New Minuteman Regional Agreement

Paving the Way for a Bright Future

January-February 2016

Presented by:
Minuteman High School
Dr. Edward A. Bouquillon, Superintendent-Director
Who is Minuteman?
Minuteman High School

- Our regional vocational-technical high school
- Rigorous academic courses, including Advanced Placement (AP)
- Industry-supported career and technical education in 16 career majors
- State and professional certifications
- Art, Drama, Music, and no-cut Sports
Minuteman High School

- Students pass the MCAS exam, as must students in academic high schools
- 65% of graduates pursue college
- 33% begin careers
- Students gain *a competitive advantage in the new economy* with robust academics coupled with a high-quality career and technical education
- 16 towns
- Established in 1970
What is the Regional Agreement?
What Is the Regional Agreement?

• The Regional Agreement, also known as the District Agreement:
  – Created the Minuteman District
  – Outlines how the District is governed
  – Was revised in 1973, 1979, and 1980

• The District has been trying to improve and modernize the Regional Agreement for several years.
In 2014, the Minuteman School Committee approved a series of changes. Changes in the Agreement require all member towns to agree.

- Ten towns voted “yes.”
- One town voted “no”.
- Five towns didn’t vote.
Status of Proposed Changes

• During the Fall of 2015, a working group led by area selectmen decided to try again.

• Stakeholders recommended “consensus” revisions to the Minuteman School Committee.

• The Minuteman School Committee approved the revisions on December 21, 2015.
What’s in the new Regional Agreement?
What’s in the New Agreement?

• The new Regional Agreement represents a *compromise* designed to stabilize and strengthen the District.

• The new Regional Agreement includes amendments from 2014, *plus* several new terms recommended by Selectmen and approved by the Minuteman School Committee.
Major Features of the Agreement

• Uses a four-year “rolling” average for capital and operating assessments in order to avoid budget volatility for member towns.

• Uses modified weighted voting, giving towns with greater numbers of students greater say in School Committee decisions.

• Simplifies the process for withdrawal by member towns.
Major Improvements to the 2014 Revisions

• Eliminates the five-student minimum charged to member towns for capital costs, replacing it with a one-student minimum

• Requires out-of-district communities to pay their share of capital costs for a new MSBA-supported school building
Why Should We Support This?
Reasons to Approve the New Regional Agreement

• Ratification of a new Regional Agreement will end years of dispute among member towns over Minuteman governance issues…and create a more unified District.
• Ratification of a new Regional Agreement will help the District proceed with its long-planned and badly needed, state-funded construction project.
• Ratification of a new Regional Agreement will protect a roughly $45 million reimbursement from the MSBA.
Reasons to Approve the New Regional Agreement

• Ratification of a new Regional Agreement will honor the hard work of the working group of Selectmen representing our 16 towns.

• Ratification of a new Regional Agreement will establish a tone of cooperation among member communities, paving the way for a brighter future for vocational-technical education in the region.

• Ratification of a new Regional Agreement may make it more attractive for new members to join.
Recap
Recap

• The new Regional Agreement is the product of compromise and consensus.
• It strengthens Minuteman’s governance structure and quickly clarifies District membership.
• Ratification clears the way for a decision about the MSBA-supported Minuteman building project.