

**Meeting of the AMERHST and PELHAM
Regional School District Planning Board
Monday April 9, 2018, 9am
Pelham Library Community Room (Ramsdell Room)
2 S Valley Rd, Pelham, MA 01002**

AGENDA

1. Welcome 9:00 am
 - a. Call to Order (by volunteer until a Chair is voted)

2. Committee Organization 9:00 am
 - a. Volunteer to take minutes (for this meeting only)
 - b. Welcome and introductions (informal)
 - c. Select Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer (vote)

3. Meeting Norms 9:15 am
 - a. Robert's Rules of Order
 - b. Minute taking (rotating or regular)
 - c. Open Meeting Law (quorums, public communications, email, individual discussions, etc)
 - d. Posting agendas / minutes
 - e. Setting agendas, approving minutes

4. RSDPB: broad overview of work and timeline 9:45 am

5. Selecting / working with the consultant 10:00 am
 - a. Q&A discussion with Superintendent Morris

6. Committee Planning (future meetings and agenda items) 10:25 am
 - a. Regular meeting schedule
 - How frequent
 - Which regular day/time
 - Location(s)

7. Adjourn 10:30 am

**Amherst and Pelham
Regional School District Planning Board:
introductory references**

MGL that governs RSDPCs and RSDPBs

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter71/Section14>

MGL Title XII Ch71 Section 14

“Any town, either by a majority vote of its board of selectmen and a majority vote of the school committee or by vote in town meeting duly called therefor, may create a special unpaid committee to be known as a regional school district planning committee, to consist of 3 members, including 1 member of the school committee to be appointed by the moderator. At the same meeting or at a subsequent meeting, the town may appropriate for the expense of the regional school district planning committee such sums, not exceeding 1/10 of 1 per cent of the assessed valuation of such town in the preceding year, as it may deem necessary.

Regional school district planning committees from any 2 or more towns may join together to form a regional school district planning board. Such regional school district planning board shall organize forthwith upon its formation by the election of a chairman and secretary-treasurer.”

