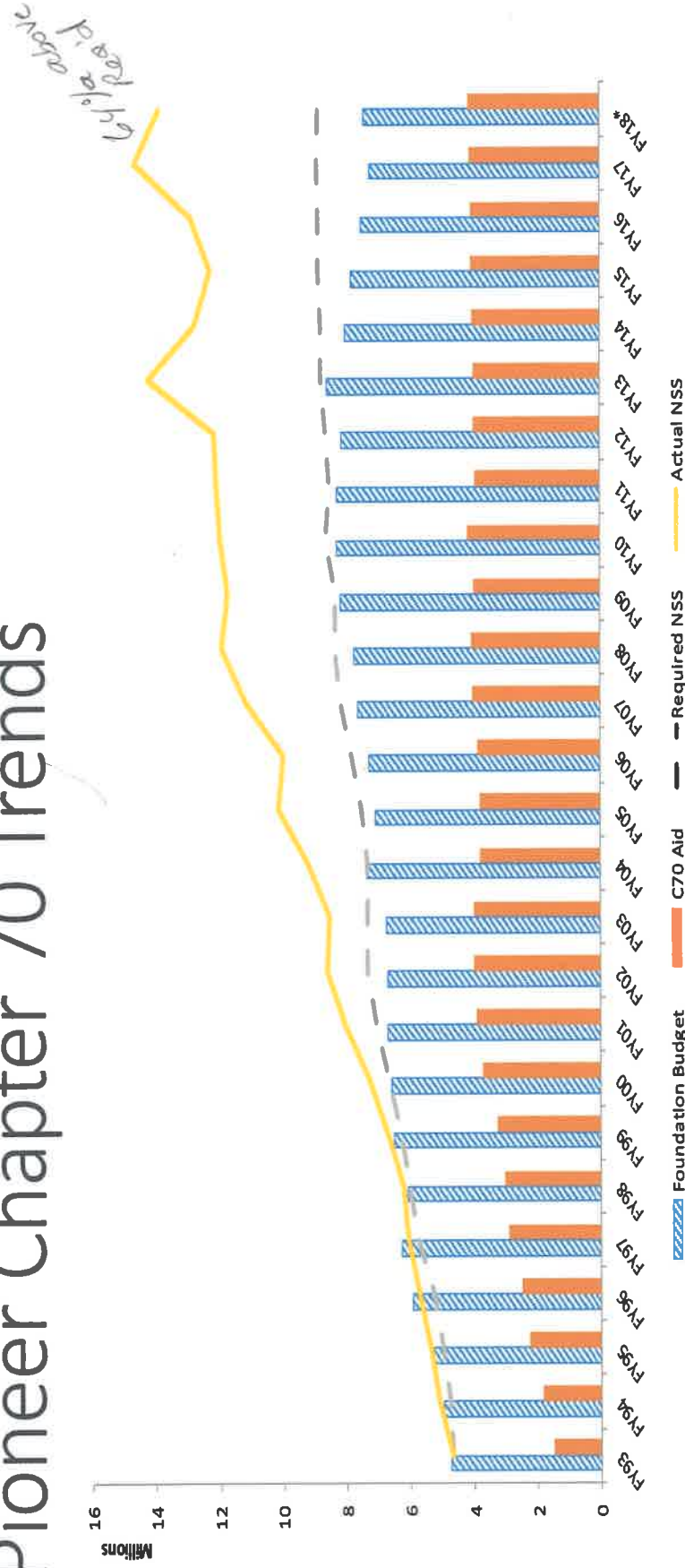
Required Net School Spending = > Foundation Budget

Pioneer Valley spends well in excess of the required net school spending

70-75% Transportion
Reimbursement

We're at 67%

Pioneer Chapter 70 Trends



does not
include
trans-
fer-
capital-

Can view DESE / google

0750 Pioneer

15

Pioneer Valley Chapter 70

❑ Because the district receives significantly more prior year Chapter 70 prior (base) aid in excess of foundation aid, Pioneer Valley should see minimal Chapter 70 aid increases based on minimum aid

FY19 Chapter 70 Summary

750 Pioneer

Aid Calculation FY19

Prior Year Aid	1 Chapter 70 FY18	4,128,881
Foundation Aid	2 Foundation Budget FY19	7,354,253
	3 Required district contribution FY19	4,872,782
	4 Foundation aid (2 - 3)	2,481,471
	5 Increase over FY18 (4 - 1)	0
Minimum Aid	6 Minimum \$30 per pupil increase	21,060
Non-Operating District Reduction to Foundation	7 Reduction to foundation	0
Additional Aid Increment	8 Adjustment based on H. 4401 Ch. 70 a	0
Transitional Relief for Impact of Change in Low-Income Measure	9 Relief for impact of change in measur	0
FY19 Chapter 70 Aid	10 sum of line 1, 5, 8, 9 minus 7	4,149,941

- PV receives about \$4.1m in Ch 70 aid
- Its base (prior year aid) exceeds its foundation aid by about \$1.7m
- The State must fund each district its foundation aid, the difference between its foundation budget and required contributions from its member towns (required district contributions). This is the grandfathering effect, that every district will receive at least its prior year base aid
- Thus the District receives minimum aid at \$30 per foundation enrollment

Pioneer Valley

\$2,000,000 SUMMARY

	FY18 Actual	FY19 Revised Budgeted	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected
Total Sources of Funds	14,015,260	14,223,865	14,334,600	14,606,465	14,844,521	15,128,922
Total Uses of Funds	13,999,149	14,223,865	14,927,211	15,404,979	15,937,172	16,460,084
Excess (Deficiency) of Sources over Uses	16,111	0	-592,611	-798,515	-1,092,651	-1,331,162
Cumulative			-592,611	-1,391,126	-2,483,777	-3,814,939

\$600,000 SUMMARY

	FY18 Actual	FY19 Revised Budgeted	FY20 Projected	FY21 Projected	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected
Total Sources of Funds	14,015,260	14,223,865	14,334,600	14,606,465	14,844,521	15,128,922
Total Uses of Funds	13,999,149	14,223,865	14,717,211	15,200,929	15,737,692	16,266,570
Excess (Deficiency) of Sources over Uses	16,111	0	-382,611	-594,465	-893,171	-1,137,647
Cumulative			-382,611	-977,076	-1,870,247	-3,007,894

PV's budget projected gap increases each year in both scenarios
 PV's cumulative projected gap ranges between \$3 m and \$3.8 m by FY 2023.

Summary

- ❑ These baseline, based on FY19 budgets and the assumptions contained herein, present the “Do Nothing” scenario for Pioneer Valley to project operating results through FY 2023 if the district does not change their revenues or expenditures
- ❑ Pioneer Valley is projected to have deficits in each year through FY 2023.
- ❑ We can generally conclude that these results are not sustainable; the district will need to change its business models.
- ❑ That leads us to the second part of our presentation on the status of the Gill Montague and HEART Committee scopes of services.

For More Information

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The HEART Committee

Presents

A Community Forum about the PVRSD

Wednesday, December 5th at 6:30pm

**Pioneer Valley Regional School Cafeteria ,
97 F Sumner Turner Drive, Northfield**

**Data related to the sustainability of the school
district will be presented by Consultants from the
Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools.
This will include:**

- **Financial Baseline Analysis**
- **School Closure Analysis**

***All members of the community are invited
to attend this forum to better understand
the future of our school district and to
express ideas about how to move forward.***



H.E.A.R.T Committee

www.facebook.com/HEARTCte

heartcte@gmail.com

BERNARDSTON

School Information:

Bernardston Elementary School
 37 School Road
 Bernardston, MA 01337
 Grades: PK-6
 Opened: 1950
 Last Renovation: 1997
 Square Footage: 36,870
 Enrollment: 159 students

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2018-19	16	18	19	18	22	23	17	26	159
2017-18	16	18	18	21	22	14	22	26	157
2016-17	23	19	20	22	15	21	29	27	176
2015-16	15	18	20	16	21	26	25	24	165
2014-15	13	13	22	22	21	20	39	22	172

Numbers reflect school choice students (2018-19 school year there are 22 students).

Bernardston Elementary School has a total student population of 159 students, with one classroom for each grade.

Classroom capacity is approximately 25 students per classroom, with one classroom currently with 26 students.

There are 8 general classrooms in use, and 7 other classrooms used for Title I, PT/Speech, Music, Art, Special Education K-3, and 4-6, and an annex for Grades 2/3/6.

There is a library, computer lab and nurse's office.

There is a kitchen, cafeteria, and gym (with stage) located in basement.

There is an elevator, so building is handicap accessible.

OT/Psychologist/Adjustment Counselor share office space.

There is a conference room and Out of School Time Program office.

The school does offer a before and after school program.

The school shares their principal with Pearl E. Rhodes Elementary School.

School start time is 8:50 and requires three buses to transport students to school. The Town of Bernardston covers 23.4 square miles.

School Attending Children Report:

Bernardston	Local Public Schools	Academic Regional Schools	Vocational Technical Regional Schools	Collaboratives	Charter Schools	Out-of-District Public Schools	Home Schooled	In State Private and Parochial Schools	Out of State Private and Parochial Schools	Total
2016-17	0	238	21	0	8	20	0	17	8	312
2015-16	0	238	20	0	5	12	3	22	6	306
2014-15	0	233	24	0	5	15	2	16	4	299

Approximately 76% of Bernardston's student population attends Pioneer Valley Regional School District.

Students school choice out:

	DISTRICT_NAME	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bernardston	Conway				1		
	Deerfield		2	2			
	Greenfield	3		1	6	18	5
	Northampton			1	1	2	1
	Sunderland					4	
	Whately			1			
	Four Rivers Charter Public	2	4	4	5	14	13
	Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public	1		1	1		
	Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter(District)		1				
	Frontier	2	3	3	1	2	2
	Gill-Montague			4	2	8	1
	Mohawk Trail		1	1			
	New Salem-Wendell			1			
	Massachusetts Virtual Academy at Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual District			2	1		
	TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School District				1	2	1
	Total	8	11	21	19	50	23

EOYR Per Pupil Spending

Bernardston Elementary School	FY16	FY17
Schedule 3 Function 2000	\$1,125,709	\$1,163,404
Students	176	157
Cost Per Student	\$6,396	\$7,410

Should Leyden elementary school close, Bernardston class sizes would increase as follows for the 2019-20 school year (with assumption that school choice students remain in district):

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2019-20	16*	27	23	26	25	25	29	20	191

*average historical estimate

While consideration will need to be given to increasing classrooms in grades K, 2 and 5, Bernardston could easily absorb the student population of Pearl Rhodes Elementary School.

The area in front of the school is sufficient to safely accommodate two more buses and parent vehicle traffic in the parking lot loop.

Merging these two schools will allow the principal to be on site at all times and eliminate the need for one teacher stipend to assume control when he is required to be in a different building.

Teaching staff will have better opportunity to collaborate with more colleagues on a daily basis.

OT/PT/SLP/School Psychologist and Adjustment Counselor can better utilize their time in servicing students by eliminating travel between schools.

Pearl Rhodes Elementary students will have access to single grade classroom curriculum structure and larger peer groups, which is optimal for social and emotional learning development.

Municipal Information

Bernardston is a town of 2,101 residents (2015) with an Open Town Meeting form of government, which is administered by a Town Coordinator. The FY18 tax rate is \$20.47, which is the same for residential and commercial property. Residential property represents 86% of the total tax levy.

Bernardston's 2018 Free Cash balance was \$276,736, and 2017 Stabilization balance was \$365,875. There is an Excess Capacity of \$2,747, and they are taxing the full 2.5%. The Override Capacity is \$1,000,481.

As of 2018, Bernardston has 265 vacant land parcels, which represents potential growth should all parcels be buildable. Bernardston has seen a small increase in the Single Family Parcel count from 731 parcels in 2010, to 738 parcels in 2018.

Bernardston's education appropriation (\$3,066,599) represents 64% of the 2017 total general budget expenditures (\$4,827,156), which is an increase from 59% in 2008 (education: \$2,577,189; total general budget: \$4,372,315).

Bernardston's FY19 Minimum Local Contribution for Pioneer Valley Regional School District increased \$56,472 from FY18, which represents 28% of their FY19 Total New Revenue of \$201,049.

Bernardston's school building is in good shape, with new roof (less than 5 years old), and no outstanding issues with heating, plumbing and electrical systems.

LEYDEN

School Information:

Pearl E. Rhodes Elementary School

7 Brattleboro Road

Leyden, MA 01301

Grades: PK-4

Opened: 1950

Last Renovation: 1991

Square Footage: 7,050

Enrollment: 33 students

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2018-19	6	6	7	5	3	6	0*	0*	33
2017-18	3	8	7	2	5	2	3	3	33
2016-17	4	8	6	6	2	3	3	7	39
2015-16	10	6	8	5	3	3	7	5	47
2014-15	5	9	5	2	3	8	5	5	42

* Students in 5th and 6th grade were moved to Bernardston Elementary School in the 2018-19 school year

Numbers reflect school choice students (2018-19 six total students - three in Grade 2, one in Grade 3, and two in Grade 4).

Leyden's Elementary School has a total student population of 32 students, which has resulted in mixed grade classrooms:

Grade PK/K – 1 classroom

Grade 1/2 – 1 classroom

Grade 3/4 – 1 classroom

Classroom capacity is approximately 20 students per classroom.

The kitchen and small cafeteria is located at the main entrance of the school and is where visitors to building are received.

Art, Music, and PE do not have dedicated spaces, so classes are held in cafeteria.

IEP meetings are now held in separate space that is also a staff room, which is a privacy concern.

The technology space and library are located in the basement of the building.

There is not an elevator in the building, and the egress door in basement is not handicap accessible.

There is a reported mold issue in the basement spaces utilized by students.

Special Education and Speech share space for providing services.

OT/PT/Adjustment Counselor share office space.

There is also a shared staff room and student time out area.

The school has offered a before or after school program for parents that work in past years. While one was offered in the 2018-19 school year, no families have utilized it at this time.

The school shares a principal with Bernardston's elementary school, which Bernardston's principal receives a stipend for.

School start time is 8:40 and requires two buses to transport students to school. The Town of Leyden covers 18.0 square miles.

Pearl E. Rhodes Elementary School is located approximately 6.6 miles, or 13 minutes from Bernardston Elementary school.

School Attending Children Report:

Leyden	Local Public Schools	Academic Regional Schools	Vocational Technical Regional Schools	Collaboratives	Charter Schools	Out-of-District Public Schools	Home Schooled	In State Private and Parochial Schools	Out of State Private and Parochial Schools	Total
2016-17	0	43	6	0	0	9	7	6	0	71
2015-16	0	40	9	0	0	13	6	2	0	70
2014-15	0	41	12	0	0	6	9	2	0	70

Approximately 61% of Leyden's student population attend Pioneer Valley Regional School District.

Students school choice out:

	DISTRICT_NAME	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Leyden	Deerfield	1	1				
	Greenfield	1	2	4	6	12	9
	Whately						2
	Frontier			1	1		
	Gill-Montague	2	1	1	3	2	1
	Mohawk Trail	2	3	1	3	4	2
	Total	6	7	7	13	18	14

The Pioneer FY19 budget lists the following costs for Leyden's Elementary School:

Principal: \$10,000
Teacher in charge: \$1,750
Administrative Assistant: \$13,020
Principal travel: \$500
Principal office supplies: \$450
Substitutes: \$6,900
Cafeteria worker/Library Instructional Assistant: \$12,121
SN Teacher salaries: \$46,744
Classroom Instructional Assistant: \$18,507 ?
Education equipment: \$600
Student supplies: \$3,250 ?
Math supplies: \$1,500 ?
ELA supplies: \$2,500
Library supplies: \$750
Nurse salary: \$28,455
Physician salary: \$300
Custodial salary: \$13,201
Custodial supplies: \$2,250
Fuel: \$7,800
Light/power: \$7,700
Water: \$1,920
Telephone: \$1,000
Maintenance building/equipment: \$17,700
Total: \$198,918

Should Leyden elementary school close, the savings would be approximately:

1. \$198,918 (without consideration of unemployment payments).

The potential loss of revenue should school choice students choose not to remain in district would be \$30,000.

EOYR Per Pupil Spending

	FY16	FY17
Pearl Rhodes Elementary School		
Schedule 3 Function 2000	\$404,814	\$626,557
Students	39	33
Cost Per Student	\$10,380	\$18,987

The size and location of building is optimal to be utilized by town for use by the Council on Aging due to access to full kitchen and cafeteria.

The main floor of the building can also be utilized by the Town of Leyden for office space.

The furniture currently in the building is not needed by the district and can remain with the building. School technology and equipment would be remain with the district.

The 5th and 6th grade students have already been merged into the Bernardston Elementary School successfully.

Municipal Information

Leyden is a town of 713 residents (2015) with an Open Town Meeting form of government, which is administered by a three member Board of Selectmen. The FY18 tax rate is \$16.99, which is the same for residential and commercial property. Residential property represents 95% of their total tax levy.

Leyden 2018 Free Cash balance was \$73,636, and 2017 Stabilization balance was \$181,279. There is an Override Capacity of \$341,199 which drives the inability to tax the full 2.5%, so they have \$251,483 in Excess Capacity. Leyden is very close to the Tax Ceiling, and therefore should exercise caution when considering override requests.

As of 2018, Leyden has 194 vacant land parcels, which represents potential growth should all parcels be buildable. However, Leyden has seen a decrease in the Single Family Parcel count from 254 parcels in 2010, to 249 parcels in 2018.

Leyden's education appropriation (\$882,409) represents 55% of the 2017 total general budget expenditures (\$1,601,304), which is a decrease from 60% in 2008 (education: \$984,766; total general budget: \$1,650,081).

Leyden's FY19 Minimum Local Contribution for Pioneer Valley Regional School District increased \$14,376 from FY18, which represents 23% of the FY19 Total New Revenue of \$62,756.

