

*Minutes:* Meeting of the PELHAM Regional School District Planning Committee  
Thursday, March 8, 2018, 10:00 am  
Superintendent's Conference Room  
170 Chestnut Street, Amherst, MA 01002

Attendees: Emily Marriott, Cara Castenson, Tom Fanning  
Guests: Sean Mangano, Finance Director

Meeting was called to order by Emily Marriott at 10:05 am. Cara Castenson moved to approve the minutes of 1-24-18 and 1-31-18. Tom Fanning seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Sean Mangano walked the committee through spreadsheets from the financial workbook that was prepared for previous Regionalization efforts with the help of a consultant. He reviewed which costs and revenues would remain with the towns and which would go to the new region, should regionalization be approved. He also reviewed the cost benefits to regionalization and potential assessments based on two assessment methods - 5 year rolling average of enrollment and the statutory method. In both cases, Pelham would receive the majority of the financial benefit.

Sean Mangano raised 5 points for the committee to consider in their work:

1. With this regionalization effort, union contracts will not be an issue since employees in the 2 districts share unions.
2. Coming up with a assessment method that both towns can agree to will be key.
3. Financial benefit from regionalization comes from transportation reimbursement and temporary bonus aid. We may want to explore and promote ways to utilize the Pelham building and additional benefit to regionalization.
4. Accounting for Medicaid reimbursement is confusing
5. We may want to consider how to recognize staffing efficiencies that would result from regionalization

Discussion followed about condition of Pelham school building, attractiveness of a 4-school district, and potential for curricular innovation.

Tom Fanning moved to form a board with the Amherst RSDPC. Cara Castenson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The committee discussed scheduling of next meetings.

Tom Fanning moved to adjourn at 11:13 am. Cara Castenson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Marriott.