

TOWN OF HAMILTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Selectmen Charge to the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Agreement Committee

The HWRSD Apportionment Committee (HWRSD-AC) shall review the existing method of operating expenses and capital improvement apportionment between the towns of Hamilton and Wenham and make recommendations for improvements to each of the Boards of Selectmen and School Committee. The recommendations and alternatives considered, including all data used, shall include key advantages for each town's residents and be made by the 2nd week in January 2018 so that each town could consider changes for annual town meetings and future budgets. The HWRSD-AC shall produce a presentation & handout for each town's meeting, should the three parties jointly recommend any changes to the existing agreement, including: why the change(s) are needed as well as a short history of the benefits of regionalization; the historical and expected demographic changes in each town; net financial impact both retroactively for the past 10 years and likely for the next 10.

Any improvement will consider:

1. a new demographic study of each town's expected enrollment changes over the next 5-10-15-20 years with the key assumptions and factors that may change and that also provides advice on why the last two NESDC enrollment projections (February 19 & December 16, 2016) had significant variances;
2. the net impact to each town for each of 5 years retroactively as well as proactively for each of the next 20 years;
3. other regional districts that have made improvements, why they have done so and whether they are relevant to our needs or not;
4. the impact of tax free properties in each town (e.g., Hamilton, 85.36 acres; Wenham 7.14 acres);
5. the long-term requirement for 1 or 2 grammar schools in Hamilton;
6. alternate methods (i.e., # of households) that may have more stability than enrollment;
7. School Committee representation by each member town;
8. updates due to bylaws or structural changes (i.e. Hamilton now has a Town Manager form of government);
9. And, very minor inconsistencies that may have been added as part of previous amendments.

Membership

The HWRSD-AC shall meet bi-weekly, updating the Selectmen and School Committee promptly after each meeting. The members shall include the Finance Directors of each Town and HWRSD; one selectman and one School Committee member. The respective town's FinCom shall appoint a liaison to review and advise the HWRSD-AC and each Board of Selectmen, and per our bylaws are not permitted to serve on this nor any other committee.



P.O. Box 429
577 Bay Road
Hamilton, MA 01936

Phone (978) 468-5572
Fax (978) 468-2682
Web site <http://www.hamiltonma.gov>