NORTHFIELD

School Information:

Northfield Elementary School

104 Main Street

Northfield, MA 01360

Grades: PK-6

Opened: 1910

Last Renovation: 1991

Square Footage: 42,000

Enrollment: 185 students

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2018-19	18	24	23	22	27	24	21	26	185
2017-18	14	24	20	24	26	22	25	31	186
2016-17	14	16	24	20	28	28	28	35	186
2015-16	14	23	20	23	29	28	34	29	200
2014-15	15	17	24	28	24	34	31	23	196

Numbers reflect school choice students (2018-19 school year there are 3 students).

Northfield Elementary School has a total student population of 185 students, with the following classroom configuration:

Grade PK – 1 classroom

Grade K – 2 classrooms (Note: due to donation, one of the classrooms can only be used for Preschool or Kindergarten)

Grade 1 – 2 classrooms

Grade 2 – 1 classroom

Grade 3 – 2 classrooms

Grade 4 - 1 classroom

Grade 5 - 1 classroom

Grade 6 – 1 classroom

Special Education District-Wide Programs – 2 classrooms

Special Education Resource/Services Rooms – 3 classrooms

There are two classrooms currently not being used.

There is a library, computer lab, gym, and large nurse's office.

There are art and music classrooms.

There is a kitchen and large cafeteria with 5 lunch sessions. Northfield prepares and staff member delivers food to Warwick, then remains to serve students.

There is an elevator, so building is handicap accessible.

The school offers a before and after school program.

The school has a full-time principal.

School start time is 8:55 and requires four buses to transport students to school. The Town of Northfield covers 35.4 square miles.

School Attending Children Report:

Northfield	Local Public Schools	Academic Regional Schools	Vocational Technical Regional Schools	Collaboratives	Charter Schools	Out-of-District Public Schools	Home Schooled	In State Private and Parochial Schools	Out of State Private and Parochial Schools	Total
2016-17	0	301	35	0	10	16	12	31	3	408
2015-16	0	316	42	0	7	17	16	35	3	436
2014-15	0	344	39	1	6	14	16	27	4	441

Approximately 74% of Northfield's student population attends Pioneer Valley Regional School District.

Students school choice out:

	DISTRICT_NAME	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Northfield	Deerfield		2	2	3	6	4
	Greenfield	10	2	3	5	10	5
	Four Rivers Charter Public	3	4	6	7	20	8
	Amherst-Pelham	1					
	Athol-Royalston	1					
	Frontier		2	2	2	2	1
	Gill-Montague	4	4	7	3	8	9
	Mohawk Trail	1					
	Quabbin						1
	TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School District			1			1
	Total	20	14	21	20	46	29

EOYR Per Pupil Spending

Northfield Elementary School	FY16	FY17
Schedule 3 Function 2000	\$1,507,964	\$1,491,925
Students	186	186
Cost Per Student	\$8,107	\$8,021

Should Warwick's elementary school close, Northfield class sizes would increase as follows for the 2019-20 school year (with assumption that school choice students remain in district):

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2019-20	16	20+	31	35	31	32	34	25	222

While consideration will need to be given to reconfiguring classrooms to include two unused classroom spaces, Northfield could absorb the student population of Warwick Community School. Northfield would need 14 classrooms (2 classrooms for each grade except PK and grade 6).

The area in front of the school is sufficient to safely accommodate two more buses.

Merging these two schools will provide Warwick students with a principal on site full-time and will eliminate the need for one of the two teacher stipends (Warwick).

Teaching staff will have better opportunity to collaborate with more colleagues who teach their grade level on a daily basis.

OT/PT/SLP/School Psychologist and Adjustment Counselor can better utilize their time in servicing students by eliminating travel between schools.

Warwick Community Elementary students will have access to single grade classroom curriculum structure and larger peer groups, which is optimal for social and emotional learning development.

Warwick middle and high school students currently travel to Northfield to attend school, therefore bus route configurations are already established on a yearly basis between these two towns.

Municipal Information

Northfield is a town of 2,992 residents (2015) with an Open Town Meeting form of government, which is administered by a Town Administrator. The FY18 tax rate is \$17.86, which is the same for residential and commercial property. Residential property represents 63% of the total tax levy.

Northfield's 2018 Free Cash balance was \$547,226, and 2017 Stabilization balance was \$688,094. There is an Excess Capacity of \$163,236, so they are not taxing the full 2.5%. The Override Capacity is \$2,918,601

As of 2018, Northfield has 485 vacant land parcels, which represents potential growth should all parcels be buildable. Northfield has seen a decrease in the Single Family Parcel count from 1,071 parcels in 2010, to 1,070 parcels in 2018.

Northfield's education appropriation (\$5,010,428) represents 60% of the 2017 total general budget expenditures (\$8,385,185), which is a decrease from 62% in 2008 (education: \$4,027,947; total general budget: \$6,452,120).

Northfield's FY19 Minimum Local Contribution for Pioneer Valley Regional School District increased \$77,862 from FY18, which represents 17% of the FY19 Total New Revenue of \$458,487.

Northfield is strong supporter of their schools' capital project and maintenance needs, with recent parking lot repaving, door replacement, and plans for electrical rewiring.

The town and district plan to apply for a MSBA grant to address heating system and windows replacement.

WARWICK

School Information:

Warwick Community School
41 Winchester Road
Warwick, MA 01378
Grades: PK-6
Opened: 1999
Last Renovation: none
Square Footage: 17,236
Enrollment: 58 students

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2018-19	2	7	12	9	5	10	4	9	58
2017-18	4	10	9	6	11	4	8	7	59
2016-17	0	8	6	10	3	8	11	11	57
2015-16	2	4	9	4	7	13	10	2	56
2014-15	5	10	3	8	11	7	1	10	55

Numbers reflect school choice students, which at 27 students represents a little less than half of student population. Principal advised there are 4 new students who have recently moved into town which are not reflected in these numbers.

Warwick's Elementary School has a total student population of 58 students, which has resulted in dual grade classrooms:

Grade PK/K – 1 classroom

Grade 1/2 – 1 classroom

Grade 3/4 – 1 classroom

Grade 5/6 – 1 classroom

Classrooms are large and school is in excellent condition.

There are large art, computer/resource, and special education rooms.

School has adopted STEAM curriculum which is embraced by all staff.

There is a kitchen attached to the cafeteria, however the food is prepared and transported by Northfield Elementary School for their one lunch session.

There is a library and a gym with large stage area where music classes are held.

The school is one floor and is handicap accessible.

The school does not offer a before and after school program.

The school has a principal who works part-time.

School start time is 8:40 and requires two buses to transport students to school. The Town of Warwick covers 37.64 square miles.

Warwick Community School is located approximately 8.3 miles, or 20 minutes from Northfield Elementary school.

School Attending Children Report:

Warwick	Local Public Schools	Academic Regional Schools	Vocational Technical Regional Schools	Collaboratives	Charter Schools	Out-of-District Public Schools	Home Schooled	In State Private and Parochial Schools	Out of State Private and Parochial Schools	Total
2016-17	0	64	7	0	1	9	6	2	0	89
2015-16	0	58	4	0	2	6	2	2	0	74
2014-15	0	57	6	0	1	6	2	1	0	73

Approximately 72% of Warwick's student population attend Pioneer Valley Regional School District.

Students school choice out:

	DISTRICT_NAME	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Warwick	Greenfield		1	1	1		
	Orange	1	1	1	1	6	4
	Four Rivers Charter Public	3	1	1	2	2	
	Athol-Royalston					2	4
	Gill-Montague	1	1	1	1	2	
	Ralph C Mahar	2	4	5	3	4	6
	TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School District						1
	Total	7	8	9	8	16	15

The Pioneer FY19 budget lists the following costs for Warwick's Elementary School:

Principal: \$47,000
Teacher in charge: \$2,000
Principal Office Supply: \$750
Substitutes: \$7,000
Library Instructional Assistant: \$9,570
Library supplies: \$250
Nurse salary: \$64,854
Physician salary: \$200

Custodial salary: \$32,739
 Custodial supplies: \$3,000
 Fuel: \$22,000
 Light/power: \$14,850
 Water: \$1,790
 Telephone: \$1,000
 Maintenance building/equipment: \$17,150
 Total: \$244,153

Should Warwick elementary school close, the savings would be approximately:

1. \$244,153 (without consideration of unemployment payments) ; and,
2. Without teacher, support personnel or materials reductions which may need to move to Northfield:
 - Teacher salaries: \$236,784
 - SN Teacher salaries: \$64,361
 - Classroom Instructional Assistant: \$49,690
 - SN Instructional Assistant: \$41,606
 - SN Tutor: \$13,308
 - Student supplies: \$3,650
 - Math supplies: \$1,300
 - ELA supplies: \$800
 - Science: \$800
 - Adjustment Counselor: \$13,927
 - Total: \$426,226

The potential loss of revenue should school choice students choose not to remain in district, would be \$135,000.

EOYR Per Pupil Spending

Warwick Elementary School	FY16	FY17	FY17 with \$135k School Choice
Schedule 3 Function 2000	\$582,060	\$698,187	\$573,187
Students	57	59	33
Cost Per Student	\$10,212	\$11,834	\$17,369

Warwick Community School is a large rural town where bus ride is typically 17-18 minutes for students.

Municipal Information

Warwick a town of 762 residents (2015) with an Open Town Meeting form of government, which is administered by a three member Board of Selectmen. The FY18 tax rate is \$21.64, which is the same for residential and commercial property. Residential property represents 94% of the total tax levy.

Warwick 2018 Free Cash balance was \$105,138, and 2017 Stabilization balance was \$103,786. There is an Override Capacity of \$171,456 which drives the inability to tax the full 2.5%, so there is \$122,929 in Excess Capacity. Warwick is very close to the Tax Ceiling, and therefore should exercise caution when considering override requests.

As of 2018, Warwick has 193 vacant land parcels, which represents potential growth should all parcels be buildable. However, Warwick has seen a decrease in the Single Family Parcel count from 338 parcels in 2010, to 333 in 2018.

Warwick's education appropriation (\$917,973) represents 50% of the 2017 total general budget expenditures (\$1,823,502), which is a decrease from 55% in 2008 (education: \$1,002,772; total general budget: \$1,806,958).

Warwick's FY19 Minimum Local Contribution for Pioneer Valley Regional School District increased \$16,528 from FY18, which represents 25% of the FY19 Total New Revenue of \$67,110.

Warwick is strong supporter of their schools' capital project and maintenance needs, with recent roof replacement, drilling new well, inclusion in and energy efficiency grant with the Town of Northfield.

Pearl Rhodes Elementary School

2019-2020 Projected Combined Classes (based on current 18-19 enrollment)

2018-2019 Grades	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
2019-2020 Grades	K*	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
PRES	7	5	7	5	3	6		33
BES	20	18	19	19	21	23	23	169
Enrollment Combined	27	23	26	24	24	29	23	202
PRES Choice in total	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	6

[illegible]

Levden School Closure Savings Estimate:

Staff (Princ. Admin Asst., SN Teacher, Nurse, Cust, Cafe worker, Lib Asst)

Supplies

Fuel, Lights, Water, Phones, Maint of Bldg/equip

Savin's estimate

\$195,468

4

4

\$195,468

	FY19							
	FY18	Revised	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23		
Uses of Funds	Actual	Budgeted	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Cumulative	
Town Assessments	8,913,690	9,205,774	9,435,918	9,671,816	9,913,612	10,161,452		230,144 2.5% increase
State Aid								141,971 Net revenue increase est a 2.5% town increase
Chapter 70	4,128,881	4,149,941	4,174,182	4,198,423	4,222,664	4,246,905		292,084 Fy18 to FY19 increase
Transportation	535,882	580,961	469,046	480,772	492,792	505,111		0.98% % increase if they paid FY19 + 90K
Charter School Reimbursement	102,994	22,010	22,010	22,010	22,010	22,010		115,072 1.25% increase
Medicaid	66,770	67,000	67,000	67,000	67,000	67,000		9,320,846 Assesment with 1.25%
Local Revenue								26,898 Net revenue increase est a 1.25% town increase
Tuition and Fees	248,989	196,179	196,179	164,943	124,944	124,944		2.06% Increase with 100K tech + 90K
Interest Income	3,049	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500		9,395,774 Assesment with 2.06%
Other	15,004							
Total Sources of Funds	14,015,260	14,223,865	14,365,836	14,606,465	14,844,521	15,128,922		

Page 1

2019-2020 Projected Combined Classes (based on current 18-19 enrollment)

[illegible]

*Note this doesn't take into account Warwick students that would not come to NES (choice out)

	<u>Current @</u> <u>NES</u>	<u>Needed if</u> <u>combined</u>	<u>Est. Class</u> <u>size</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Students</u> <u>in Grade</u>					
PreK	1 teacher	1 teacher	16	16-20	Some enroll part-time				
K	2 teachers	2 teachers	12/12	24*	* Estimate				
1st	2 teachers	2 teachers	15/16	31					
2nd	1 teacher	2 teachers	18/18	36					
3rd	2 teachers	2 teachers	16/16	32					
4th	1 teacher	2 teachers	16/17	33					
5th	1 teacher	2 teachers	17/17	34					
6th	1 teacher	2 teachers	13/13	26					
Total classroom teachers at NES	11	15		232*	* Estimate				
Warwick School Closure Savings Estimate:									
Staff (Principal, Nurse, SN Tutor, Custodian, IA, Lib Asst)				\$157,362					
Fuel, Lights, Water, Phones, Maint of Bldg/equip				\$56,790					
				\$214,152					

HEART Re-envisioning Sustainable Rural Schools Meeting

Saturday, March 24, 2018 GCC Dining Commons

Transportation – Regional transportation including SPED, needs advocacy (w/Gill-Montague?)

- District wide transportation
- 100% transportation busing
- Full regional transportation (SPED too)
- Special Ed transportation costs, one company
- SPED transportation, one provider too expensive
- Stop spinning our wheels

Technology

- Institute distance learning in some subject areas, it isn't useful in some areas, excellent in others
- State funding for technology, 1 to 1 initiative for Franklin County middle schools to high school
- Broadband
- Synching schedules
- Website for Superintendent/Business Manager, RE: FTE

Resource Collaboration – shared services/regionalization

- Reach out for Andy Myers and the Gateway Hilltown Collaborative and learn about their promising school/municipal discussions/initiatives (RB Holzman, 413-354-6585)
- Focus on program collaboration and innovation that could attract families which requires creative thinking and marketing (RB Holzman, 413-354-6585)
- \$5,000 for students choosing into districts is a problem
- Regionalize Pre-K – 6 south county
- Shared services
- Unite with districts on the Cape
- Centralized office of shared services in Franklin County (admins, office staffing, etc.)
- Town Meetings on Chapter 70 formula
- Smaller school committees that “stick to their knitting” set policy and budget and let management manage
- Allow student duty to eliminate custodial staff
- Sharing services with Towns, move out our school, think bigger
- Move 6th grade to Pioneer
- Specialized Regional Schools
- Cultural Factors – coming from experience in Lane County (Oregon) the greatest obstacle here is cultural rather than economical (it's not just \$\$)
- Sync schedules between Districts to allow distance learning
- All School Committees should join Mass Rural School Coalition
- Local elementary schools in a super union, tuition to competing Jr./Sr. high school

State Ed. Reform/Financial Efficiencies – Chapter 70 formula changes, Healthcare

- Rural Magnet Schools, centralize human financial and program resources to achieve critical mass, too many silos!
- Urban/Suburban/Rural student exchange programs
- Eliminate MCAS enslavement
- Forecast forward vision of data on enrollment and cost
- Problem is financial! Need more local aid, state and federal (our towns cannot continue as they are now)
- Charter school funding
- Fund or eliminate unfunded mandates
- Fund rural education network
- Get state resources more involved in planning process
- Sparsity aid, DESE regulations
- Items mentioned by Stan R. must be pushed
- State guaranteed minimum budget for each district that increases with inflation
- Return on investment of initial reports
- Help get fair share passed in Nov!
- Use language that fits legislation
- Re-examine/redefine local control that will build expanded communities of interest (RB Holzman)
- Reopen Chapter 70 formula
- Federal funds
- Change Chapter 70 formula, density factor cost for rural schools
- MassHealth type expansion of health insurance to school district employees and municipal employees
- LOVE the shared services concept
- Platform for action? Chapter 70 formula
- Change education formula
- DESE – tools to use to project savings from different school models
- Change Chapter 70 formula to factor in % of Town \$ goes to pay for school (so to create an equalizing funding factor)
- Children placed by DCF in our communities: we pay SPED costs, sending town gets reimbursement
- Which legislators do we need to get to in order to get the state formula changed?
- Urban/rural coalition for Chapter 70 formula
- Circuit Breaker funding

Teachers

- Keep teachers, cut administrators
- State supported distance learning programs for advanced/priority/specialized classes/programs. Not just online courses, these would be actively led by qualified teachers, create efficient capacity to educate effectively.
- More virtual classrooms
- Allow more self-directed study
- Allow the hiring of adjuncts

Amending the Pioneer Valley RSD Regional Agreement

HEART Committee

to

Regional School Committee 3/6/19

What is a Regional Agreement?

- * Describes how a regional school district functions
and
- * Describes how the district & the member towns intersect legally and financially

Included in Regional Agreements - 1

- * Type of School District
- * Functions & Responsibilities of School Committee
- * Who are the Students in the District?
- * Location & Lease of the schools
- * How is the Budget Built and Approved?
- * How are the Assessments Apportioned to Towns?
- * How does the District Incur Debt?

Included in Regional Agreements - 2

- * Who is Responsible for Student Transportation?
- * How is this Regional Agreement Amended?
- * How can New Towns be Included in the District?
- * How can Member Towns Withdraw from the District?
- * How & When Does the Regional Agreement get Reviewed?

Why is an Update Needed?