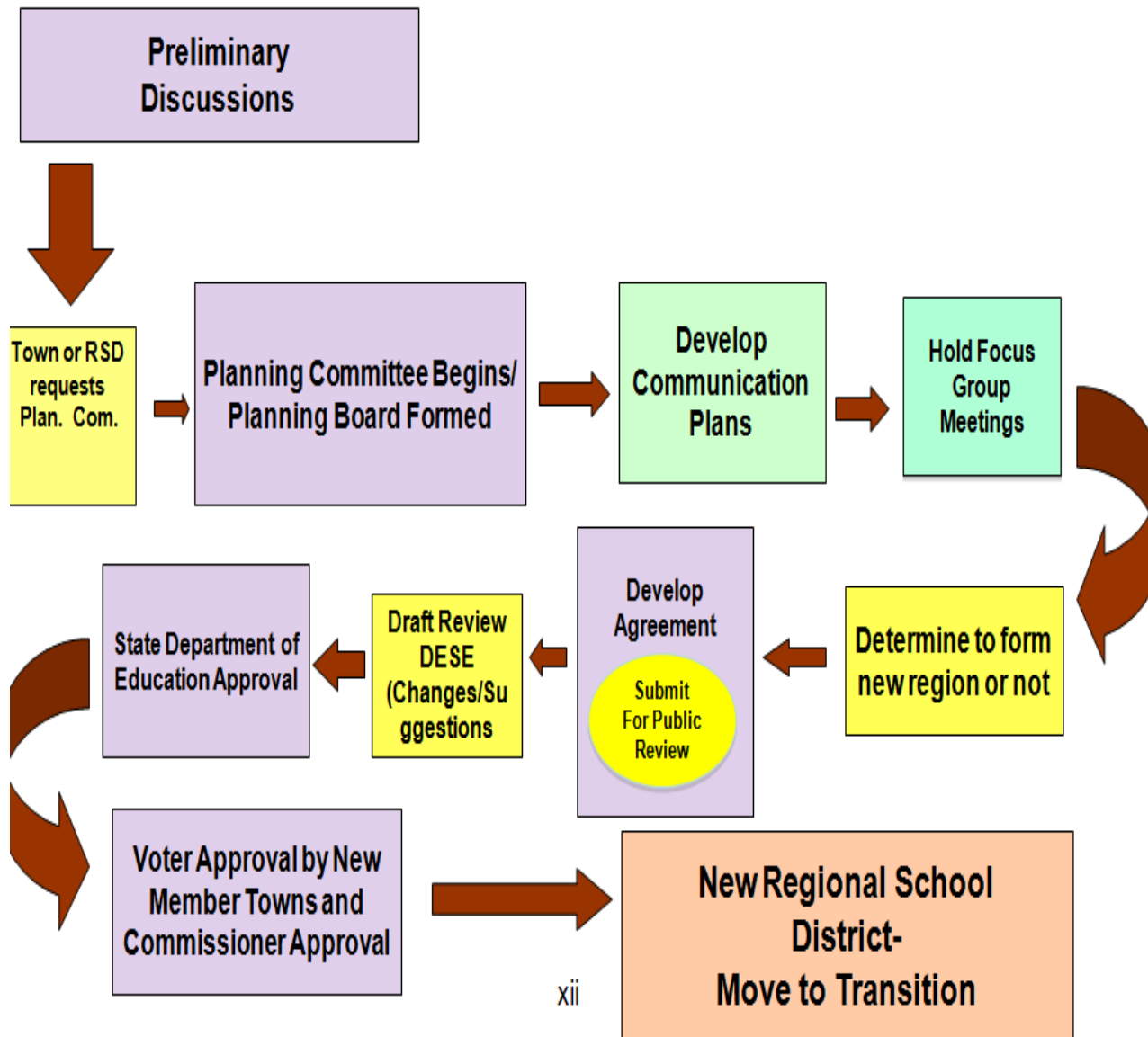
MGL Title XII Ch71 Section 14A

“It shall be the duty of the regional school district planning board to study the fiscal and educational advisability of establishing a regional school district, its organization, operation and control, and of constructing, maintaining and operating a school or schools to serve the needs of such district; to estimate the construction and operating costs thereof; to assess the educational soundness of establishing such school or schools, to investigate the methods of financing such school or schools, and any other matters pertaining to the organization and operation of a regional school district; and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the selectmen of the several towns.”

DESE Technical Assistance Document: “A Pathway to Regionalization”

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=13545>

Pathway to Regionalization: An Important Step-by-Step Process



Phase I

Pathway to Regionalization

Checklist

Step 1: Preliminary Discussions **Completed**

- a) Begin Discussions and Contact ESE _____
- b) Identify Incentives to Regionalize _____
- c) Determine Type of Region _____
- d) Utilize Self Assessment Tool for Measuring District Capacity _____
- e) Determine Advantages to Regionalization _____
- f) Determine Challenges to Regionalization _____
- g) Request Town Meeting for Appointing Planning Committee _____

Step 2: Regional Planning Committee and Regional Planning Board **Completed**

- a) Form Planning Committees _____
- b) Form Planning Board and Elect Officers _____
- c) Hire Consultants _____
- d) Confirm Selection of Regional School Model _____
- e) Collect and Study Data _____
- f) Develop Communications Plan _____
- g) Hold Focus Group Meetings _____
- h) Recommendation to Regionalize (Yes or No) _____

Step 3: Develop Agreement and Long Range Plan **Completed**

- a) Contact DESE to Request Reorganization Needs Conference _____
- b) Develop Draft Regional Agreement _____
- c) Begin Writing Long Range Educational and Structural Plan _____

Step 4: Submission of Proposed Regional Agreement for Public Review **Completed**

- a) Conduct Focus Groups/Public Forums (2ndSeries) _____
- b) Planning Board Evaluates Feedback, Discusses Feedback, and Makes Appropriate Changes _____
- c) Present Final Regional Agreement to Public Prior to Vote _____

Step 5: Voter and State Approval **Completed**

- a) Request Warrant Article for Town Meeting Vote _____
- b) Vote by Ballot at Town Meeting _____
- c) Sign Regional Agreement _____
- d) Send Signed Agreement and Certified Votes to DESE for Commissioner Approval _____

Major Areas of Focus for a K-6 Regionalization Study

(from Amherst SC presentation)

Governance *(examples below)*

- Regional School Committee Composition
- Voting districts for Regional School Committee elections
- Required voting majority needed for votes that affect one town more than the other
- Staff seniority and transfer rights
- Implications for 7-12 Regional District with potential sunseting of Union 26

Educational *(examples below)*

- Enrollment zones for each community
- Implications for school choice students and policy between two towns
- Student transportation

Financial *(examples below)*

- Formula for assessments to members towns
- Split of new revenue between member towns
- Prior debt payments (such as MSBA payments)

Potential Financial Impact

(from Amherst SC presentation)

Approximate financial savings to be shared among towns:

- \$240,000 transportation reimbursement (annually)
 - \$63,650 (Bonus aid phased out over a few years)
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