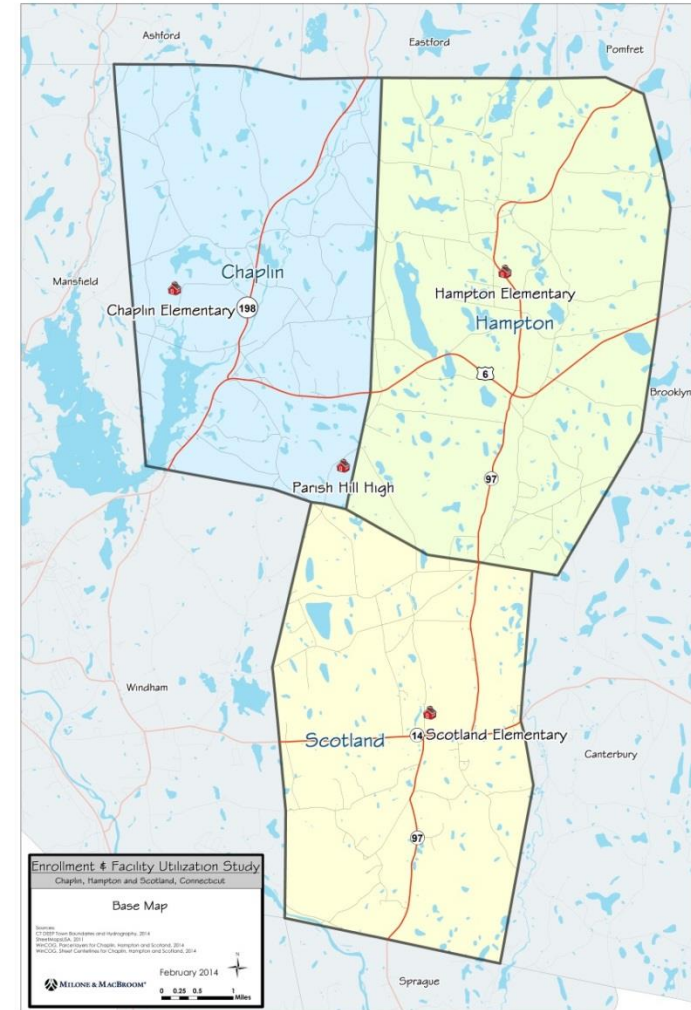


Comprehensive Enrollment Analysis

Schools Working Group Study Results

March 12, 2015



Introduction

- ❑ Introduction to Study Purpose
- ❑ Working Group Process
- ❑ Summary of Alternatives Explored
 - ❑ Status Quo
 - ❑ Cooperative Agreement for PK-6, Maintain Parish Hill
 - ❑ PK-12 Region
 - ❑ PK-8 Region

Working Group Mission and Purpose

- ❑ Created by Selectmen to develop *recommendations* to ensure
 - ❑ Sufficient and suitable educational facilities, in strategic locations, for every child in each community
 - ❑ Maintain flexibility to accommodate changes in educational policy, economic conditions and enrollments
- ❑ Recommendations could include reconfiguration, redistricting and/or regionalization
- ❑ With Group's information, strive to create a business plan to:
 - ❑ eliminate redundancies
 - ❑ address economic challenges
 - ❑ promote longevity and improve quality in educational system

Working Group Process

- ❑ Reviewed Existing Conditions in Demographics, Housing and Enrollments (April Meeting)
- ❑ Reviewed Strengths and Weaknesses of Current System (April Meeting)
- ❑ Considered Trends in Education (May Meeting)
- ❑ Identified Issues to Address and Developed Preliminary Alternatives (May, June Meetings)
- ❑ Analyzed Alternatives (June, July, September Meetings)
- ❑ Recommended Alternatives (September Meeting)