- * Original Regional Agreement – 1991
- * Amended in 1999
- * Original Agreement approved prior to 1993 Education Reform Act

HEART Committee Reviewed Current Regional Agreement

A) Update to current reality – RSC:

- * Policies
- * Practices
- * Issues

B) Conform to Ed Reform Act & Amended Laws

C) Conform to DESE Regulations

Proposed Amendments - 1

- * Add 13th School Committee (RSC) member
- * Require Chair and Vice Chair of RSC to be rotated every 2 years
- * RSC members may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms
- * Vacancy on RSC appointed by Selectboard & remaining RSC members from that town

Proposed Amendments - 2

- * RSC responsible for which grades are in which schools
- * 10-month/5 year feasibility study required before a school can be closed – ad hoc committee
- * District required to pay maintenance expenses for up to 3 years if school closed
- * Town in which its only school is closed does not have to pay capital expenses in school where students go
- * Budget process language updated but not changed

Proposed Amendments - 3

- * Assessment language updated but not changed
- * Incurring of debt language updated but not changed
- * “Capital” redefined to “include building modifications to the structure and systems that exceed \$10,000”
- * RSC must approve any “special funds” raised by a town
- * There is new language clarifying how a new town can become a member of the District

Proposed Amendments - 4

- * There is updated language to clarify the process & responsibilities of a town seeking to withdraw from the District
- * A new section requires the RSC to review the Regional Agreement every 5 years

Community Involvement

- * HEART Committee includes representatives of all 4 towns
- * Heart Committee includes members of the RSC, Selectbds, FinComs & citizens
- * HEART meetings open to public – newspaper coverage

Approval Process - 1

- * HEART Committee voted to approve amended Regional Agreement (2/13/19)
- * RSC votes final version
- * Proposed amended Regional Agreement reviewed by DESE, District & Town Counsels
- * Selectboards place article on warrant
- * Voters approve or disapprove amended Regional Agreement

Approval Process - 2

- * If approved by 2/3 of towns (i.e., 3), signed Agreement & certified votes sent to DESE
- * DESE Commissioner approves amended Agreement provided it is in compliance

HEART Committee Members

HEART/Regional Agreement Amendment Committee

- * Julia Blyth – Northfield Selectboard
- * Alan Genovese - Warwick Citizen
- * Cheryl George – Northfield PTO Chair
- * Michele Giarusso – Leyden Town Coordinator
- * Robert Keir – Bernardston Citizen
- * Jess Marshall - Warwick School Committee
- * Tony Mateo – Northfield FinCom
- * Sue O'Reilly-McRae – Warwick School Committee
- * Jean Page – Bernardston Citizen
- * Shalee Pratt – Bernardston Citizen
- * Ginger Robinson – Leyden FinCom
- * Tom Wyatt – Warwick Citizen

MARS CONSULTANTS

(MA Association of Regional Schools)

- * Steve Hemman
- * Mac Reid

Questions & Comments

[Additional language in
red.]

[Language to be deleted is in blue with
strikethrough.]

[Wording changes based on discussion at the last meeting are highlighted in yellow.]

[Wording changes based on comments/suggestions from DESE are highlighted in
blue.]

February 18,
2019

PIONEER VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT

The Agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws of Massachusetts (hereinafter referred to as "MGL"), as amended, among the Towns of Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield and Warwick, (hereinafter referred to as "member towns"), establishing the Pioneer Valley Regional School District (hereinafter referred to as the "District") is hereby further amended in its entirety to read as hereinafter set forth. This amended Agreement will go into effect on _____.

In consideration of the mutual promises herein contained, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION II

Type of Regional School District

- (A) The District shall include all grades from Pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (PK – 12), inclusive.
- (B) The Regional School District Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") shall also have the right to establish adult evening education courses.
- (C) The Committee is hereby authorized, in its discretion to establish and maintain state-aided vocational education, acting as trustees therefore in accordance with the

provisions of MGL, Chapter 74 of the General Laws and any acts amendatory thereof, in addition thereto or dependent thereon and any other special educational classes in accordance with the provisions of any other general or special law related thereto.

SECTION I II

The Regional School District Committee

(A) Powers, Duties and Composition

1

(1) The powers and duties of the District shall be vested in and exercised by a regional school district Committee. The Committee shall consist of twelve thirteen (13) members, three members from each member town and one member elected at large from one of the four (4) member towns who receives the most votes from all member towns. All at-large candidates will register in their town of residence to be placed on the common ballot for all member towns.

(2) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may adjourn.

(3) The Committee shall have all the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon school committees by law and conferred and imposed by this Agreement, and such other additional powers and duties as are specified in MGL, Chapter 71, Sections 16 to 16I, inclusive, as amended, of Chapter 71 of the General Laws and any amendments thereof or additions thereto now or hereafter enacted, or as may be specified in any other applicable general or special law.

(4) At the first regular meeting of the Committee following the 1992 District election and thereafter at At the first regular meeting to be held after the conclusion of the each District election, the Committee shall organize and choose by ballot a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from its own membership. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson positions shall be rotated among Committee members every two (2) years. from each member town every two years in a rotating sequence. At the same meeting, or at any other meeting, the Committee

shall appoint a Treasurer and Secretary, who may be the same person but who need not be members of the Committee, fix the time and place for its regular meetings and provide for the calling of special District meetings. The Chairperson will appoint members to serve on subcommittees. annually

(B) Initial Committee

- (1) The members of the Committee in office on July 1, 1991 shall continue to serve until the District election to be held in 1992. Vacancies occurring until that date shall be filled in accordance with Subsection I (D).

(B) Elections

- (1) Each Committee member shall be entitled to one vote at all Committee meetings. In compliance with the Supreme Court's "one person, one vote" principle, members will be elected in district-wide, at-large elections, with members required to be residents of specific communities such that the total number of Committee members remains at twelve will be thirteen (13) with three (3) members from each member town and one (1) member-at-large.
- (2) At every District election, except the 1992 District election, there shall be elected to membership on the Committee for terms of four years, or for any

2

unexpired term as outlined in Subsection I II (C), such persons as shall maintain the Committee at twelve thirteen (13) members and preserve the residency requirements as stated in Subsection I II (A) (1) of this section.

- (3) At the 1992 District election, twelve members – the entire committee will be elected, with residency requirements as stated above. The Towns of Bernardston and Leyden will each have two members for two years and one for four years. The Towns of Northfield and Warwick will each have two members elected for four years and one member elected for two years. In the Towns of Bernardston and Leyden, the successful candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall fill the four-year term on the Committee. In the Towns of Northfield and Warwick, the successful candidate receiving the fewest votes shall fill the two-year term on the Committee. Subsequent annual elections will be for terms

of four years only, except in cases involving unexpired terms.

(3) No Committee member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive four-year terms. Committee members who have served for two (2) consecutive terms may fill a vacancy during the two (2) consecutive years after the end of their second consecutive term. Filling a vacancy will not be considered the first year of a new term of office.

(4) The District election shall be held at the biennial state election, normally on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November of every even numbered year. District elections shall be conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws.

(C) Vacancies

A vacancy occurs when a person resigns, moves out of the member town, or dies. Vacancies that occur on the Committee shall be filled by appointment of the moderator of the member town in which the vacancy occurs, Selectboard ("Selectmen" hereinafter referred to as "Selectboard") and the remaining Committee members (without the Committee member-at-large) from the town concerned, acting jointly by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, to serve until the next District election, at which time a successor shall be elected to serve for the balance of the unexpired term. A vacancy in the member-at-large position will be filled, as above, by the Selectboard of the member town in which the member-at-large was a resident and the Committee members from that town.

SECTION III

Pupils

Students

(A) Residents of the member towns in grades six or seven through twelve (6 or 7 – 12) will attend school at the Pioneer Valley Regional Junior/Senior High School. presently located off Route 10 in Northfield, Massachusetts.

(A) Students who reside in the member towns will attend schools in grade levels according to Committee policy. A school will not be closed permanently without going

through the process outlined in Section IV (C).

(B) Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that all residents of the member towns in grades pre-kindergarten to five or six (PK – 5 or 6), inclusive, will normally receive their education in facilities located in their respective towns, except as hereinafter provided.

(B) Pupils **Students** with special needs, disabilities receiving services with an approved Individualized Plan under the provisions of Chapter 71B of the General Laws, MGL, Chapter 71-B, as amended, shall attend schools as designated recommended by the Special Education Administrator and approved by the Superintendent. by the Committee.

(2) Students may also be accommodated in other elementary schools within the District when recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Committee. both the child's parents and the School Committee provided that the Committee determines that such a reassignment is prudent and can be accomplished and is in the best interest of the pupil. A school will not be closed permanently without going through the process outlined in Section IV (C).

(C) Residents of member towns in grades kindergarten to six (K – 6), inclusive, may be reassigned to schools outside of their respective towns when, in the judgment of the Committee, there is a temporary need to reassign pupils when damage to a physical plant renders a facility unusable, in whole or in part, for its intended purposes.

(C) Students residing outside the District may attend the District's schools, with the approval of the Committee, provided that adequate facilities for such pupils students are available and upon the appropriate payment of tuition as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Committee. established in accordance with the provisions of law. Including School Choice students is at the discretion of the Committee and is subject to the regulations promulgated by DESE.

(D) Students of the District wishing to attend vocational schools may do so in the manner provided by law. MGL, Chapter 74, as amended.

SECTION V IV

Location and Lease of the Present Member Town

Schools

(A) All schools which are part of the District shall be located in member towns. Any new schools constructed within the District shall be located at a site or sites within the member towns. and determined by the Committee.

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(B) Leases

(1) The District shall lease from each member towns the building, facilities and grounds for all elementary schools operating as a school in the District. included in the list below. The District shall enter into written leases of the elementary schools, which shall include contracts for services. Each lease shall be for a term of not to exceed twenty (20) years. The leases may contain provisions for an extension in accordance with the provisions of MGL, Chapter 71, Section 14C Section 14C of Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended. The member towns Towns of Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield and Warwick shall receive no rental for the leases. The District shall administer all expenses for maintaining and operating such buildings, facilities and grounds and keeping them in good repair during the terms of the leases.

Bernardston Elementary
School School Road
Bernardston

Leyden Elementary
School Brattleboro Road
Leyden

Northfield Elementary School
Main Street Northfield

Warwick Elementary School
22 Orange Road Warwick

(2) Nothing contained in the leases shall prevent the Committee from permitting the use of the building, facilities, and grounds by the member towns. Each lease involving a member town shall be on such other terms

as may be determined by the **Selectmen** **Selectboard** thereof and the Committee, who shall **together** execute the **leasing agreement on behalf of the town owning the building.** **for the member town and the District,** **respectively.**

(3) The District shall insure, at its expense, the buildings, facilities, and grounds so leased. **Details** of such insurance shall be determined after consultation with **the Selectboard** **those empowered to sign** the leasing agreement on behalf of the town owning the building(s).

(D) Capital costs shall include all expenses, in the nature of capital outlay such as expenses for which the District is authorized to incur debt under the provisions of Section 16(d) of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, and acts in building(s).

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(C) Process To Close A School

(1) A vote by the Committee to begin the study must be taken at least ten (10) months prior to its vote to close a school and must pass with a two-thirds (2/3) majority. Under extraordinary circumstances, this timeline may be modified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Committee with representatives from at least three (3) towns voting to support the modified timeline.

(2) Closure of any school within the District shall not be done without the District's Central Office Administrators conducting a five-year projected feasibility study [see (a) – (e)] **conducted** **initiated** at least ten (10) months in advance of the **proposed closing.** **to include the educational impact on students.** Under extraordinary circumstances, this timeline may be modified by a majority vote of the Committee with representatives from at least three (3) towns voting to support the modified timeline.

(a) A study of the educational impact on students.

(b) A **complete** fiscal analysis to determine the cost savings, the impact on the regional budget, and the individual assessments to the member towns.

- (c) A review of the educational reorganizational schemes and administrative structure and their its financial impact.
 - (d) A review of population trends to determine the long-term impact of the closing.
 - (e) A process in which the Committee sets up an ad hoc committee to review the feasibility and make recommendations to the School Committee which includes: one (1) member from each member town appointed by the Committee; and two (2) members from each member town appointed by the respective Selectboards. a member of the Selectboard, among others, of each member town. the Selectboard of the town affected by the school being studied for closing. The School Committee shall give any such ad hoc committee's recommendations due consideration, but may exercise its discretion as to whether or not it will implement any of the group's recommendations.
 - (f) A quorum of the School Committee will hold a public forum with two (2) weeks' notice hearing in the member town where the school is being proposed to be closed prior to the vote of the Committee.
- (3) A school may then be closed at the first June 30th after the Committee vote.
- (4) A vote by the Committee to close the school shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Committee with representatives from at least three (3)

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- towns voting to support closure. The vote shall be held at a regularly scheduled Committee meeting.
- (5) After the conclusion of the above process, Closure of a school is defined as no longer assigning District students to that particular school. The town affected by the Committee vote still maintains control and ownership of the facility and may utilize the facility as it sees fit.
- (6) The District will pay, in each of three (3) years, the same amount to the

Town in which a town-owned elementary school is being closed, 50% of the budgeted costs to maintain a fully functioning school, in the fiscal year in which the Committee votes to close a school in the following categories: fuel, light/power/water, telephone, maintenance of grounds supplies, maintenance of buildings C/S, maintenance of building supplies, maintenance of equipment C/S, maintenance of equipment supplies, and insurance. District payments to the member town will be made by the end of the following months: August; November; January; and April. Beginning with the July 1 immediately after the school is closed, the lease for that school will be terminated and the District will have no further financial or other responsibility for the building and grounds.

The member town in which its only school is closed will receive, beginning in the first fiscal year of its closure, up to \$15,000 per year for up to three (3) years as compensation for that town to maintain that building until it is repurposed. If the closed building is repurposed prior to the end of this three-year period, the District will no longer be responsible for this compensation.

SECTION VII V

Budget

(A) Budget

The Committee shall annually determine the District's budget consistent with the timelines, terms and requirements of MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16B, as amended, and other pertinent provisions of law and consistent with regulations promulgated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (hereinafter referred to as "DESE").

(B) Public Budget Hearing and Budget Approval

(1) After conducting a public hearing consistent with MGL, Chapter 71, Section 38N, as amended, the Committee, by a minimum two-thirds (2/3) vote of all its members, shall annually approve a **an operating** budget for the next fiscal year to maintain and operate the District. After deducting the amount of aid the

District is to receive, the balance shall be apportioned among the member towns in accordance with Section VI.

(2) The budget will be itemized in such detail as the Committee may deem advisable. Such budget shall be adopted not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the earliest date on which the business session of the annual town meeting of any member town is to be held, but in no event later than March 31, provided that said budget need not be adopted earlier than February 1. The amounts so apportioned for each member town shall be certified by the District Treasurer to the Treasurers of the member towns within thirty (30) days from the date on which the annual operating budget is adopted by the Committee.

(3) The annual budget as adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Committee, must be approved by a simple majority vote at two-thirds (2/3) of the member town meetings.

(4) The Committee shall on or before February 15 of each year submit an annual report to each of the member towns, containing a detailed financial statement, and a statement showing the method by which the annual charges assessed against each town were computed, together with such additional information relating to the operation and maintenance of the regional school District as may be deemed necessary by the Committee or by the Selectmen Selectboard of any member town and each member town shall include said report in its annual report.

(5) Amendments to the Approved Budget [CMR 41.05 (5), as amended]

(a) A regional school committee may propose, with a two-thirds vote, an amendment to a previously approved budget If such amendment results in an increase in the total amount of the budget or an increase in assessment for any member, such amendment shall be submitted to the local appropriating authorities for their approval. The treasurer of the regional school district shall submit the proposed amendment to the members within 7 days from the date of the regional school committee vote. The local appropriating authority of every member shall have 45 days from the date of

the regional school committee's vote to meet and consider the amendment. The proposed amendment shall be effective if it is approved by two-thirds of the local appropriating authorities and by the local appropriating authority of any member whose assessment is increased.

(b) If a local appropriating authority does not vote on the proposed amendment within the 45-day period and that local appropriating authority has previously appropriated funds for its assessment in an amount greater than or equal to the member's assessment for the amended budget, that member shall be deemed to have approved the amended budget.

(c) If a proposed amendment to a previously approved budget does not increase the total amount of the budget and reduces or leaves unchanged the

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assessment for every member, the amendment shall not require approval by the local appropriating authorities and shall be effective upon a two-thirds vote of the regional school committee.

SECTION VI

Apportionment and Payment of Costs Incurred by the District

(A) Classification of Costs

For the purpose of apportioning assessments by the District to the member towns, costs shall be divided into four (4) categories: operating costs, capital costs, debt, and transportation costs. The Committee shall determine the amount necessary to meet the annual operating, capital, debt, and transportation needs and shall allocate such amount among the member towns.

(B) Operating Costs

(1) Operating costs shall include all costs except capital, debt, and transportation costs but shall include interest on temporary notes issued by the District in anticipation of revenue.

(2) Apportionment of Operating Costs

The total operating costs assessed to each member town will consist of the member town's Minimum Local Contribution and the town's share of Above Minimum Local Contribution.

The aggregate Above Minimum Contribution is arrived at by subtracting from the Operating Budget the following: Chapter 70 aid, the Minimum Required Combined Local Contributions of all member towns, and other general revenue sources to the District. [Or as may be modified by DESE from time to time.] This formula is illustrated below:

Operating Budget (which excludes capital, debt, and transportation) - (minus) Chapter 70 aid (as calculated by DESE) - (minus) Minimum Required Combined Local Contributions of all member towns (as calculated by DESE) - (minus) Other general revenue sources to the District = (equals) Total Above Minimum Contribution for all member towns

Each member town's share of the above minimum contribution total operating costs of the District for any fiscal year shall be determined on a per pupil student basis by multiplying the above

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minimum of contribution amount total budgeted operating costs by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be each member towns' average pupil Foundation enrollment, all grades, in the District on the first days of October and December of the five (5) fiscal years preceding the fiscal year for which the apportionment is made, and the denominator of which shall be the average of the total pupil Foundation enrollments from all the member towns in the District on those same dates.

(C) Capital Costs

(1) Beginning with the FY21 budget, capital costs shall include building modifications to the structure and systems that exceed \$10,000 and as described in DESE's Chart of Accounts in the 7000-function code, as may be modified by DESE from time to time. Such capital costs over \$10,000 in leased elementary schools will be the responsibility of the town in which the school is located and will not be part of the Committee budget Capital costs in leased elementary schools to be paid directly to the vendors and not by the District. .

