
Six Town Regionalization Planning Board

— Updates and Discussion —

Work to Date

Backed by consultants, the STRPB surveyed and met with parents, school staff, students, and community members over a two year period.

The committee and their consultants have completed research on educational and financial aspects of regionalization and both reports are public.

A merged district would have:

- A combined central office serving all schools in the district (pre-k through grade 12)
- The elementary schools in their current locations
- A grade 6-8 middle school in the current Pioneer Valley building
- Grades 9-12 in the current Turners Falls High School building

Summary Findings: Educational Benefits

Benefits of a larger high school and middle school

- More consistently run sports teams and clubs
- More consistently run AP and language classes
- Take the pressure off students who are asked to overcommit
- Keep a small school feel (these schools would still be small)
- Improve the long-term sustainability of the schools as the school-aged population declines (keep them open)

Summary Findings: Potential Concerns

Transportation times

Creating a unified curriculum

Feeling of loss when changing the name of school

Abrahams Group Financial Presentation

The Abrahams group was tasked with creating assessments for a district with a combined central office.

This report included the following:

- Removal of revenues when evaluating the amount to be assessed
- An estimation of savings in the central office of \$316,722 (detail on another slide)
- No addition to transportation costs. Though travel times would increase, Kuzmeskus believes only 1 driver/bus would need to be added.
- Transition to the GMRSD teacher salary with the addition of two steps, for a cost of \$201,891
- Comparison of cost swing based on health insurance choice (adding \$410,848 or saving \$378,877)

Abrahams Group Financial Presentation

The Abrahams Group presented ten assessment methodologies to members of Selectboards and Finance Committees.

1) Gill-Montague's Operating Assessment Methodology
(Statutory)

One-Year Resident Enrollment (Head Count)

2) Pioneer Valley's Operating Assessment Methodology
(Statutory)

Five-Year Average of Resident Enrollment (Head Count)

3) One Year of Foundation Enrollment (Alternative)

4) Five-Year Average of Foundation Enrollment
(Alternative)

5) One Year of Required District Contribution (Alternative)

6) Five-Year Average of Required District Contribution
(Alternative)

7) One Year of Foundation Enrollment **(Statutory)**

8) Five-Year Average of Foundation Enrollment **(Statutory)**

9) One Year of Required District Contribution **(Statutory)**

10) Five-Year Average of Required District Contribution
(Statutory)

Focusing on Statutory Assessment Methods

- 1) Gill-Montague's Operating Assessment Methodology: One-Year Resident Enrollment (Head Count)
- 2) Pioneer Valley's Operating Assessment Methodology: Five-Year Average of Resident Enrollment (Head Count)
- 7) One Year of Foundation Enrollment
- 8) Five-Year Average of Foundation Enrollment
- 9) One Year of Required District Contribution
- 10) Five-Year Average of Required District Contribution

Definitions

Statutory - Includes the town's required district contribution as the first step in the calculation

Foundation Enrollment - Includes school-aged residents of the town who choice and charter out

Assessment by Town with Pioneer Valley Health Insurance

		Potential Assessments in Five Town District					
Town	Current	#1	#2	#7	#8	#9	#10
Gill	\$ 1,680,351	-4.2%	1.1%	2.1%	4.3%	11.2%	13.4%
Montague	\$ 11,698,715	-5.3%	-5.8%	-3.3%	-2.7%	-8.1%	-8.8%
Bernardston	\$ 3,186,284	5.0%	2.0%	-3.2%	-3.6%	-6.1%	-7.3%
Leyden	\$ 876,390	8.6%	1.6%	3.6%	-0.8%	15.9%	16.8%
Northfield	\$ 4,711,438	-0.9%	1.7%	-1.5%	-2.7%	6.9%	8.4%
Warwick	\$ 1,016,788	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	\$ 23,169,965	-2.1%	-2.1%	-2.1%	-2.1%	-2.1%	-2.1%

		Potential Assessments in Six Town District					
Town	Current	#1	#2	#7	#8	#9	#10
Gill	\$ 1,680,351	-4.9%	0.3%	1.2%	3.4%	10.0%	12.1%
Montague	\$ 11,698,715	-6.2%	-6.6%	-4.3%	-3.7%	-9.2%	-9.8%
Bernardston	\$ 3,186,284	3.9%	1.0%	-4.1%	-4.5%	-7.2%	-8.3%
Leyden	\$ 876,390	7.7%	0.8%	2.8%	-1.6%	14.6%	15.5%
Northfield	\$ 4,711,438	-1.7%	0.9%	-2.4%	-3.5%	5.7%	7.2%
Warwick	\$ 1,016,788	-18.1%	-18.0%	-16.7%	-17.6%	-13.8%	-13.9%
Total	\$ 23,169,965	-3.8%	-3.8%	-3.8%	-3.8%	-3.8%	-3.8%