Working Group Identified Issues

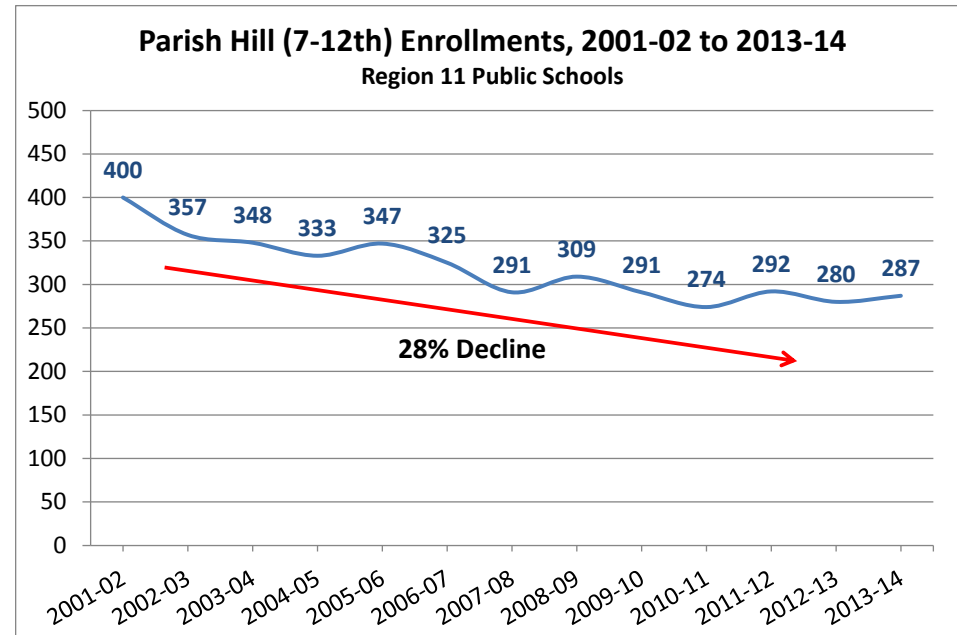
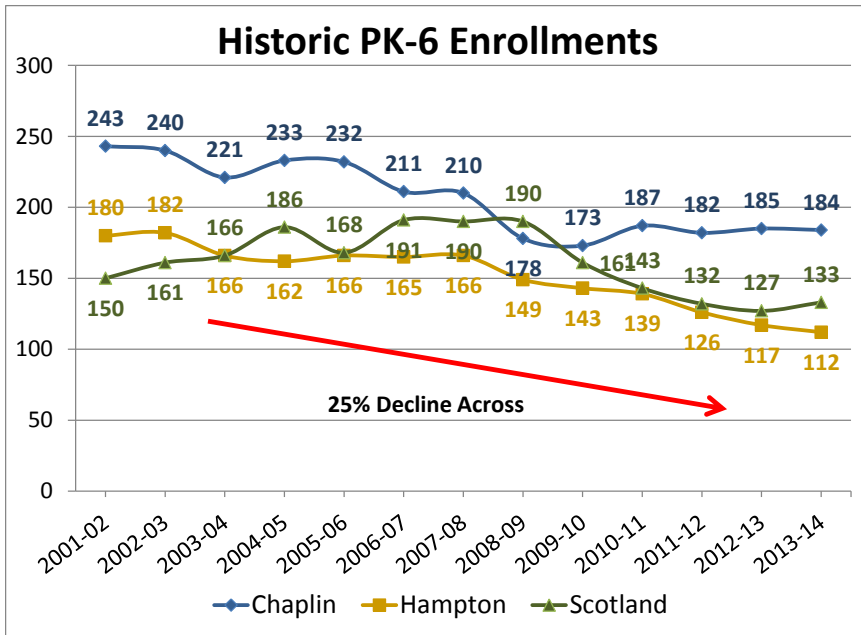
Contain Costs to the Extent Possible

| DRG F Districts | 12-13 Net Current Expenditure per Pupil |
|------------------|---|
| Region 11 | \$18,882 |
| No. Caanan | \$18,510 |
| Windsor Locks | \$16,382 |
| Canterberry | \$16,230 |
| Voluntown | \$14,910 |
| Stafford | \$14,857 |
| E. Windsor | \$14,837 |
| Plainville | \$14,385 |
| Montville | \$13,972 |
| Thompson | \$13,711 |
| Sprague | \$13,421 |
| Griswold | \$12,859 |
| Seymour | \$12,810 |
| Plymouth | \$12,789 |
| Enfield | \$12,784 |
| Sterling | \$11,828 |
| Wolcott | \$11,563 |