(2) Apportionment of Capital Costs

(a) Each member town's **assessment share** of capital costs associated with the District's **Junior/Senior High Pioneer Valley Regional School** for each fiscal year shall be determined on the basis of equalized valuation and pupil enrollment, in **the grades contained in this school, seven to twelve (7 – 12), inclusive**. "Equalized valuation" shall mean the equalized valuation of the aggregate property in a **member** town subject to local taxation as most recently reported by the Commissioner of Revenue to the General Court under the provisions of **section ten C of chapter fifty-eight of the General Laws, MGL, Chapter 58, Section 10C**, as amended, from time to time; **pupil student** enrollment in **the grades contained in this school, seven to twelve (7 – 12)**, shall be as of October first of the year immediately preceding the fiscal year for which the capital apportionment is made. Each member town's share shall be determined by computing to the nearest one-tenth of one percent one-half of the sum of (i) the ratio which its equalized valuation bears to the total of the equalized valuations of all member towns and (ii) the ratio which its **pupil student** enrollment, **in the grades contained in the grades 7 to 12, in the Junior/Senior High Pioneer Valley Regional School** bears to the total of the **pupil student** enrollments at said **Junior/Senior High Pioneer Valley Regional School, in grade 7 – 12**, of all the member towns in the District.

(b) The capital costs associated with each District elementary school shall be apportioned to the member town in which the school is located.

A member town which has no elementary school is not obligated to pay any capital costs in an elementary school where its students attend.

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A member town which has no elementary school shall pay the percentage of capital costs in a school where its students attend based on the ratio of its students compared to all other students in that elementary school.

(D) Except as otherwise hereinafter provided, the payment for proportionate shares of operating and capital costs of each of the member towns for each year shall be made, upon certification by the District Treasurer as specified in Section VII (A) below, by the respective member town Treasurers by check payable to the District in five equal installments on the fifteenth day of August July, November October, January, December, April, March, and June May. Each member town Treasurer shall pay to the District the town's proportionate share of capital costs that consist of payments of principal of or interest on bonds or notes issued by the District not later than thirty days before the date on which each payment of such principal of interest is payable by the District, but not earlier than July 1, in any year.

(E) Special Funds

The School Committee shall not interfere with must approve of a town's use of trust funds or other special funds, including separate town meeting articles, intended for the enhancement of the educational opportunities for that town's children. The operating budget shall not be altered by the expenditure of such funds.

(F) The fiscal year or period of the District shall be the same as the fiscal period of the member towns as provided by law, and the terms year, fiscal year, or calendar year as used in this Agreement to mean or refer to a fiscal or budget year shall mean the fiscal year of the District.

SECTION VII

Incurring of Debt

The Committee may vote to incur debt consistent with the terms and conditions of MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16, as amended. At the time of taking action to incur debt, and except for the incurring of temporary debt in anticipation of revenue,

the Committee, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, will choose either the process that appears in MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 (d) or Section 16 (n), as amended.

Not later than seven days after the date on which the Committee authorizes the incurring of debt, other than temporary debt in anticipation of revenue to be received from member towns, written notice of the date of said authorization, the sum authorized, and the general purpose or purposes for authorizing such debt shall be given to the Selectboard in each member town. Debt may be incurred by the District, if approved by the member towns in accordance with the Committee's chosen method under MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 (d) or Section 16 (n).

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SECTION VIII

Transportation

Transportation to and from the **Regional District** Schools and any other transportation for **Regional District** School purposes shall be the responsibility of the **Regional School District** and its cost shall be apportioned to the member towns as an operating expense, as described in VI (B).

SECTION IX

Procedure Provision for Amendment

(A) This Agreement may be amended from time-to-time in the manner hereinafter provided, but no such amendment shall be made which shall substantially impair the rights of the holders of any bonds or notes or other indebtedness of the District then outstanding, or the rights of the District to procure the means for payment thereof, provided that nothing in this section shall prevent the admission of a new town, or towns, to the District and the reapportionment accordingly of that part of the capital costs represented by bonds or notes of the District then outstanding and of interest thereon.

- (1) A proposal for amendment may be initiated by a signed petition bearing the signatures of **ten (10)** percent of the registered voters **as certified by the Town Clerk** of any one of the member towns or by vote of a majority of all members of the **Regional School District Committee**.
- (2) Any such proposal for amendment shall be presented to the Secretary of the Committee who shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the **Board of Selectmen Selectboard** of each of the member towns that a proposal to amend this Agreement been received and shall enclose a copy of such proposal (without the signatures in the case of a proposal by petition). The **Selectmen Selectboard** in each member town shall include in the warrant for the next annual or special town meeting called for the purpose an article stating the proposal. **or the substance thereof**.
- (3) When a majority of the member towns, by majority vote at such annual or special town meeting, shall have approved the proposal for amendment **and the amended Agreement has been approved by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Commissioner")**, said amendment shall be adopted thereby and thereupon become a part of this Agreement.

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SECTION X

Admission of Additional Member Towns

By an amendment of this Agreement adopted under and in accordance with Section IX below, any other town or towns may be admitted to the Regional School District upon adoption as therein provided of such amendment and upon acceptance of the Agreement as so amended and also upon compliance with such provisions of law as may be applicable and such terms as may be set forth in such amendment.

(A) By an amendment of this Agreement adopted under and in accordance with Section IX above, any other town or towns may be admitted to the District upon adoption as therein provided of such amendment and upon acceptance at a special or annual town meeting by a majority vote by the town or towns seeking admission of the Agreement as so amended, acceptance by a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) of the member towns, each by majority vote, and also upon compliance with such provisions of law and regulations [e.g., Code of Massachusetts Regulations (hereinafter referred to as "CMR"); i.e., CMR, 41.03, as amended] as may be applicable and such terms as may be set forth in such amendment.

(B) The Committee, prior to the admittance of a new member town, will have the option of establishing an additional cost to that new member town to be included in the District. This additional cost will be clearly articulated to a Regional Planning Committee of the potential new member town(s) and will be made clear to the voters prior to that new member town's vote on admission to the District.

(C) A new member town may be admitted to the District as of July 1 of any fiscal year, provided that all requisite approvals for such admission, including the Commissioner's approval, shall be obtained no later than the preceding December 31st.

(D) The new member town will immediately be entitled to three (3) Committee members appointed by the process outlined in Section II (C) Vacancies. Two (2) of the three (3) Committee members will be elected at the next biennial election and the third member will be elected at the following biennial election to provide for a rotation of Committee members.

SECTION XI

Withdrawal of Member Towns

(A) Limitation

The withdrawal of a member town from the District may be affected by an amendment to this Agreement in the manner hereinafter provided by this section. Any member town seeking to withdraw shall, by vote of an annual or

special town meeting, request the Committee to draw up an amendment to this Agreement setting forth the terms by which such town may withdraw from the District, provided (1) that the town seeking to withdraw shall remain liable for any unpaid operating costs which have been certified by the District Treasurer to the Treasurer of the withdrawing town, including the full amount so certified for the year in which such withdrawal takes effect and (2) that the said town shall remain liable to the District for its share of the indebtedness, other than temporary debt in anticipation of revenue, of the District outstanding at the time of such withdrawal, and for the interest thereon, to the same extent and in the same manner as though the town had not withdrawn from the District, except that such liability shall be reduced by any amount which such town has paid over at the time of withdrawal and which has been applied to the payment of such indebtedness.

(B) Procedure

The Town Clerk of the town seeking to withdraw shall notify the Committee in writing that such town has voted to request the Committee to draw up an amendment to the Agreement (enclosing a certified copy of such vote). Thereupon, the Committee shall draw up an amendment to the Agreement, setting forth such terms of withdrawal as it deems advisable, subject to the limitation contained in Section XI (A). The Secretary of the Committee shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the Selectboard of each member town that the Committee has drawn up an amendment to the Agreement providing for the withdrawal of a member town (enclosing a copy of such amendment). The Selectboards of the non-withdrawing member towns shall include in the warrant for the next annual or special town meeting, called for the purpose of an article, the terms of withdrawal. Such amendment shall become effective on a July 1 no less than one full year after the approval by the non-withdrawing member town, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting as aforesaid, and after approval of the Commissioner, no later than the preceding December 31.

(C) Obligations of Member Towns

In addition to other terms and requirements which the Committee shall include in the amendment, the member town(s) seeking to withdraw from the District will be responsible for the following: (1) payment of all operating costs for which

member towns are liable as a member of the District; (2) continuing payments beyond the time of withdrawal from the District for each member town's share of the indebtedness of the District which is outstanding at the time of withdrawal, and for interest thereon, to the same extent and in the same manner as though each town had not withdrawn from the District; and (3) other liabilities incurred during all times that each town was a member of the District (e.g., OPEB – Other Post-Employment Benefits). All expenses related to the withdrawal of a member town from the District will be borne by the member town which initiates withdrawal from the District.

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(D) Approval of Withdrawal

A request to withdraw shall become effective only if the amendment to the Agreement is approved by a majority vote of the Committee, is approved by majority vote at an annual or special town meeting in two-thirds (2/3) a majority of the member towns, is approved by the Commissioner, and the withdrawal from the District can only become effective on a July 1 no less than one full year after the completion of these requirements.

(E) Cessation of Terms of Withdrawing Town's Members

Upon the effective date of withdrawal from the District, the terms of office of all Committee members from the withdrawing member town serving on the Committee shall terminate.

(F) Payments of Certain Capital Costs Made by a Withdrawing Town

Money encumbered from the member towns for payment of obligations (as outlined in Section XI (C) above) shall be used only for such purpose and until so used shall be deposited in a trust which is established at the time of a member town's withdrawal.

(G) Division of Assets

All member towns will be entitled to any assets that need to be divided between the towns to be negotiated between the Committee and Selectboard.

SECTION XII

Advisory Committee

(A) Each member town, if it so chooses, shall have an Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committees shall serve the Committee. In the first year of the kindergarten to twelve (K – 12) regional District, until the first district-wide election in 1992, the Advisory Committee in each member town shall be each member town's elementary School Committee then serving upon the adoption of this amendment. Thereafter, The Advisory Committees shall be composed of the elected school committee members from each member town plus two additional members appointed at-large by the Town Moderator of each member town. The at-large members shall serve one-year terms.

(B) The Advisory Committees shall advise the Committee on matters affecting elementary education in their respective towns, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Recommendation on budgets;
- (2) Recommendations on personnel matters; and

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- (3) Recommendations on curriculum.

SECTION XII

Regional Amendment Review

(A) Recognizing that over time circumstances often change, and intending that this Agreement should continue to serve the best interests of the member towns, the Committee shall, at least at five-year intervals, establish an ad hoc study group composed of knowledgeable persons to study this Agreement and report to the Committee as to whether or not any changes to this Agreement might be

beneficial in light of the then prevailing conditions. The Committee shall give any such ad hoc study group's report due consideration, but may exercise its discretion as to whether or not it will implement any of the group's recommendations.

(B) This ad hoc Regional Agreement Advisory Committee will be composed of four (4) members of the Committee (one (1) from each member town) appointed by the Committee and four (4) members of the member towns (one (1) from each member town) appointed by the respective Selectboards. All members of the Regional Agreement Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year. The Superintendent and the School Business Administrator shall be ex- officio members of the Regional Agreement Advisory Committee.

SECTION XIV

Miscellaneous Provisions

(A) The approval of this amended agreement shall not affect the obligation of the member towns to provide education in grades kindergarten through six until such time as the Committee shall assume jurisdiction over education of the pupils in grades kindergarten through six.

(B) The provisions of this amended agreement shall become fully effective as of July 1, 1991, if prior approval is given at duly called town meetings by the member towns as of June 30 and, on and after July 1, 1991 all pupils attending public schools in the member towns of the District shall be under the jurisdiction of the Committee.

SECTION XV

Transition to Regional School District Jurisdiction by Member Towns Over Grades Kindergarten Through Grade Six

This amended Agreement shall take full effect in accordance with its terms upon the affirmative votes of each member town at town meetings held in each such town and

shall thereupon supersede the District Agreement executed as of March 30, 1954 as heretofore amended. The Regional District budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1991 shall consist of the sum of the appropriations made by the member towns for support of the Regional District School, apportioned as provided in Section 5 of the agreement in effect prior to the adoption of this amended agreement, and the appropriations made for elementary schools in the member towns for such fiscal years, including but not limited to all appropriations made for insurance and for school department employee benefits. All obligations under contracts' land agreements binding upon the member towns with respect to schools for the grades kindergarten through six shall be assumed and carried out by the Committee on and after July 1, 1991 to the extent that such obligations would remain in effect on July 1, 1991 and be paid from sums included in the District budget for the fiscal year commencing on that date.

**SUGGESTED WARRANT ARTICLE FOR MEMBER TOWNS
TO APPROVE THE ABOVE AMENDMENT**

AFTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to approve the amendment to the Pioneer Valley Regional School District that is proposed by vote of the Pioneer Valley Regional School District Committee on April 15, 1999. The proposed amendment would change the date on which amounts apportioned to the member towns for principal or interest payments on District bonds or notes shall be paid from the same dates as operating costs shall be paid, as provided in the present Agreement, to a date which is at least thirty days before

the principal or interest is payable on the District bonds or notes, but not earlier than July 1 in any year.

This amendment shall take effect as of July 1, 1999.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed as of

_____.

Regional School Committee: _____ Date: _____

(Chair)

(typed name)

Town of Bernardston: _____ Date: _____

_____ (Town Clerk or BoS
Chair)

(typed name)

Town of Leyden: _____ Date: _____

_____ (Town Clerk or BoS
Chair)

(typed name)

Town of Northfield: _____ Date: _____

_____ (Town Clerk or BoS
Chair)

(typed name)

Town of Warwick: _____ Date: _____

Chair) (Town Clerk or BoS
(typed name)

Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:

_____(typed name)_____ Date:

Pioneer Valley RSD

SCHOOL CLOSING ANALYSIS

NOVEMBER 19, 2018

Pearl E. Rhodes Elementary School
 Grades: PK-4
 Opened: 1950
 Last Renovation: 1991
 Square Footage: 7,050
 Enrollment: 33 students

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Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2018-19	6	6	7	5	3	6	0*	0*	33
2017-18	3	8	7	2	5	2	3	3	33
2016-17	4	8	6	6	2	3	3	7	39
2015-16	10	6	8	5	3	3	7	5	47
2014-15	5	9	5	2	3	8	5	5	42

Students in 5th and 6th grade were moved to Bernardston Elementary School in the 2018-19 school year

Numbers reflect school choice students (2018-19 six total students - three in Grade 2, one in Grade 3, and two in Grade 4).

2000 ~ educational personnel included as room → = 70-75% of cost per student

End of Year Report

Building Concerns:

The technology space and library are located in the basement of the building.

There is not an elevator in the building, and the egress door in basement is not handicap accessible.

There is a reported mold issue in the basement spaces utilized by students.

EOYR Per Pupil Spending

Pearl Rhodes Elementary School	FY16	FY17
Schedule 3 Function 2000	\$404,814	\$616,557
Students	39	33
Costs Per Student	\$10,380	\$18,987

Bernardston Elementary School

Grades: PK-6

Opened: 1950

Last Renovation: 1997

Square Footage: 36,870

Enrollment: 159 students

4

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2018-19	16	18	19	18	22	23	17	26	159
2017-18	16	18	18	21	22	14	22	26	157
2016-17	23	19	20	22	15	21	29	27	176
2015-16	15	18	20	16	21	26	25	24	165
2014-15	13	13	22	22	21	20	39	22	172

Numbers reflect school choice students (2018-19 school year there are 22 students).

Bernardston Elementary School has a total student population of 159 students, with one classroom for each grade.

Classroom capacity is approximately 25 students per classroom, with one classroom currently with 26 students.

Should Leyden elementary school close, Bernardston class sizes would increase as follows for the 2019-20 school year (with assumption that school choice students remain in district):

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2019-20	16*	27	23	26	25	25	29	20	191

* Based on historical averages

While consideration will need to be given to increasing classrooms in grades K, 2 and 5, Bernardston could easily absorb the student population of Pearl Rhodes Elementary School.

EOYR Per Pupil Spending

Bernardston Elementary School	FY16	FY17
Schedule 3 Function 2000	\$1,125,709	\$1,163,404
Students	176	157
Costs Per Student	\$6,396	\$7,410

Warwick Community School

Grades: PK-6

Opened: 1999

Last Renovation: none

Square Footage: 17,236

Enrollment: 58 students

6

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2018-19	2	7	12	9	5	10	4	9	58
2017-18	4	10	9	6	11	4	8	7	59
2016-17	0	8	6	10	3	8	11	11	57
2015-16	2	4	9	4	7	13	10	2	56
2014-15	5	10	3	8	11	7	1	10	55

Numbers reflect school choice students, which at 27 students represents a little less than half of student population. Principal advised there are 4 new students who have recently moved into town which are not reflected in these numbers.

Concerns:

There is a kitchen attached to the cafeteria, however the food is prepared and transported by Northfield Elementary School for their one lunch session.

The school does not offer a before and after school program.

The school has a principal who works part-time.

EOYR Per Pupil Spending

Warwick Community School	FY16	FY17	FY17 with \$135,000 School Choice
Schedule 3 Function 2000	\$582,060	\$698,187	\$573,187
Students	57	59	33
Cost Per Student	\$10,212	\$11,834	\$17,369

Northfield Elementary School

Grades: PK-6

Opened: 1910

Last Renovation: 1991

Square Footage: 42,000

Enrollment: 185 students

8

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2018-19	18	24	23	22	27	24	21	26	185
2017-18	14	24	20	24	26	22	25	31	186
2016-17	14	16	24	20	28	28	28	35	186
2015-16	14	23	20	23	29	28	34	29	200
2014-15	15	17	24	28	24	34	31	23	196

Numbers reflect school choice students (2018-19 school year there are 3 students).

Northfield Elementary School houses the district's special education programs.

There is a kitchen and large cafeteria with 5 lunch sessions. Northfield prepares and staff member delivers food to Warwick, then remains to serve students.

