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presented by:
Dr. Edward Bouquillon
Superintendent-Director



Concord Finance Committee

Proposed Amendments to the Minuteman Regional Agreement

A REVOLUTION IN LEARNING

Changes to the Regional Agreement

- **Assessment of annual operating costs**
- **Assessment of capital costs**
- **School Committee votes**
- **Admission of new member communities**
- **Withdrawal of member communities**
- **Application of district income identified as contribution to capital costs**
- **Authorization by member communities for new debt**
- **Amendments to the Regional Agreement**

Assessment of Operating and Capital Costs

Current Agreement

Operating Costs:

- Based on most recent year's enrollment share

Capital Costs:

- Based on most recent year's enrollment share, with a minimum of 5 students per town

Proposed Agreement

Operating Costs:

- Based on 4-year rolling average enrollment share

Capital Costs:

- Each member community pays base 1% of yearly total
- 50% is based on 4-year rolling average enrollment share
- The remaining balance is allocated using the Chapter 70 state aid formula of income and property values (known as *Combined Effort*), along with enrollment

School Committee Votes

Current Agreement

- Each member town has one vote for all questions

Proposed Agreement

- Weighted votes based on 4-year rolling average enrollment share
- 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

Admission of New Member Communities

Current Agreement

- **New member would carry full share of capital costs from day one**

- **Current language does not account for admission of a city**

Proposed Agreement

- **School Committee could negotiate gradual 4-year “buy-in”, subject to approval by all of the existing member communities**

- **Language contemplates membership by city**

Withdrawal of Member Communities

Current Agreement

- Requires *approval* 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

Proposed Agreement

- Could occur *unless disapproved* by a majority of other members. Qualified students could still be accepted on a space-available, tuition basis
- 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

Application of District Income Identified as Contribution to Capital Costs

Current Agreement

- **Current agreement is silent on this point**

Proposed Agreement

- **Must be applied to reduce capital assessments to members**

Authorization By Member Communities For New Debt

Current Agreement

- 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.

Proposed Agreement

- Specifies that the current method must be pursued first, however, if rejected by one or more communities, the School Committee would then be permitted (but would not be required) to initiate a second attempt with a District-wide election. In this case, the aggregate vote would determine the outcome.

Amendments to Regional Agreement

Current 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.**

Proposed Agreement

- **May be initiated by a 3/4 vote of all members of the School Committee (or by petition as allowed by law). The current requirement for approval by all member communities is unchanged.**