| DRG E Districts | Grades | 12-13 Net Current Expenditure per Pupil |
|-----------------|-------------|---|
| Region 1 | 9-12 | \$23,080 |
| Hampton | PK-6 | \$20,933 |
| Salisbury | PK-8 | \$20,153 |
| Kent | PK-8 | \$19,911 |
| Scotland | PK-6 | \$19,699 |
| Chaplin | PK-6 | \$18,795 |
| Norfolk | PK-6 | \$18,342 |
| Westbrook | PK-12 | \$17,532 |
| Region 6 | K-12 | \$17,054 |
| Preston | PK-8 | \$16,958 |
| Eastford | PK-8 | \$16,811 |
| Caanan | K-8 | \$16,230 |
| Litchfield | PK-12 | \$16,023 |
| Ashford | PK-8 | \$15,827 |
| Willington | PK-8 | \$15,587 |
| Chester | PK-6 | \$15,450 |
| Colebrook | K-6 | \$15,393 |
| Deep River | PK-6 | \$15,189 |
| Bozrah | PK-8 | \$15,153 |
| Hartland | PK-8 | \$15,111 |
| No. Stonington | PK-12 | \$14,996 |
| Lisbon | PK-12 | \$14,792 |
| Lebanon | PK-12 | \$14,635 |
| East Haddam | PK-12 | \$14,387 |
| Franklin | K-8 | \$13,848 |
| Coventry | K-12 | \$13,758 |
| Region 16 | PK-12 | \$13,553 |
| Union | K-8 | \$13,450 |
| Portland | PK-12 | \$13,109 |
| Thomaston | PK-12 | \$13,088 |
| No. Branford | PK-12 | \$13,066 |
| Brooklyn | PK-8 | \$12,732 |
| Sharon | PK-8 | \$12,440 |
| Woodstock | PK-8 | \$11,873 |

Working Group Issues to Address

Stem Declining Enrollments



Working Group Issues to Address

- ✦ Align Curriculum Across Schools
- ✦ Ensure Structural Ability to Implement Common Core Standards

Educators/ Admin Focus Group

Systems Policies and Practice

- Need for vertical and horizontal articulation of curriculum for all grades
 - Currently no opportunities for common and cohesive curricular experience across three elementary schools
 - Benefits to students with cohesive curriculum
- Ideas for Curriculum Development
 - Coordinated civics awareness/ responsibility program
 - Seamless PK-12 program with "environmental sustainability studies" integrated throughout
 - Stronger technological resources and programming
 - Begin an ongoing tri-town community dialogue around the issues facing public education in the mid 21st century

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Prepared for the Towns of Chaplin, Hampton and Scotland

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Educators/ Admin Focus Group

Administrators' Concerns

- Competition for high school students
- Barrows STEM (K-8) competition for elementary school students

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Working Group Issues to Address