Should Warwick's elementary school close, Northfield class sizes would increase as follows for the 2019-20 school year (with assumption that school choice students remain in district):

Enrollment	PK	K	G.1	G.2	G.3	G.4	G.5	G.6	Total
2019-20	16	20+	31	35	31	32	34	25	222

While consideration will need to be given to reconfiguring classrooms to include two unused classroom spaces, Northfield could absorb the student population of Warwick Community School. Northfield would need 14 classrooms (2 classrooms for each grade except PK and grade 6).

EOYR Per Pupil Spending

Northfield Elementary School	FY16	FY17
Schedule 3 Function 2000	\$1,507,964	\$1,491,925
Students	186	186
Costs Per Student	\$8,107	\$8,021

**Parent/Guardian Survey for Students Not Enrolled in PVRSD
Elementary School (PK-6)**

Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) is conducting a survey of parents/guardians to identify ways in which we could better serve the needs of all residents. We are sending this particular survey to families with children that live in PVRSD but chose not to enroll their child in the district. Please take a moment to answer the following questions about the factors involved in your choice.

This survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

The results of this survey will be used to help develop our understanding of why families choose schools other than the PVRSD. Thank you for your time and your thoughtful feedback.

1A. Please advise where you child currently attends school:

- ☐ Private ☐ Homeschool ☐ Charter ☐ Different Public School District

1B. Before making choice to homeschool or attend a school elsewhere, did your child attend a school in the PVRSD?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

1C. If so, please check the box next to all school(s) that he or she attended?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl Rhodes Elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> Bernardston Elementary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northfield Elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> Warwick Community School |

2. What do you think are the most notable strengths of PVRSD?

Check all that apply

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum/Instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Climate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Support Services/Special Education | <input type="checkbox"/> School Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty & Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Class Size |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts Offering | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Involvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): |

3A. What factors led you to homeschool, or to enroll your child in a school outside of PVRSD?

Check all that apply

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More academic options in new district | <input type="checkbox"/> More diversity in new district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less time off for professional development | <input type="checkbox"/> Before and after school offerings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Support Services/Special Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Larger class size in new district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New district is more convenient location | <input type="checkbox"/> Start/End times in new district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Emotional issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Issues with teacher(s)/staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Issues with administrator(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better access to technology | |

3B. Please explain your selections from above: _____

4. What sources of information did you use in choosing a school setting outside of PVRSD?

Check all that apply

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> School website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family, friends, neighbors, or other parents of children in the school | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic achievement data (state report card on schools, GreatSchools, etc.). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-person visit to the school | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | |

5. What do you think are the most notable strengths of the school that your child currently attends (i.e., the non-PVRSD school)?

Check all that apply

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum/Instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Climate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Support Services/Special Education | <input type="checkbox"/> School Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty & Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Class Size |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts Offering | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Involvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): |

6. From the list below, please choose the **four** factors that are most important to you in choosing a school:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum/Instruction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Before and after school offerings | <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty/Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Support Services/Special Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Diversity of Student Population |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Size | <input type="checkbox"/> Class Size |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past School Performance | <input type="checkbox"/> School Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | |

7. What could the PVRSD do to make its public schools more attractive to families like yours?

8. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your experience with the out of district program, or with PVRSD schools?

The PVRSD strives to serve the needs of all residents, and we thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. Please return this survey in the enclosed pre-stamped envelope.

If you would like to be contacted by a member of the PVRSD to discuss the responses to your survey further please list your name, telephone number and/or email address below. If you do not list contact information, PVRSD will not make any further attempts to contact you:

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone number: _____

- Addendum I₂

**Parent/Guardian Survey for Students Not Enrolled in PVRSD
PIONEER VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL (7-12)**

Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) is conducting a survey of parents/guardians to identify ways in which we could better serve the needs of all residents. We are sending this particular survey to families with children that live in PVRSD but chose not to enroll their child in the district. Please take a moment to answer the following questions about the factors involved in your choice.

This survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

The results of this survey will be used to help develop our understanding of why families choose schools other than the PVRSD. Thank you for your time and your thoughtful feedback.

1A. Please advise where you child currently attends school:

- ☐ Private ☐ Homeschool ☐ Charter ☐ Different public school district

1B. Before making choice to homeschool or attend a school elsewhere, did your child attend a school in the PVRSD?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

1C. If so, please check the box next to all school(s) that he or she attended?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl Rhodes Elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> Bernardston Elementary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northfield Elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> Warwick Community School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Valley Regional School | |

2. What do you think are the most notable strengths of PVRSD?

Check all that apply

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic achievement | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of academic programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student support services/special education | <input type="checkbox"/> School safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty & Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music program (Band/Chorus) | <input type="checkbox"/> Clubs/other extracurricular offerings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School culture | |

3A. What factors led you to homeschool, or to enroll your child in a school outside of PVRSD?

Check all that apply

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More academic options in new district | <input type="checkbox"/> More diversity in new district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less time off for professional development | <input type="checkbox"/> Extracurricular activities in new district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student support services/special education | <input type="checkbox"/> Smaller class size in new district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New district is more convenient location | <input type="checkbox"/> Start/end times in new district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social/emotional issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Issues with teacher(s)/staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial issues in PVRSD | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic program in new district | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better access to technology | |

3B. Please explain your selections from previous questions: _____

4. What sources of information did you use in choosing a school setting outside of PVRSD?

Check all that apply

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> School website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family, friends, neighbors, or other parents of children in the school | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic achievement data (state report card on schools, GreatSchools, etc.). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-person visit to the school | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | |

5. What do you think are the most notable strengths of the school that your child currently attends (i.e., the non-PVRSD school)?

Check all that apply

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic achievement | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of academic programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student support services/special education | <input type="checkbox"/> School safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty & Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music program (Band/Chorus) | <input type="checkbox"/> Clubs/other extracurricular offerings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School culture | |

6. From the list below, please choose the **four** factors that are most important to you in choosing a school:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum/Instruction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Before and after school offerings | <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty/staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student support services/special education | <input type="checkbox"/> Diversity of student population |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School size | <input type="checkbox"/> Class size |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past school performance | <input type="checkbox"/> School safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

7. What could the PVRSD do to make its public schools more attractive to families like yours?

8. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your experience with the out of district program, or with PVRSD schools?

The PVRSD strives to serve the needs of all residents, and we thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. Please return this survey in the enclosed pre-stamped envelope.

If you would like to be contacted by a member of the PVRSD to discuss the responses to your survey further please list your name, telephone number and/or email address below. If you do not list contact information, PVRSD will not make any further attempts to contact you:

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone number: _____



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Pioneer Elementary School (PK-6)

QUESTION SUMMARIES

DATA TRENDS

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

Q1

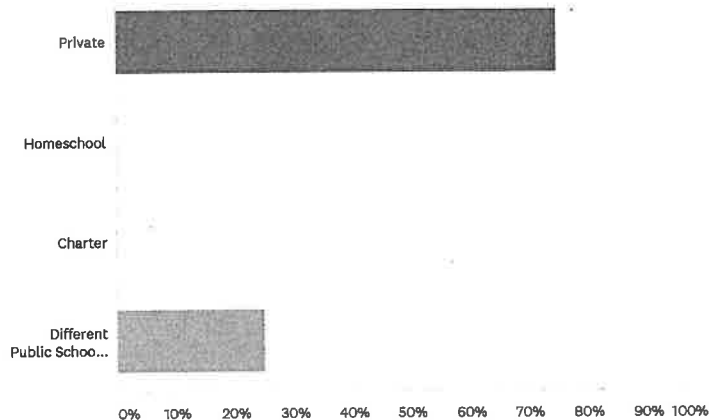


1A. Please advise where you child currently attends school:

Add a comment



Answered: 4 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

Private
Homeschool
Charter
Different Public School District
TOTAL

RESPONSES

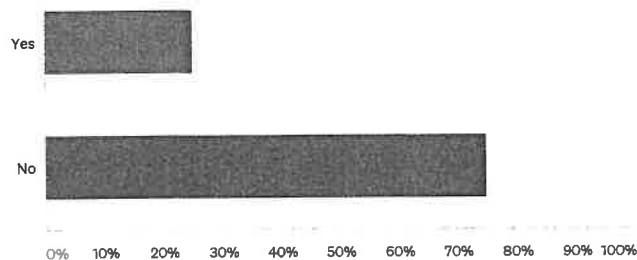
75.00% 3
0.00% 0
0.00% 0
25.00% 1
4

Q2



1B. Before making choice to homeschool or attend a school elsewhere, did your child attend a school in the PVRSD?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 0



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4 responses

ANSWER CHOICES

Yes

No

TOTAL

RESPONSES

25.00%

75.00%

1

3

4

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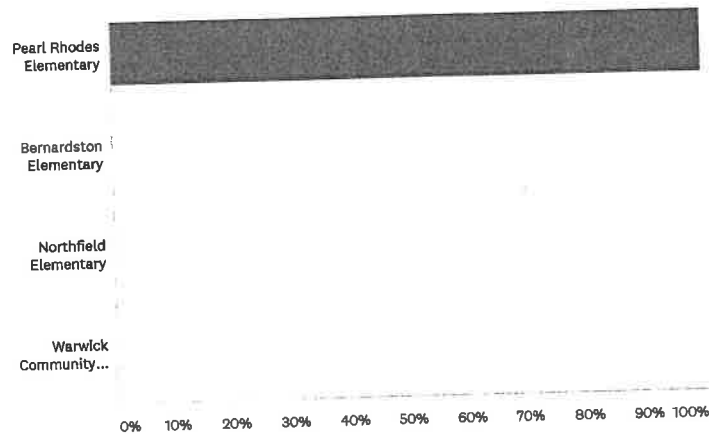


Q3



1C. If so, please check the box next to all school(s) that he or she attended?

Answered: 1 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES

Pearl Rhodes Elementary

Bernardston Elementary

Northfield Elementary

Warwick Community School

Total Respondents: 1

RESPONSES

100.00%

0.00%

0.00%

0.00%

1

0

0

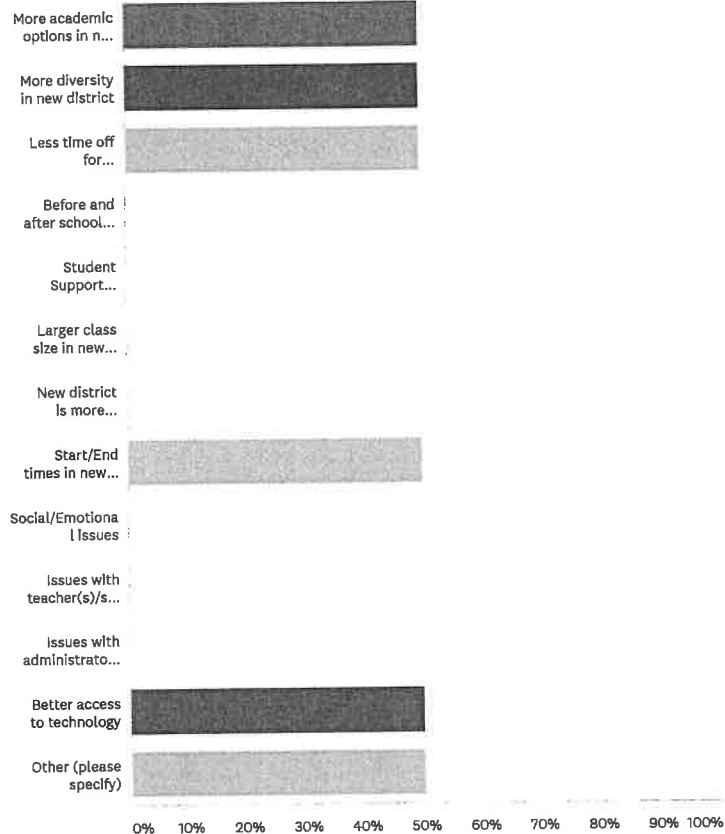
0

Q4



What do you think are the most notable strengths of PVRSD?

Answered: 3 Skipped: 1



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ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

More academic options in new district	50.00%	1
More diversity in new district	50.00%	1
Less time off for professional development	50.00%	1
Before and after school offerings	0.00%	0
Student Support Services/Special Education	0.00%	0
Larger class size in new district	0.00%	0
New district is more convenient location	0.00%	0
Start/End times in new district	50.00%	1
Social/Emotional issues	0.00%	0
Issues with teacher(s)/staff	0.00%	0
Issues with administrator(s)	0.00%	0
Better access to technology	50.00%	1
Other (please specify)	50.00%	1
Responses		1
Total Respondents: 2		

Q6



3B. Please explain your selections from above:

Answered: 4 Skipped: 0

small size

2/16/2019 9:12 PM

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4 responses



Ability to start school Kindergarten before 5 (birthday was 9/13), more individualized attention, diversity in student body, social justice emphasized, more time outdoors and experiential/hands on learning, relationships to teachers and social learning.

2/16/2019 9:09 PM



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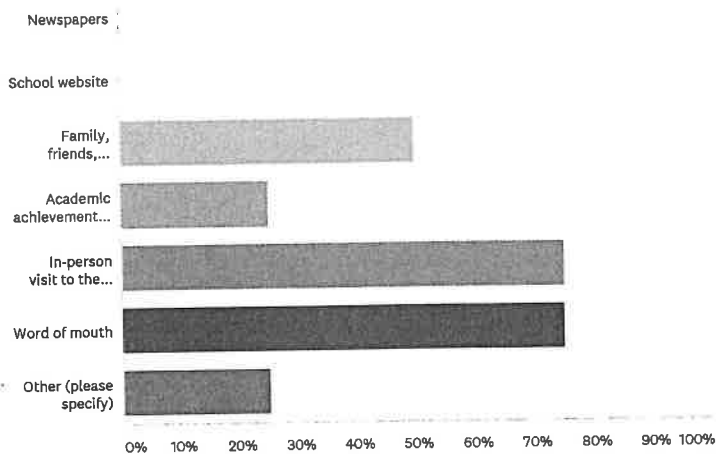


Q7



What sources of information did you use in choosing a school setting outside of PVRSD?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Newspapers	0.00%	0
School website	0.00%	0
Family, friends, neighbors, or other parents of children in the school	50.00%	2
Academic achievement data (state report card on schools, GreatSchools, etc.).	25.00%	1
In-person visit to the school	75.00%	3
Word of mouth	75.00%	3
Other (please specify)	25.00%	1
Responses		
Total Respondents: 4		

Q8



What do you think are the most notable strengths of the school that your child currently attends (i.e., the non-PVRSD school)?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 0

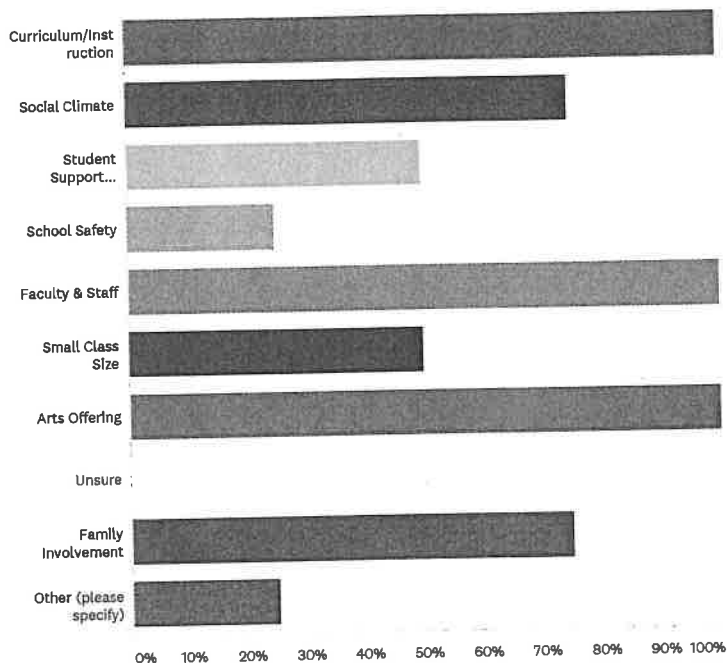
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4 responses



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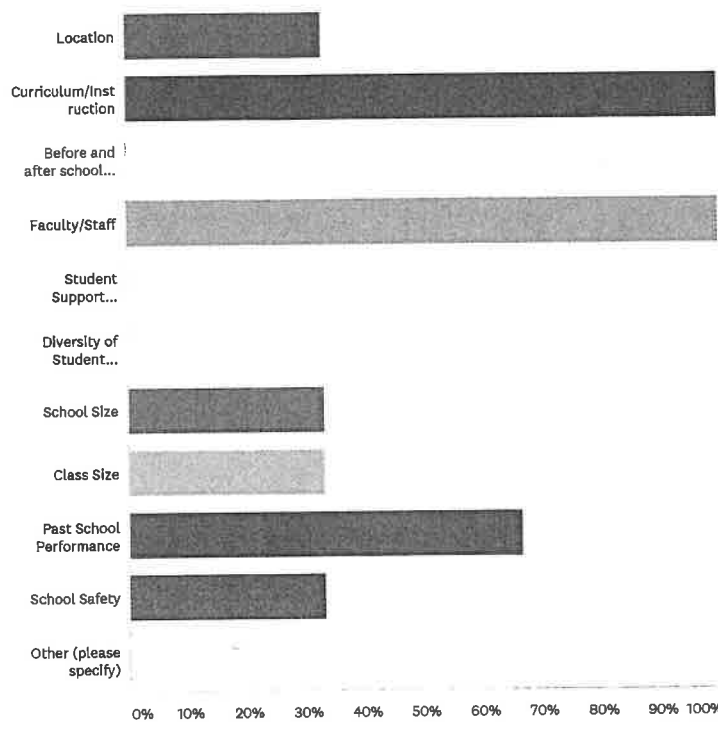
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Curriculum/Instruction		100.00%	4
Social Climate		75.00%	3
Student Support Services/Special Education		50.00%	2
School Safety		25.00%	1
Faculty & Staff		100.00%	4
Small Class Size		50.00%	2
Arts Offering		100.00%	4
Unsure		0.00%	0
Family Involvement		75.00%	3
Other (please specify)	Responses	25.00%	1
Total Respondents: 4			

Q9



From the list below, please choose the four factors that are most important to you in choosing a school:

Answered: 3 Skipped: 1



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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Location	33.33%	1
Curriculum/Instruction	100.00%	3
Before and after school offerings	0.00%	0
Faculty/Staff	100.00%	3
Student Support Services/Special Education	0.00%	0
Diversity of Student Population	0.00%	0
School Size	33.33%	1
Class Size	33.33%	1
Past School Performance	66.67%	2
School Safety	33.33%	1
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 3		

Q10

What could the PVRSD do to make its public schools more attractive to families like yours?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 2

Actually teach the kids.
2/16/2019 9:05 PM

Improve financial situation, join schools, utilize money saved into teachers and programs.
2/16/2019 9:02 PM



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Q11



Is there anything else you would like us to know about your experience with the out of district program, or with PVRSD schools?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 2

My son has learned so much and now enjoys going to school, something that didn't happen in the PVRSD school.

