

**SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE MINUTEMAN REGIONAL AGREEMENT
MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
JANUARY 12, 2016**

CURRENT AGREEMENT (1980 version)	2014 TOWN MEETING PROPOSAL (3/11/14 version)	2016 TOWN MEETING PROPOSAL (12/21/15 version)
<p>ASSESSMENT OF ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS Based on most recent year's enrollment share.</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT OF ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS Based on 4-year rolling average enrollment share.</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT OF ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS No change from 2014</p>
<p>ASSESSMENT OF CAPITAL COSTS Based on most recent year's enrollment share with a five-student minimum used in the calculation.</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT OF CAPITAL COSTS Each member community pays base 1% of yearly total. 50% is based on 4-year rolling average enrollment share and remainder considers certain factors used in calculating Chapter 70 state aid to education along with enrollment.</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT OF CAPITAL COSTS No change from 2014, except that in calculating the rolling average, a one-student minimum enrollment per year would be used, replacing the five-student minimum enrollment used for capital assessment under the present (1980) agreement.</p>
<p>SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTES Each member town has one vote for all questions</p>	<p>SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTES Weighted votes with 50% of vote strength shared equally among members and 50% based on the 4-year rolling average enrollment. Incurring debt is specifically excepted and would require approval by 2/3 of all school committee members regardless of enrollment share or actual attendance at meeting.</p>	<p>SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTES No change from 2014</p>
<p>ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER COMMUNITIES New member would carry full share of capital costs from day one. Current language does not account for admission of a city.</p>	<p>ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER COMMUNITIES School Committee could negotiate gradual 4-year "buy-in", subject to approval by all of the existing member communities. Language contemplates membership by a city. Because it constitutes an amendment to the Regional Agreement, adding a new member would continue to be subject to approval by all of the then-current member communities, and those votes would include any buy-in provisions.</p>	<p>ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER COMMUNITIES No change from 2014</p>

<p>WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER COMMUNITIES Requires <i>approval</i> by all other member communities and the exiting member remains liable for a share of all debt approved while a member, even if its own residents voted against authorizing that debt.</p>	<p>WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER COMMUNITIES Could occur <i>unless disapproved</i> by a majority of other members. If withdrawal is properly pursued following a District-wide election that authorizes new debt, the subject community would not be liable for a share of the debt that its own voters disapproved in that election.</p>	<p>WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER COMMUNITIES Retains the 2014 proposed method for withdrawal. Additionally, allows each of seven specifically listed towns the option of withdrawal as part of the ratification process. That option is conditioned upon approval of the amended Regional Agreement <i>and</i> a town meeting vote to withdraw from the District. All votes must be taken during Special Town Meetings to be concluded by March 1, 2016.</p>
<p>APPLICATION OF DISTRICT INCOME IDENTIFIED AS CONTRIBUTION TO CAPITAL COSTS Current agreement is silent on this point.</p>	<p>APPLICATION OF DISTRICT INCOME IDENTIFIED AS CONTRIBUTION TO CAPITAL COSTS Must be applied to reduce capital assessments to members.</p>	<p>APPLICATION OF DISTRICT INCOME IDENTIFIED AS CONTRIBUTION TO CAPITAL COSTS Same as 2014, but adds a policy, subject to state law and regulation, requiring per pupil charges for out-of-district students to be equal or greater than for in-district.</p>
<p>AUTHORIZATION BY MEMBER COMMUNITIES FOR NEW DEBT As this is not specified in the current agreement, either of two routes may be followed at the School Committee's option under applicable state law. The method involving town meeting votes, whereby a single community has the power to block borrowing, has historically been used by the District. The second option is a districtwide referendum with the aggregate vote determining the outcome.</p>	<p>AUTHORIZATION BY MEMBER COMMUNITIES FOR NEW DEBT Specifies that town meeting votes must be pursued first, however, if rejected by one or more communities, the School Committee would be permitted (but not required) to proceed by districtwide referendum.</p>	<p>AUTHORIZATION BY MEMBER COMMUNITIES FOR NEW DEBT No change from 2014</p>
<p>LOCATION OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL Within the district and within a radius of five miles of the intersection of Route 2 and Bedford Road</p>	<p>LOCATION OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL Within the district.</p>	<p>LOCATION OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL Within the district or within a radius of five miles of the intersection of Route 2 and Bedford Road, provided that if a community where the school is located leaves the district, the school may continue to be located in that community.</p>

<p>APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS Members are appointed by the Town Moderator in each member town.</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS Members would be appointed by Boards of Selectmen in each member town (or by the Mayor in the case of a city), unless the community provides otherwise by bylaw or charter.</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS No change from 2014</p>
<p>AMENDMENTS TO REGIONAL AGREEMENT May be initiated by majority vote of the School Committee (or by petition as allowed by law) and requires approval by all member communities</p>	<p>AMENDMENTS TO REGIONAL AGREEMENT May be initiated by a ¾ vote of the School Committee (or by petition as allowed by law). The current requirement for approval by all member communities is unchanged.</p>	<p>AMENDMENTS TO REGIONAL AGREEMENT No change from 2014</p>
<p><i>In all cases, approval by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education applies where required by law.</i></p> <p><i>Summary prepared by Carrie Flood, Minuteman School Committee vice-chair, January 11, 2016.</i></p> <p><i>Date issued: January 12, 2016</i></p>		