Eliminate Administrative and Operational Redundancies

| Regional School District | Grades | Towns | 13-14 Total Enroll | # of Board Members | BOE Composition | Voting Method |
|--------------------------|--------|--|--------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| Region 4 | 7-12 | Chester, Deep River and Essex | 978 | 9 | each town elects its own members - 3 per Town | Majority Voting |
| Region 5 | 7-12 | Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge | 2,330 | 13 | each town elects its own members - apportioned by # of students | Majority Voting |
| Region 7 | 7-12 | Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford, Norfolk | 759 | 8 | each town elects its own members - 2 per town | Weighted voting |
| Region 8 | 7-12 | Hebron, Andover, Marlborough | 1,736 | 9 | each town elects its own members - apportioned by # of students | Majority Voting |
| Region 11 | 7-12 | Chaplin, Hampton, Scotland | 287 | 9 | each town elects its own members - 3 per town | Weighted Voting |
| Region 1 | 9-12 | Kent, Sharon, Salisbury, North Canaan, Canaan and Cornwall | 428 | 6 | each town elects its own members - 1 per town | Weighted Voting |
| Region 9 | 9-12 | Easton, Redding | 1,065 | 8 | each town elects its own members - 4 per town | Weighted Voting |
| Region 19 | 9-12 | Ashford, Mansfield, Willington | 1,194 | 12 | each town elects its own members - 4 per town | Weighted Voting |
| Region 6 | PK-12 | Warren, Goshen, Morris | 995 | 9 | each town elects its own members - 3 per town | Weighted Voting |
| Region 10 | PK-12 | Burlington, Harwinton | 1,627 | 10 | each town elects its own members - apportioned by # of students | Majority Voting |
| Region 12 | PK-12 | Bridgewater, Roxbury, Washington | 647 | 12 | each town elects its own members - 3/3/6 | Majority Voting |
| Region 13 | PK-12 | Durham, Middlefield | 1,860 | 10 | each town elects its own members - 6/4 | Majority Voting |
| Region 14 | PK-12 | Bethlehem, Woodbury | 1,880 | 8 | each town nominates candidates, but elections at-large; 4 members per town | Majority Voting |
| Region 15 | PK-12 | Middlefield, Southbury | 3,967 | 10 | each town elects its own members - 6/4 | Weighted Voting |
| Region 16 | PK-12 | Beacon Falls, Prospect | 1,916 | 8 | each town elects its own members - 4 per town | Weighted Voting |
| Region 17 | PK-12 | Haddam, Killingworth | 2,264 | 11 | each town elects its own members | Majority Voting |
| Region 18 | PK-12 | Lyme, Old Lyme | 1,406 | 9 | each town elects its own members - 7/2 | Majority Voting |

Other Issues

- ❑ Community Fatigue
- ❑ History of Failed Dissolution of Region
 - ❑ Contributes to Mistrust Among Three Communities
- ❑ Desire for Town Autonomy Vs. Economic and Fiscal Reality
- ❑ Education Quality – Perception Vs. Reality

Alternatives Explored by Working Group

- ❏ Status Quo
- ❏ Cooperative Agreement for PK-6,
Maintain Parish Hill
- ❏ PK-12 Region
- ❏ PK-8 Region

Status Quo

Do Nothing: Fails to Address Any Working Group Identified Issues

Status Quo

No Change to Current Schools or Boards of Ed

Pros

- Personalized Learning from Small Grade Cohorts
- Maintain Local Autonomy

Cons

- Small Peer Groups Limit Programming for Students
- Limited Ability to Align Curriculum of Elementary Schools to Evenly Prepare Students for Middle and High School
- Staff Cannot Specialize - Limits Professional Development and Ability to Attract High Quality Staff
- Redundant Administrations for Very Small Number of Students
- Inefficient
- Continued Enrollment Decline
- Questionable Ability to Sustain Budgets

Cooperative Agreement for PK-6

Minimal Changes with Least Level of Commitment

Cooperative Agreement for PK-6

- ❑ Similar to Status Quo with Potential Gains in Efficiency ONLY If Towns Commit for Reasonable Period of Time
- ❑ No Change to Parish Hill, Three Towns Agree to PK-6 Cooperative
- ❑ Potential for Elementary School Consolidation
- ❑ Savings Unknown and Dependent on Cooperative Agreement and Whether Consolidating a School

Cooperative Agreement for PK-6

Pros

- Opportunity to Create Larger Peer Groups/ Grade Cohorts at Elementary Level
- Opportunity for Programmatic Enhancements at Elementary Level
- Enhanced Ability to Align Curriculum Horizontally and Vertically
- No Changes to Educational Model/ Program Deployment at Parish Hill
- Improve Efficiency and Potential for Cost Savings
- Potential to Improve Budgets and Long-Term Viability
- Does Not Require Statutory Process to Create

Cons

- No Changes to Educational Model/ Program Deployment at Parish Hill
- Redundant Administrations (RD 11 Continues with an Agreement Between Local Boards of Ed for PK-6)
- Potential for Inequitable Impacts Among Towns if One Elementary School Consolidated