2/16/2019 9:05 PM

PVRSD could get students back once you resolve financial situation and stay out of the headlines for the many problems.

2/16/2019 9:02 PM

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4 responses

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Pioneer Valley Regional School (7-12)

Families out of district.

QUESTION SUMMARIES

DATA TRENDS

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

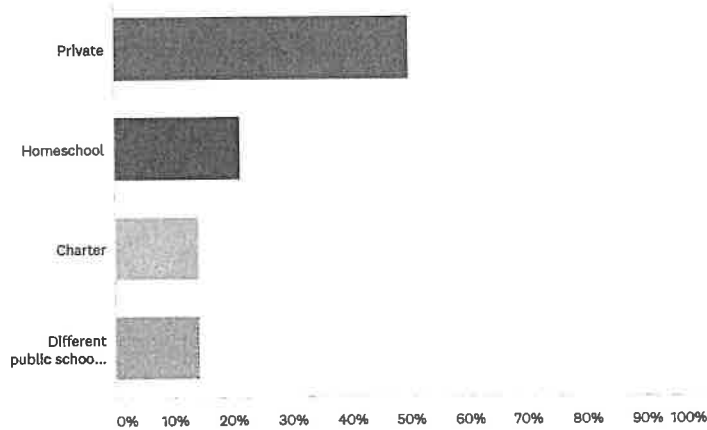
Q1

1A. Please advise where you child currently attends school:

Add a comment

x

Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

Private
Homeschool
Charter
Different public school district
TOTAL

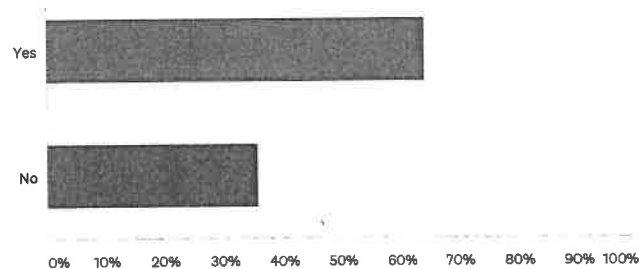
RESPONSES

50.00% 7
21.43% 3
14.29% 2
14.29% 2
14

Q2

1B. Before making choice to homeschool or attend a school elsewhere, did your child attend a school in the PVRSD?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



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14 responses

**ANSWER CHOICES**

Yes

No

TOTAL

RESPONSES

64.29%

35.71%

9

5

14

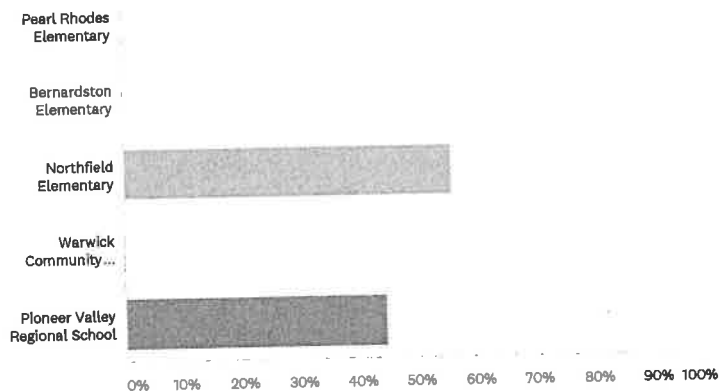
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Q3



1C. If so, please check the box next to all school(s) that he or she attended?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 5

**ANSWER CHOICES**

Pearl Rhodes Elementary

Bernardston Elementary

Northfield Elementary

Warwick Community School

Pioneer Valley Regional School

TOTAL

RESPONSES

0.00%

0.00%

55.56%

0.00%

44.44%

0

0

5

0

4

9

Q4

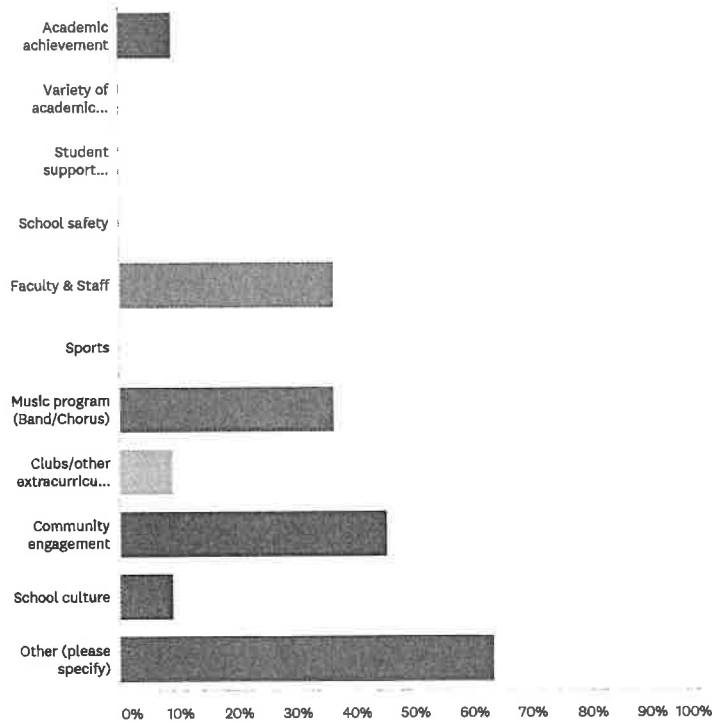


What do you think are the most notable strengths of PVRSD?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 3



SIGN UP FREE



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Academic achievement	9.09%	1
Variety of academic programs	0.00%	0
Student support services/special education	0.00%	0
School safety	0.00%	0
Faculty & Staff	36.36%	4
Sports	0.00%	0
Music program (Band/Chorus)	36.36%	4
Clubs/other extracurricular offerings	9.09%	1
Community engagement	45.45%	5
School culture	9.09%	1
Other (please specify)	63.64%	7
Total Respondents: 11		

Q5



3A. What factors led you to homeschool, or to enroll your child in a school outside of PVRSD?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 3

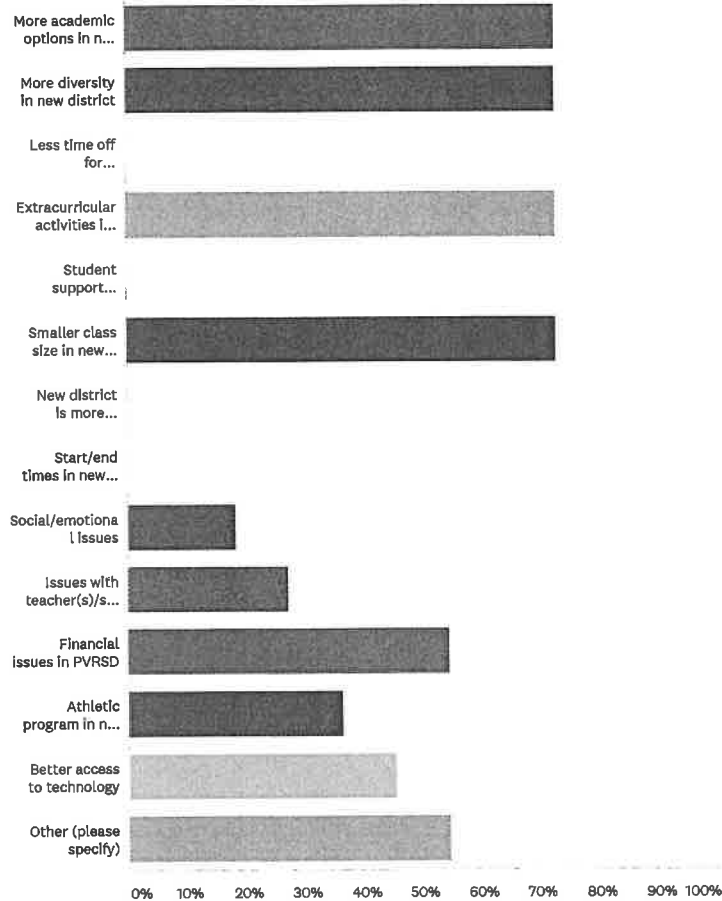
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14 responses



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ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

More academic options in new district	72.73%	8
More diversity in new district	72.73%	8
Less time off for professional development	0.00%	0
Extracurricular activities in new district	72.73%	8
Student support services/special education	0.00%	0
Smaller class size in new district	72.73%	8
New district is more convenient location	0.00%	0
Start/end times in new district	0.00%	0
Social/emotional issues	18.18%	2
Issues with teacher(s)/staff	27.27%	3
Financial issues in PVRSD	54.55%	6
Athletic program in new district	36.36%	4
Better access to technology	45.45%	5
Other (please specify)	Responses 54.55%	6
Total Respondents: 11		

Q6



3B. Please explain your selections from previous questions:

Answered: 9 Skipped: 5

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14 responses



Saw my child not achieving his potential - current school is able to achieve this.

2/14/2019 12:51 AM

My children attended/are attending NMH which is a very different high school experience.

2/14/2019 12:39 AM

My children were fortunate to have access to NMH - which is where they attended/are attending high school.

2/14/2019 12:35 AM

We travel to Haiti quite a bit and sometimes stay for 3 months. Homeschool has always worked best for us.

2/14/2019 12:26 AM

SIGN UP FREE

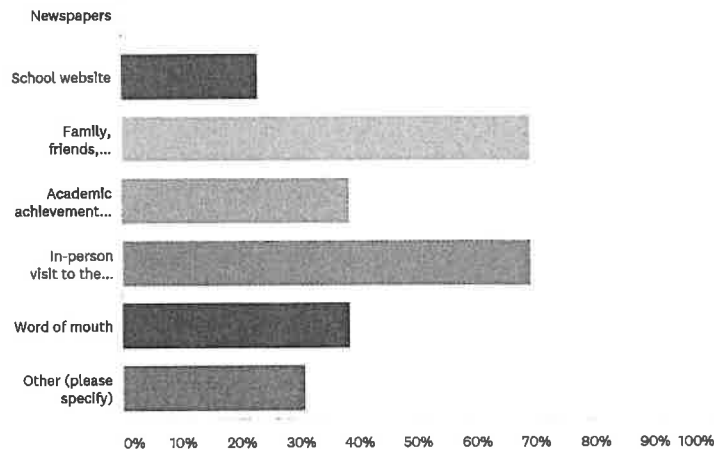


Q7



What sources of information did you use in choosing a school setting outside of PVRSD?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Newspapers	0.00% 0
School website	23.08% 3
Family, friends, neighbors, or other parents	69.23% 9
Academic achievement data (state report card on schools, GreatSchools, etc.	38.46% 5
In-person visit to the school	69.23% 9
Word of mouth	38.46% 5
Other (please specify)	30.77% 4
Total Respondents: 13	

Q8



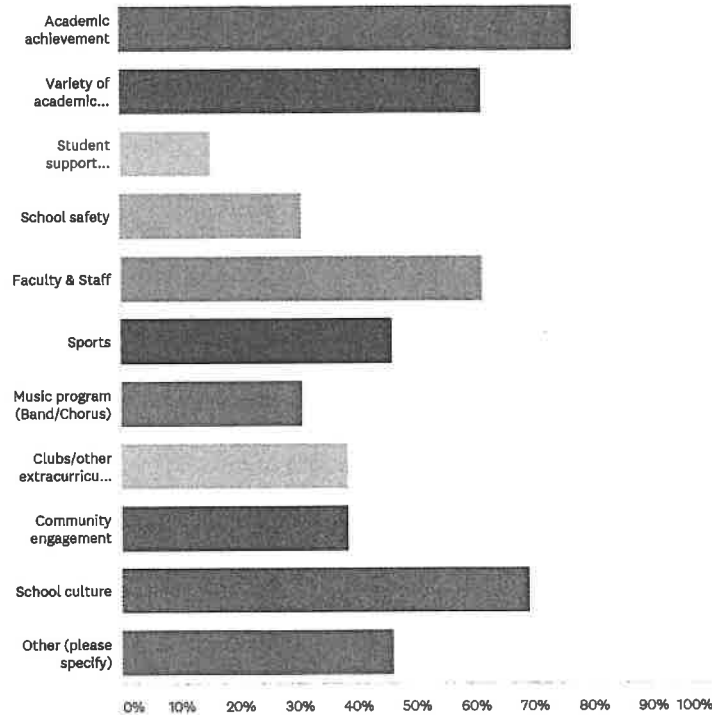


What do you think are the most notable strengths of the school that your child currently attends (i.e., the non-PVRSD school)?

SIGN UP FREE



Answered: 13 Skipped: 1



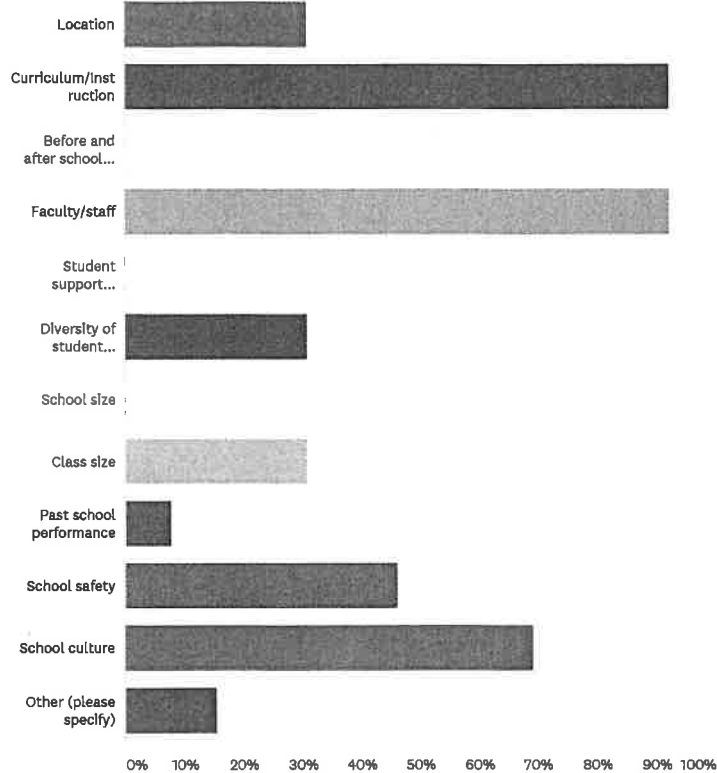
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Academic achievement	76.92%	10
Variety of academic programs	61.54%	8
Student support services/special education	15.38%	2
School safety	30.77%	4
Faculty & Staff	61.54%	8
Sports	46.15%	6
Music program (Band/Chorus)	30.77%	4
Clubs/other extracurricular offerings	38.46%	5
Community engagement	38.46%	5
School culture	69.23%	9
Other (please specify)	46.15%	6
Total Respondents: 13		

Q9



From the list below, please choose the four factors that are most important to you in choosing a school:

Answered: 13 Skipped: 1



SIGN UP FREE



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Location	30.77%	4
Curriculum/instruction	92.31%	12
Before and after school offerings	0.00%	0
Faculty/staff	92.31%	12
Student support services/special education	0.00%	0
Diversity of student population	30.77%	4
School size	0.00%	0
Class size	30.77%	4
Past school performance	7.69%	1
School safety	46.15%	6
School culture	69.23%	9
Other (please specify)	Responses 15.38%	2
Total Respondents: 13		

Q10



What could the PVRSD do to make its public schools more attractive to families like yours?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 6

Differentiate Instruction within a heterogeneous classroom offered by choice. Zero tolerance for bigotry and social isolation. Offer honors and AP classes on site (not at GCC etc.).

2/14/2019 1:03 AM

Share Link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/11-copy>

Acknowledge kids a little better, way better advising, help them achieve to their potential, many kids not ready for college, they struggle to study.

Share

14 responses



2/14/2019 12:51 AM



SIGN UP FREE



Q11



Is there anything else you would like us to know about your experience with the out of district program, or with PVRSD schools?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 8

We felt a tremendous lack of communication coming to us from the school and a lot of resistance when we came to the school with concerns regarding our daughter. PVRSD needs something akin to a PTO or a parent advisory council.

2/14/2019 1:03 AM

Sorry to have left, but saw better opportunity for upward mobility across the street.

2/14/2019 12:51 AM

Our experience at NES was wonderful. Band was especially great. Megan is a great leader and asset to NES, but overall many great teachers/staff there.

2/14/2019 12:44 AM

We had a great experience at Northfield Elementary. Unfortunately, PVRSD is located in an area with many educational options. Especially from private/boarding schools.

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14 responses

Approved by the HEART Committee/Regional Study Committee
February 20, 2019

PIONEER VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT

The Agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws of Massachusetts (hereinafter referred to as "MGL"), as amended, among the Towns of Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield and Warwick, (hereinafter referred to as "member towns"), establishing the Pioneer Valley Regional School District (hereinafter referred to as the "District") is hereby further amended in its entirety to read as hereinafter set forth. This amended Agreement will go into effect on _____.

In consideration of the mutual promises herein contained, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I

Type of Regional School District

- (A) The District shall include all grades from Pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (PK – 12), inclusive.
- (B) The District Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") shall also have the right to establish adult evening education courses.
- (C) The Committee is hereby authorized, in its discretion to establish and maintain state-aided vocational education, acting as trustees therefore in accordance with the provisions of MGL, Chapter 74 and any acts amendatory thereof in addition thereto or dependent thereon and any other special educational classes in accordance with the provisions of any other general or special law related thereto.