- 1) Gill-Montague's Operating Assessment Methodology: One-Year Resident Enrollment (Head Count)
- 2) Pioneer Valley's Operating Assessment Methodology: Five-Year Average of Resident Enrollment (Head Count)
- 7) One Year of Foundation Enrollment
- 8) Five-Year Average of Foundation Enrollment
- 9) One Year of Required District Contribution
- 10) Five-Year Average of Required District Contribution

Assessment by Town with Gill-Montague Health Insurance

		Potential Assessments in Five Town District					
Town	Current	#1	#2	#7	#8	#9	#10
Gill	\$ 1,680,351	-1.4%	4.4%	5.5%	7.8%	15.3%	17.6%
Montague	\$ 11,698,715	-1.7%	-2.2%	0.4%	1.1%	-4.8%	-5.5%
Bernardston	\$ 3,186,284	9.3%	6.1%	0.5%	0.1%	-2.7%	-3.9%
Leyden	\$ 876,390	12.2%	4.6%	6.9%	2.1%	20.1%	21.1%
Northfield	\$ 4,711,438	2.4%	5.2%	1.7%	0.5%	10.8%	12.4%
Warwick	\$ 1,016,788	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	\$ 23,169,965	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%

		Potential Assessments in Six Town District					
Town	Current	#1	#2	#7	#8	#9	#10
Gill	\$ 1,680,351	-2.2%	3.5%	4.4%	6.8%	13.9%	16.2%
Montague	\$ 11,698,715	-2.7%	-3.2%	-0.7%	0.0%	-5.9%	-6.6%
Bernardston	\$ 3,186,284	8.1%	5.0%	-0.6%	-1.0%	-3.9%	-5.1%
Leyden	\$ 876,390	11.2%	3.8%	5.9%	1.2%	18.7%	19.6%
Northfield	\$ 4,711,438	1.4%	4.2%	0.8%	-0.4%	9.5%	11.1%
Warwick	\$ 1,016,788	-15.4%	-15.3%	-13.8%	-14.8%	-10.8%	-10.9%
Total	\$ 23,169,965	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%

1) Gill-Montague's Operating Assessment Methodology: One-Year Resident Enrollment (Head Count)

2) Pioneer Valley's Operating Assessment Methodology: Five-Year Average of Resident Enrollment (Head Count)

7) One Year of Foundation Enrollment

8) Five-Year Average of Foundation Enrollment

9) One Year of Required District Contribution

10) Five-Year Average of Required District Contribution

Central Office

Concerns were raised about whether the staffing in the central office was adequately robust.

The GMRSD facilities and safety director (a Northfield Selectboard member) did not feel like facilities was properly staffed given the 8 schools and the hands-on nature of the job.

There was also concerned raised about special education staffing.

Staff	Est. Salary
One Superintendent	\$ 165,000
One Administrative Assistant for Supt	\$ 60,000
One Business Administrator	\$ 140,000
One Treasurer	\$ 16,000
One employee for Payroll, one for Benefits, one for bookeeping, and one for AP (4 total)	\$ 220,000
One Technology Director	\$ 110,000
Multiple Data Technicians (4)	\$ 260,000
Multiple Tech Ed Support Employees (2)	\$ 70,000
One Asst Supt /Dir of Curriculum	\$ 130,000
One Director of Elem Curriculum	\$ 100,000
One Special Ed Director	\$ 135,000
One Special Ed Assistant Director	\$ 100,000
Three Administrative Assistants for Special Ed	\$ 150,000
Special Ed Team Chairs	\$ 155,000
One Director of Building and Grounds	\$ 90,000
One Custodial Supervisor to Facilities	\$ 65,000
One Director of Food Service	\$ 65,000
One shared Admin Asst for B&G and Food Service	\$ 60,000
Totals	\$ 2,091,000

Next Steps

Before making their recommendation, the STRPB is seeking feedback from Selectboards and FinComs and is willing to meet with them as necessary.

The STRPB is doing public outreach about its findings through facebook.

The next step is for the STRPB members to vote recommend or not recommend that we move to the next step, drafting a regionalization agreement.