SECTION II

The Regional School District Committee

- (A) Powers, Duties and Composition
 - (1) The powers and duties of the District shall be vested in and exercised by a Committee. The Committee shall consist of thirteen (13) members, three members from each member town and one member elected at large from one of the four (4) member towns who receives the most votes from all member towns. All at-large candidates will register in their town of residence to be placed on the common ballot for all member towns.
 - (2) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may adjourn.

- (3) The Committee shall have all the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon school committees by law and conferred and imposed by this Agreement, and such other additional powers and duties as are specified in MGL, Chapter 71, Sections 16 to 16I, inclusive, as amended, or as may be specified in any other applicable general or special law.
- (4) At the first regular meeting to be held after the conclusion of the District election, the Committee shall organize and choose a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from its own membership. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson positions shall be rotated among Committee members every two (2) years. At the same meeting, or at any other meeting, the Committee shall appoint a Treasurer and Secretary, fix the time and place for its regular meetings and provide for the calling of special District meetings. The Chairperson will appoint members to serve on subcommittees.

(B) Elections

- (1) Each Committee member shall be entitled to one vote at all Committee meetings. In compliance with the Supreme Court's "one person, one vote" principle, members will be elected in district-wide, at-large elections, with members required to be residents of specific communities such that the total number of Committee members will be thirteen (13) with three (3) members from each member town and one (1) member-at-large.
- (2) At every District election, there shall be elected to membership on the Committee for terms of four years, or for any unexpired term as outlined in Subsection I II (C), such persons as shall maintain the Committee at thirteen (13) members and preserve the residency requirements as stated in Subsection I II (A) (1) of this section.
- (3) No Committee member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive four-year terms. Committee members who have served for two (2) consecutive terms may fill a vacancy during the two (2) consecutive years after the end of their second consecutive term. Filling a vacancy will not be considered the first year of a new term of office.
- (4) The District election shall be held at the biennial state election, normally on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November of every even numbered year. District elections shall be conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws.

(C) Vacancies

A vacancy occurs when a person resigns, moves out of the member town, or dies. Vacancies that occur on the Committee shall be filled by appointment of the Selectboard ("Selectmen" hereinafter referred to as "Selectboard") and the remaining Committee members (without the Committee member-at-large) from the town concerned, acting jointly by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, to serve until the next District election, at which time a successor shall be elected to serve for the

balance of the unexpired term. A vacancy in the member-at-large position will be filled, as above, by the Selectboard of the member town in which the member-at-large was a resident and the Committee members from that town.

SECTION III

Students

- (A) Students who reside in the member towns will attend schools according to Committee policy. A school will not be closed permanently without going through the process outlined in Section IV (C).
- (B) Students with disabilities receiving services with an approved Individual Educational Plan under the provisions of MGL, Chapter 71-B, as amended, shall attend schools as recommended by the Special Education Administrator and approved by the Superintendent.
- (C) Students residing outside the District may attend the District's schools, with the approval of the Committee, provided that adequate facilities for such students are available and upon the appropriate payment of tuition as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Committee. Including School Choice students is at the discretion of the Committee and is subject to the regulations promulgated by DESE.
- (D) Students of the District wishing to attend vocational schools may do so in the manner provided by MGL, Chapter 74, as amended.

SECTION IV

Location and Lease of the Member Town Schools

- (A) All schools which are part of the District shall be located in member towns. Any new schools constructed within the District shall be located at a site or sites within the member towns.
- (B) Leases
 - (1) The District shall lease from member towns the building, facilities and grounds for all elementary schools operating as a school in the District. The District shall enter into written leases of the elementary schools, which shall include contracts for services. Each lease shall be for a term not to exceed twenty (20) years. The leases may contain provisions for an extension in accordance with the provisions of MGL, Chapter 71, Section 14C, as amended. The member towns shall receive no rental for the leases. The District shall administer all expenses for maintaining and operating such buildings, facilities and grounds and keeping them in good repair during the terms of the leases.

- (2) Nothing contained in the leases shall prevent the Committee from permitting the use of the building, facilities, and grounds by the member towns. Each lease involving a member town shall be on such other terms as may be determined by the Selectboard thereof and the Committee, who shall together execute the leasing agreement on behalf of the town owning the building.
 - (3) The District shall insure, at its expense, the buildings, facilities, and grounds so leased. Details of such insurance shall be determined after consultation with the Selectboard the leasing agreement on behalf of the town owning the building(s).
- (C) Process To Close A School
- (1) A vote by the Committee to begin the study must be taken at least ten (10) months prior to its vote to close a school and must pass with a two-thirds ($2/3$) majority. Under extraordinary circumstances, this timeline may be modified by a two-thirds ($2/3$) majority vote of the Committee with representatives from at least three (3) towns voting to support the modified timeline.
 - (2) Closure of any school within the District shall not be done without the District's Central Office Administrators conducting a five-year projected feasibility study [see (a) – (e)] initiated at least ten (10) months in advance of the proposed closing.
 - (a) A study of the educational impact on students.
 - (b) A fiscal analysis to determine the cost savings, the impact on the regional budget, and the individual assessments to the member towns.
 - (c) A review of the educational reorganization and administrative structure and its financial impact.
 - (d) A review of population trends to determine the long-term impact of the closing.
 - (e) A process in which the Committee sets up an ad hoc committee to review the feasibility and make recommendations to the School Committee which includes: one (1) member from each member town appointed by the Committee; and two (2) members from each member town appointed by the respective Selectboards. The School Committee shall give any such ad hoc committee's recommendations due consideration, but may exercise its discretion as to whether or not it will implement any of the group's recommendations.

- (f) A quorum of the School Committee will hold a public forum with two (2) weeks' notice in the member town where the school is being proposed to be closed prior to the vote of the Committee.
- (3) A school may then be closed at the first June 30th after the Committee vote.
- (4) A vote by the Committee to close the school shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Committee with representatives from at least three (3) towns voting to support closure. The vote shall be held at a regularly scheduled Committee meeting.
- (5) Closure of a school is defined as no longer assigning District students to that particular school. The town affected by the Committee vote still maintains control and ownership of the facility and may utilize the facility as it sees fit.
- (6) The District will pay, in each of three (3) years, the same amount to the Town in which a town-owned elementary school is being closed, 50% of the budgeted costs to maintain a fully functioning school, in the fiscal year in which the Committee votes to close a school in the following categories: fuel, light/power/water, telephone, maintenance of grounds supplies, maintenance of buildings C/S, maintenance of building supplies, maintenance of equipment C/S, maintenance of equipment supplies, and insurance. District payments to the member town will be made by the end of the following months: August; November; January; and April. Beginning with the July 1 immediately after the school is closed, the lease for that school will be terminated and the District will have no further financial or other responsibility for the building and grounds. If the closed building is sold or fully repurposed prior to the end of this three (3) year period, the District will no longer be responsible for this compensation.

SECTION V

Budget

(A) Budget

The Committee shall annually determine the District's budget consistent with the timelines, terms and requirements of MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16B, as amended, and other pertinent provisions of law and consistent with regulations promulgated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (hereinafter referred to as "DESE").

(B) Public Budget Hearing and Budget Approval

(1) After conducting a public hearing consistent with MGL, Chapter 71, Section 38N, as amended, the Committee, by a minimum two-thirds (2/3) vote of

all its members, shall annually approve a budget for the next fiscal year to maintain and operate the District. After deducting the amount of aid the District is to receive, the balance shall be apportioned among the member towns in accordance with Section VI.

(2) The budget will be itemized in such detail as the Committee may deem advisable. Such budget shall be adopted not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the earliest date on which the business session of the annual town meeting of any member town is to be held, but in no event later than March 31, provided that said budget need not be adopted earlier than February 1. The amounts so apportioned for each member town shall be certified by the District Treasurer to the Treasurers of the member towns within thirty (30) days from the date on which the annual operating budget is adopted by the Committee.

(3) The annual budget as adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Committee, must be approved by a simple majority vote at two-thirds (2/3) of the member town meetings.

(4) The Committee shall each year submit an annual report to each of the member towns, containing a detailed financial statement, and a statement showing the method by which the annual charges assessed against each town were computed, together with such additional information relating to the operation and maintenance of the District as may be deemed necessary by the Committee or by the Selectboard of any member town and each member town shall include said report in its annual report.

(5) Amendments to the Approved Budget [CMR 41.05 (5), as amended]

(a) A regional school committee may propose, with a two-thirds vote, an amendment to a previously approved budget. If such amendment results in an increase in the total amount of the budget or an increase in assessment for any member, such amendment shall be submitted to the local appropriating authorities for their approval. The treasurer of the regional school district shall submit the proposed amendment to the members within 7 days from the date of the regional school committee vote. The local appropriating authority of every member shall have 45 days from the date of the regional school committee's vote to meet and consider the amendment. The proposed amendment shall be effective if it is approved by two-thirds of the local appropriating authorities and by the local appropriating authority of any member whose assessment is increased.

(b) If a local appropriating authority does not vote on the proposed amendment within the 45-day period and that local appropriating authority has previously appropriated funds for its assessment in an amount greater than or equal to the member's assessment for the amended budget, that member shall be deemed to have approved the amended budget.

(c) If a proposed amendment to a previously approved budget does not increase the total amount of the budget and reduces or leaves unchanged the assessment for every member, the amendment shall not require approval by the local appropriating authorities and shall be effective upon a two-thirds vote of the regional school committee.

SECTION VI

Apportionment and Payment of Costs Incurred by the District

(A) Classification of Costs

For the purpose of apportioning assessments by the District to the member towns, costs shall be divided into four (4) categories: operating costs, capital costs, debt, and transportation costs. The Committee shall determine the amount necessary to meet the annual operating, capital, debt, and transportation needs and shall allocate such amount among the member towns.

(B) Operating Costs

(1) Operating costs shall include all costs except capital, debt, and transportation costs but shall include interest on temporary notes issued by the District in anticipation of revenue.

(2) Apportionment of Operating Costs

The total operating costs assessed to each member town will consist of the member town's Minimum Local Contribution and the town's share of Above Minimum Local Contribution.

The aggregate Above Minimum Contribution is arrived at by subtracting from the Operating Budget the following: Chapter 70 aid, the Minimum Required Combined Local Contributions of all member towns, and other general revenue sources to the District. [Or as may be modified by DESE from time to time.]

This formula is illustrated below:

Operating Budget (which excludes capital, debt, and transportation)

- (minus) Chapter 70 aid (as calculated by DESE)
- (minus) Minimum Required Combined Local Contributions of all member towns (as calculated by DESE)
- (minus) Other general revenue sources to the District
- = (equals) Total Above Minimum Contribution for all member towns

Each member town's share of the above minimum contribution shall be determined on a per student basis by multiplying the above minimum of contribution amount by a fraction, the

numerator of which shall be each member towns' average Foundation enrollment, all grades, in the District on the first days of October of the five (5) fiscal years preceding the fiscal year for which the apportionment is made, and the denominator of which shall be the average of the total Foundation enrollments from all the member towns in the District on those same dates. In the event that the state changes its Foundation formula apportionment of costs to member towns, such formula shall supersede the calculation noted in section (B) (2).

(C) Capital Costs

(1) Beginning with the FY21 budget, capital costs shall include building modifications to the structure and systems that exceed \$10,000 and as described in DESE's Chart of Accounts in the 7000-function code, as may be modified by DESE from time to time. Such capital costs over \$10,000 in leased elementary schools will be the responsibility of the town in which the school is located and will not be part of the Committee budget Capital costs in leased elementary schools to be paid directly to the vendors and not by the District.

(2) Apportionment of Capital Costs

(a) Each member town's assessment of capital costs associated with the District's Pioneer Valley Regional School for each fiscal year shall be determined on the basis of equalized valuation and pupil enrollment, in the grades contained in this school. "Equalized valuation" shall mean the equalized valuation of the aggregate property in a member town subject to local taxation as most recently reported by the Commissioner of Revenue to the General Court under the provisions of MGL, Chapter 58, Section 10C, as amended, from time to time; student enrollment in the grades contained in this school, shall be as of October first of the year immediately preceding the fiscal year for which the capital apportionment is made. Each member town's share shall be determined by computing to the nearest one-tenth of one percent one-half of the sum of (i) the ratio which its equalized valuation bears to the total of the equalized valuations of all member towns and (ii) the ratio which its student enrollment, in the grades contained in the Pioneer Valley Regional School bears to the total of the student enrollments at said Pioneer Valley Regional School of all the member towns in the District.

(b) The capital costs associated with each District elementary school shall be apportioned to the member town in which the school is located.

A member town which has no elementary school is not obligated to pay any capital costs in an elementary school where its students attend.

(D) Except as otherwise hereinafter provided, the payment for proportionate shares of operating and capital costs of each of the member towns for each year shall be made, upon certification by the District Treasurer as specified in Section VII (A)

below, by the respective member town Treasurers payable to the District in five equal installments on the fifteenth day of July, October, December, March, and May. Each member town Treasurer shall pay to the District the town's proportionate share of capital costs that consist of payments of principal of or interest on bonds or notes issued by the District not later than thirty days before the date on which each payment of such principal of interest is payable by the District, but not earlier than July 1, in any year.

(E) Special Funds

The Committee must approve of a town's use of trust funds or other special funds, including separate town meeting articles, intended for the enhancement of the educational opportunities for that town's children. The operating budget shall not be altered by the expenditure of such funds.

(F) The fiscal year or period of the District shall be the same as the fiscal period of the member towns as provided by law, and the terms year, fiscal year, or calendar year as used in this Agreement to mean or refer to a fiscal or budget year shall mean the fiscal year of the District.

SECTION VII

Incurring of Debt

The Committee may vote to incur debt consistent with the terms and conditions of MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16, as amended. At the time of taking action to incur debt, and except for the incurring of temporary debt in anticipation of revenue, the Committee, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, will choose either the process that appears in MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 (d) or Section 16 (n), as amended.

Not later than seven days after the date on which the Committee authorizes the incurring of debt, other than temporary debt in anticipation of revenue to be received from member towns, written notice of the date of said authorization, the sum authorized, and the general purpose or purposes for authorizing such debt shall be given to the Selectboard in each member town. Debt may be incurred by the District, if approved by the member towns in accordance with the Committee's chosen method under MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 (d) or Section 16 (n).

SECTION VIII

Transportation

Transportation to and from the District Schools and any other transportation for District School purposes shall be the responsibility of the District and its cost shall be apportioned to the member towns as an operating expense, as described in VI (B).

SECTION IX

Provision for Amendment

- (A) This Agreement may be amended from time-to-time in the manner hereinafter provided, but no such amendment shall be made which shall substantially impair the rights of the holders of any bonds or notes or other indebtedness of the District then outstanding, or the rights of the District to procure the means for payment thereof, provided that nothing in this section shall prevent the admission of a new town, or towns, to the District and the reapportionment accordingly of that part of the capital costs represented by bonds or notes of the District then outstanding and of interest thereon.
- (1) A proposal for amendment may be initiated by a signed petition bearing the signatures of ten (10) percent of the registered voters as certified by the Town Clerk of any one of the member towns or by vote of a majority of all members of the Committee.
 - (2) Any such proposal for amendment shall be presented to the Secretary of the Committee who shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the Selectboard of each of the member towns that a proposal to amend this Agreement been received and shall enclose a copy of such proposal (without the signatures in the case of a proposal by petition). The Selectboard in each member town shall include in the warrant for the next annual or special town meeting called for the purpose an article stating the proposal.
 - (3) When a majority of the member towns, by majority vote at such annual or special town meeting, shall have approved the proposal for amendment and the amended Agreement has been approved by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Commissioner"), said amendment shall be adopted thereby and thereupon become a part of this Agreement.

SECTION X

Admission of Additional Member Towns

- (A) By an amendment of this Agreement adopted under and in accordance with Section IX above, any other town or towns may be admitted to the District upon adoption as therein provided of such amendment and upon acceptance at a special or annual town meeting by a majority vote by the town or towns seeking admission of the Agreement as so amended, acceptance by a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) of the member towns, each by majority vote, and also upon compliance with such provisions of law and regulations [e.g., Code of Massachusetts Regulations (hereinafter referred to as "CMR"); i.e., CMR, 41.03, as amended] as may be applicable and such terms as may be set forth in such amendment.

- (B) The Committee, prior to the admittance of a new member town, will have the option of establishing an additional cost to that new member town to be included in the District. This additional cost will be clearly articulated to a Regional Planning Committee of the potential new member town(s) and will be made clear to the voters prior to that new member town's vote on admission to the District.
- (C) A new member town may be admitted to the District as of July 1 of any fiscal year, provided that all requisite approvals for such admission, including the Commissioner's approval, shall be obtained no later than the preceding December 31st.
- (D) The new member town will immediately be entitled to three (3) Committee members appointed by the process outlined in Section II (C) Vacancies. Two (2) of the three (3) Committee members will be elected at the next biennial election and the third member will be elected at the following biennial election to provide for a rotation of Committee members.

SECTION XI

Withdrawal of Member Towns

(A) Limitation

The withdrawal of a member town from the District may be affected by an amendment to this Agreement in the manner hereinafter provided by this section. Any member town seeking to withdraw shall, by vote of an annual or special town meeting, request the Committee to draw up an amendment to this Agreement setting forth the terms by which such town may withdraw from the District, provided (1) that the town seeking to withdraw shall remain liable for any unpaid operating costs which have been certified by the District Treasurer to the Treasurer of the withdrawing town, including the full amount so certified for the year in which such withdrawal takes effect and (2) that the said town shall remain liable to the District for its share of the indebtedness, other than temporary debt in anticipation of revenue, of the District outstanding at the time of such withdrawal, and for the interest thereon, to the same extent and in the same manner as though the town had not withdrawn from the District, except that such liability shall be reduced by any amount which such town has paid over at the time of withdrawal and which has been applied to the payment of such indebtedness.

(B) Procedure

The Town Clerk of the town seeking to withdraw shall notify the Committee in writing that such town has voted to request the Committee to draw up an amendment to the Agreement (enclosing a certified copy of such vote). Thereupon, the Committee shall draw up an amendment to the Agreement,

setting forth such terms of withdrawal as it deems advisable, subject to the limitation contained in Section XI (A). The Secretary of the Committee shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the Selectboard of each member town that the Committee has drawn up an amendment to the Agreement providing for the withdrawal of a member town (enclosing a copy of such amendment). The Selectboards of the non-withdrawing member towns shall include in the warrant for the next annual or special town meeting, called for the purpose of an article, the terms of withdrawal. Such amendment shall become effective on a July 1 no less than one full year after the approval by the non-withdrawing member town, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting as aforesaid, and after approval of the Commissioner, no later than the preceding December 31.

(C) Obligations of Member Towns

In addition to other terms and requirements which the Committee shall include in the amendment, the member town(s) seeking to withdraw from the District will be responsible for the following: (1) payment of all operating costs for which member towns are liable as a member of the District; (2) continuing payments beyond the time of withdrawal from the District for each member town's share of the indebtedness of the District which is outstanding at the time of withdrawal, and for interest thereon, to the same extent and in the same manner as though each town had not withdrawn from the District; and (3) other liabilities incurred during all times that each town was a member of the District (e.g., OPEB – Other Post-Employment Benefits). All expenses related to the withdrawal of a member town from the District will be borne by the member town which initiates withdrawal from the District.

(D) Approval of Withdrawal

A request to withdraw shall become effective only if the amendment to the Agreement is approved by a majority vote of the Committee, is approved by majority vote at an annual or special town meeting in two-thirds (2/3) of the member towns, is approved by the Commissioner, and the withdrawal from the District can only become effective on a July 1 no less than one full year after the completion of these requirements.

(E) Cessation of Terms of Withdrawing Town's Members

Upon the effective date of withdrawal from the District, the terms of office of all Committee members from the withdrawing member town serving on the Committee shall terminate.

(F) Payments of Certain Capital Costs Made by a Withdrawing Town

Money encumbered from the member towns for payment of obligations (as outlined in Section XI (C) above) shall be used only for such purpose and until so

used shall be deposited in a trust which is established at the time of a member town's withdrawal.

(G) Division of Assets

All member towns will be entitled to any assets that need to be divided between the towns to be negotiated between the Committee and Selectboard.

SECTION XII

Regional Amendment Review

- (A) Recognizing that over time circumstances often change, and intending that this Agreement should continue to serve the best interests of the member towns, the Committee shall, at least at five-year intervals, establish an ad hoc study group composed of knowledgeable persons to study this Agreement and report to the Committee as to whether or not any changes to this Agreement might be beneficial in light of the then prevailing conditions. The Committee shall give any such ad hoc study group's report due consideration, but may exercise its discretion as to whether or not it will implement any of the group's recommendations.
- (B) This ad hoc Regional Agreement Advisory Committee will be composed of four (4) members of the Committee (one (1) from each member town) appointed by the Committee and four (4) members of the member towns (one (1) from each member town) appointed by the respective Selectboards. All members of the Regional Agreement Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year. The Superintendent and the School Business Administrator shall be ex-officio members of the Regional Agreement Advisory Committee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed as of _____.

Regional School Committee: _____ Date: _____

(typed name) (Chair)

Town of Bernardston: _____ Date: _____

(typed name) (Town Clerk or BoS Chair)

Town of Leyden: _____ Date: _____

(typed name) (Town Clerk or BoS Chair)

Town of Northfield: _____ Date: _____

(typed name) (Town Clerk or BoS Chair)

Town of Warwick: _____ Date: _____

(typed name) (Town Clerk or BoS Chair)

Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:

(typed name) Date: _____

Pioneer Valley Regional School District

HEART/Regional Study Committee

Changes/Amendments to Regional Agreement

March 7, 2019

What is a Regional Agreement?

A Regional Agreement is a document which describes how a regional school district functions and its legal and financial intersection with the member towns.

When was the Pioneer Valley Regional School District Regional Agreement Written?

The Regional Agreement was first adopted on March 28, 1991 and later amended on July 1, 1999

Why Are Amendments Necessary?

1) Education Reform Act of 1993 – updated and changed laws relating to school districts; 2) Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) – added and modified regulations relating to school districts; and 3) opportunity to update Agreement to meet current interests/practices of the District

Process for Amendments

Selectboards appoint ad hoc Regional Study Committee (HEART Committee) to study issues and recommend amendments to the School Committee → School Committee reviews Study Committee's recommendations and votes to support (or make further changes) → amendments are reviewed by District/Town Counsels and DESE → voters in all member towns vote on School Committee recommendations (3 of 4 towns required to pass) → Commissioner of DESE determines final approval

Regional Study Committee Recommended Changes

- Current Regional School Committee has 12 members (3 each from the 4 member towns) – one Committee member-at-large will be added (total of 13) to create an odd number to prevent tie votes [Section II (A) (1)]
- The Chair and Vice Chair of the School Committee must be rotated every two years. [Section II (A) (4)]
- School Committee members may not serve more than 2 consecutive uninterrupted terms. [Section II (B) (3)]
- A temporary vacancy on the School Committee will be filled by vote of the Selectboard members and the remaining Committee members from the town which has the vacancy. [Section II (B) (3)]
- The School Committee is given the responsibility to determine which grades will be in which schools. [Section III ((A))]
- There is a 10-month requirement to conduct a 5-year projected feasibility study initiated at least ten (10) months in advance of the proposed closing which must be followed in order to close a school. This process includes an ad hoc committee comprised of members of each member town appointed by the Selectboard (2) and School Committee (1). [Section IV (C)]
- If a member town's only elementary school is closed, the District is required to pay 50% of the budgeted costs to maintain a fully functioning school for 3 years. If the closed building is sold or fully repurposed prior to the end of this three (3) year period, the District will no longer be responsible for this compensation. [Section IV (C) (6)]
- The budget process has been updated to meet DESE regulations, but has not been substantively changed. [Section V]
- The apportionment (i.e., assessment to the member towns) also includes updated and clarifying language but has not be substantively changed. [Section VI] Apportionment (i.e., assessments) is now based on Foundation enrollment (includes all in-district, school choice-out, charter, and special education out-of-district students vs. just in-district students; i.e., all students for which the District is responsible. [VI (B)]
- Capital costs are now more clearly defined to "include building modifications to the structure and systems that exceed \$10,000..." [Section VI (C)]
- A member town which has no elementary school is not obligated to pay any capital costs in an elementary school where its students attend. [Section VI (C) (2)]
- The School Committee must approve of any special funds raised in a member town to be used specifically in that member town's elementary school. [Section VI (E)]

- There is new language required by law spelling out how the District can incur debt. This does not substantively change current practice. [Section VII]
- There is new clarifying language related to the admission of a new member town. [Section X]
- There is a new section which describes the process and specific obligations for a member town to withdraw from the District. [Section XI]
- A new section has been added requiring the School Committee to review this Regional Agreement every 5 years by setting up an ad hoc committee to make recommendations. [Section XII]

Amending the Pioneer Valley RSD Regional Agreement

HEART Committee

to

**Regional School
Committee 3/6/19**

1

What is a Regional Agreement?

- * Describes how a regional school district functions

and

- * Describes how the district & the member towns intersect legally and financially

2

Included in Regional Agreements - 1

- * Type of School District
- * Functions & Responsibilities of School Committee
- * Who are the Students in the District?
- * Location & Lease of the schools
- * How is the Budget Built and Approved?
- * How are the Assessments Apportioned to Towns?
- * How does the District Incur Debt?

3

Included in Regional Agreements - 2

- * Who is Responsible for Student Transportation?
- * How is this Regional Agreement Amended?
- * How can New Towns be Included in the District?
- * How can Member Towns Withdraw from the District?
- * How & When Does the Regional Agreement get Reviewed?

4

Why is an Update Needed?

- * Original Regional Agreement – 1991
- * Amended in 1999
- * Original Agreement approved prior to 1993 Education Reform Act

5

HEART Committee Reviewed Current Regional Agreement

- A) Update to current reality – RSC:
 - * Policies
 - * Practices
 - * Issues
- B) Conform to Ed Reform Act & Amended Laws
- C) Conform to DESE Regulations

6

“Housekeeping” Changes

- * “pupil” → “student”
- * “K – 12” → “Pre-K – 12”
- * Towns do not pay assessments “by check”
- * “Board of Selectmen” → “Selectboard”

7

Proposed Amendments - 1

- * Add 13th School Committee (RSC) member
- * Require Chair and Vice Chair of RSC to be rotated every 2 years
- * RSC members may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms
- * Vacancy on RSC appointed by Selectboard & remaining RSC members from that town

8

Proposed Amendments - 2

- * RSC responsible for which grades are in which schools
- * 10-month/5 year feasibility study required before a school can be closed – ad hoc committee
- * District required to pay 50% maintenance expenses for up to 3 years if school closed
- * Town with no elementary school does not have to pay capital expenses in school where students go
- * Budget process language updated but not changed

9

Proposed Amendments - 3

- * Assessment language updated but not changed
 - * Use of “foundation” enrollment vs. “in-district” enrollment
- * Incurring of debt language updated but not changed
- * “Capital” redefined to “include building modifications to the structure and systems that exceed \$10,000”
- * RSC must approve any “special funds” raised by a town

10

Proposed Amendments - 4

- * There is new language clarifying how a new town can become a member of the District
- * There is updated language to clarify the process & responsibilities of a town seeking to withdraw from the District
- * A new section requires the RSC to review the Regional Agreement every 5 years

11

Community Involvement

- * HEART Committee includes representatives of all 4 towns
- * Heart Committee includes members of the RSC, Selectbds, FinComs & citizens
- * HEART meetings open to public – newspaper coverage

12

Approval Process - 1

- * HEART Committee voted to approve amended Regional Agreement (2/13/19)
- * RSC votes final version
- * Proposed amended Regional Agreement reviewed by DESE, District & Town Counsels
- * Selectboards place article on warrant
- * Voters approve or disapprove amended Regional Agreement

13

Approval Process - 2

- * If approved by 2/3 of towns (i.e., 3), signed Agreement & certified votes sent to DESE
- * DESE Commissioner approves amended Agreement provided it is in compliance

14

HEART Committee Members

HEART/Regional Agreement Amendment Committee

- * Julia Blyth – Northfield Selectboard
- * Alan Genovese - Warwick Citizen
- * Cheryl George – Northfield PTO Chair
- * Michele Giarusso – Leyden Town Coordinator
 - * Robert Keir – Bernardston Citizen
- * Jess Marshall - Warwick School Committee
 - * Tony Mateo – Northfield FinCom
- * Sue O'Reilly-McRae – Warwick School Committee
 - * Jean Page – Bernardston Citizen
 - * Shalee Pratt – Bernardston Citizen
 - * Ginger Robinson – Leyden FinCom
 - * Tom Wyatt – Warwick Citizen

MARS CONSULTANTS

(MA Association of Regional Schools)

- * Steve Hemman
- * Mac Reid

15

Questions & Comments

16

HEART Committee

Deliverables

1. Regional Agreement

1. Current Agreement
2. Mark up
3. Clean —wording that is deleted is gone and new wording in red, original language is in black
4. Final
5. Power Point
6. Summary of Changes

2. School Choice

a. School Choice out survey

1. Grades K-6
2. Grades 7-12

b. Results of out Survey

1. Grades K-6
2. Grades 7-12

c. School Choice In Survey

1. Grades K-6
2. Grades 7-12

d. Results of in Survey

1. Grades K-6
2. Grades 7-12

3. Central Office—Excel Sheet

4. School Closings

- a. Leyden
- b. Bernardston
- c. Northfield
- d. Warwick

June 30, 2018

**The Abrahams Group
52 Flanagan Drive
Framingham, MA 01701-3745
012-34-5060**

Mr. Bernard Kubiak
Interim Town Administrator
Town Hall
69 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01360

Invoice 1

For professional services to the Pioneer Valley Regional School District for the Efficiency Project from project inception through June 30, 2018. We are about 10% complete on the project. This invoice represents 10% of the contract.

Total Fees and Expenses	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
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AUG 14
2018

By: July 31, 2018

The Abrahams
Group
52 Flanagan Drive
Framingham, MA
01701-3745
012-34-50
60

Mr. Bernard Kubiak Interim
Town Administrator Town
Hall 69 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01360

Invoice
2

For professional services to the Pioneer Valley Regional School District for the Efficiency Project from July 1, 2018 through July 31, 2018. We are about 20% complete on the project. This invoice represents 20% of the contract.

Total Fees and Expenses
Less Previously
Billed This Invoice

\$4,000.
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September
15, 2018

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The Abrahams
Group
52 Flanagan Drive
Framingham, MA
01701-3745
012-34-50
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SEP 19
2018

Mr. Bernard Kubiak Interim

Town Administrator Town
Hall 69 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01360

**Invoice
3**

For professional services to the Pioneer Valley Regional School District for the Efficiency Project through September 14, 2018. We are about 30% complete on the project. This invoice represents 30% of the contract.

Total Fees and Expenses Less
Previously Billed This
Invoice

\$6,000.
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October 8,
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The Abrahams
Group
52 Flanagan Drive
Framingham, MA
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2018

Mr. Bernard Kubiak
Interim Town Administrator
Town Hall 69 Main
Street Northfield,
MA 01360

**Invoice
e 4**

For professional services to the Pioneer Valley Regional
School District for the Efficiency Project through October 5,
2018 . We are about 50% complete on the project.
This invoice represents 50% of the contract.

Total Fees and Expenses

Less Previously
Billed This Invoice

\$10,000.
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November 8,
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The Abrahams
Group
52 Flanagan Drive
Framingham, MA
01701-3745
012-34-50
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Mi! Bernard Kubiak
Interim Town Administrator

Town Hall 69 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01360

Invoice
5

For professional services to the Pioneer Valley Regional School District for the Efficiency Project through November 2, 2018. We are about 70% complete on the project. This invoice represents 70% of the contract,

Total Fees and Expenses Less
Previously Billed This
Invoice

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December 26, 2018

The Abrahams Group

52 Flanagan Drive Framingham, MA 01701-3745

012-34-5060

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Mr. Bernard Kubiak Interim Town Adininistrator Town Hall 69 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01360

Invoice 6

For professional services to the Pioneer Valley Regional School District for the Efficiency Project through December 21, 2018. We are about 90% complete on the project. This invoice represents 90% of the contract.

Total Fees and Expenses Less Previously Billed This Invoice
\$18,000.00

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Fund: OL Account 31056

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ACCOUNT #: 26-199-19962-5300 ACCOUNT
NAME: Community Compact grant
-/220 TOTAL: 1 50012

DATE: 3/21/19 SIGNATURE: Gllamnes
DEPT. HEAD: Floyd Dunnell

BILL SCHEDULE

To The Town Accountant:

The following bills have been approved for payment from the account indicated above and you are requested to place them on a warrant for payment.

TURVALISUS
office use only

INVOICE #

CLASS#

VENDOR NAME The Abrahams Group

!INV. DATE AMOUNT

03/21/19 \$1,500.00

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ALMIDA

TOTAL:
\$1,500.00

ACCOUNT#:

650**24**

DEPT. HEAD: Andrea Llamas
SIGNATURE:

S.L. LISO DOTTI

BILL SCHEDULE

The following bills have been approved for payment from the account indicated above and you are requested to place them on a warrant for payment.

WARTWORY WILSOBNI
Fortepiano
office use only

CLASSSH

HEART /Community Compact grant

INV. DATE AMOUNT | 03/28/301 \$650.00
120618

7476

\$650.00

地址: 上海南京路 100 号

Invoice

X

Cate Woolner 61 Linden Ave.
Northfield MA 01360

11/19/18 Attend HEART
meeting

11/21/1

8

Prepare preliminary draft agenda
for 12/5

1.5 hours
@ \$75/hr.

75 hours @ \$75/hr. 1.5 hours @ \$75/hr. .75 hours@
\$75/hr.

11/28/18 Attend HEART planning
meeting for 12/5

12/5/1

8

Set up and prep for public
forum

12/5

/18

Moderate
Public Forum

2.5 hrs. @
\$125/hr.

TOT
AL:

\$650.
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12/6/1

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Thank-yo

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Phil

Per. my email HEART
reimbursement

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TOWN OF NORTHFIELD

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69 MAIN STREET NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
01360-1017

March 26, 2019

Cate Woolner 61 Linden Ave. Northfield, MA 01360

Dear Cate,

Our apologies for the delay in processing your invoice for services connected to the HEART Committee.

Enclosed is a W-9 form our accountant, Phil Gilfeather-Girton, has requested for process.

Please fill out and return to Town Administrator Andrea Llamas or myself so we may re-submit for payment.

Best Regards,

CanchalWud

Sandra L. Wood Town Secretary

Thanks

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VETINWIDE

Office use only

ACCOUNT #: 26-199-19962-53800-1220

TOTAL:

TOTAL:

500w

ACCOUNT NAME: Reg Services Study Comm
Compact gran DATE: 4/23/19

DEPT. HEAD: Andrea Llamas

—

SIGNATURE:

ablemer

BILL SCHEDULE

To The Town Accountant:

The following bills have been approved for payment
from the account indicated above and you are
requested to place them on a warrant for payment.

cilice use only

INVOICE #

CLASS#

VR0U
w/wh/wh

VENDOR NAME The Abrahams Group-Final

HEART /Community Compact grant

INV. DATE AMOUNT 04/17/19 \$500.00

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TOTAL:
\$500.00

April 17,
2019

The Abrahams
Group
52 Flanagan Drive
Framingham, MA

01701-3745

012-34-5060

Ms. Andrea Llamas
Town Administrator
Town Hall 69 Main
Street Northfield,
MA 01360

Invoice
8

For professional services to the Pioneer Valley Regional School District for the Efficiency Project through April 17, 2019. We have completed our work for the HEART Committee.

Total Fees and Expenses Less
Previously Billed
This
Invoice

\$20,500.
00

19,500.00 \$ 500.00