Regionalization

Significant Change to Schools, Boards of Ed, and Culture with the Most Potential to Address Identified Issues

Provides Several Opportunities for Improvements

Adoption of One Regional Board Can Be First Phase of Larger Change – Unified Leadership Can Guide Further Change

Regionalization

❏ Region 11 Expands to Include PK-6th Grades

❏ Local Boards of Ed Dissolve

❏ School/ Grade Configuration Opportunities:

- No Change
- Consolidate Elementary, Maintain PK-6th Configuration
- Consolidate Parish Hill – Elementary Schools Become PK-8 and High School Students Are Tuitioned Out
 - Maintain Three PK-8 Schools with Town Boundaries as District Boundaries
 - Reconfigure Existing Elementary Schools to PK-2, 3-5 and 6-8 to Serve All Students

Regionalization – No Change to Schools/ Grades

Pros

- Eliminates Redundant Administrations
- Improved Curriculum Coordination
- Unified Political Leadership May Ease School Consolidation and/ or Grade Reconfiguration Process in Future

Cons

- Minimal Cost Savings and Efficiency
- Process for Adopting and Implementing

Regionalization – Consolidate Elementary School with Current Grade Configuration

Pros

- Opportunity to Create Larger Peer Groups/ Grade Cohorts at Elementary Level
- Opportunity for Programmatic Enhancements at Elementary Level
- No Changes to Educational Model/ Program Deployment at Parish Hill
- Eliminates Redundant Administrations
- Improved Curriculum Coordination
- Cost Savings from Consolidated Elementary School and Improved Efficiency
- Centralize Leadership
- Improve Budgets and Long-Term Viability
- Potential for Enhanced Educational Programming to Draw New Families/ Potential Homebuyers

Cons

- No Changes to Educational Model/ Program Deployment at Parish Hill
- Process for Adopting and Implementing
- Inequitable Impact Among Towns with One Elementary School Consolidated
- Transportation Times for Elementary Schools

Regionalization – Consolidate Parish Hill with Three PK-8 Elementary Schools

Pros

- Opportunity for Programmatic Enhancements at Elementary Level from Shared District Services
- Enhanced Programming Opportunities for High School Students
- Eliminates Redundant Administrations
- Improved Curriculum Coordination
- Cost Savings from Consolidated Parish Hill and Improved Efficiency
- Centralize Leadership
- Improve Budgets and Long-Term Viability with Long-Term Tuition Agreements
- Equitable Impact to Communities
- Potential for Enhanced Educational Programming to Draw New Families/
Potential Homebuyers

Cons

- Process for Adopting and Implementing
- Not Enough Space in All Elementary Schools for PK-8 Configuration Under 2013-14 Enrollments
- Consolidation of Parish Hill
- Transportation Times for High School Students

Regionalization – Consolidate Parish Hill with PK-2, 3-5 and 6-8 Elementary Schools

Pros

- Opportunity to Create Larger Peer Groups/ Grade Cohorts
- Enhanced Programming Opportunities for High School Students
- Eliminates Redundant Administrations
- Improved Curriculum Coordination
- Cost Savings from Consolidated Parish Hill and Improved Efficiency
- Centralize Leadership
- Improve Budgets and Long-Term Viability with Long-Term Tuition Agreements
- Equitable Impact to Communities
- Potential for Enhanced Educational Programming to Draw New Families/ Potential Homebuyers
- Maintain Flexibility to Respond to Enrollment and Programming Shifts

Cons

- Process for Adopting and Implementing
- Consolidation of Parish Hill
- Transportation Times for All Students

Parish Hill Consolidation

Potential Designated High Schools in Region and 13-14 Tuition Rates

| School System | Current Tuition Rates | Notes |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Coventry | \$12,513 | Currently take 30-50 students from Columbia |
| E.O. Smith | \$12,924 | Interested in blocks of students, not singletons; already take in students from Columbia (outside of Reg. 19) |
| Killingly | \$13,603 | |
| Lebanon | \$12,005 | Raise tuition 4% per year |
| Norwich Free Academy | \$11,684 | Could take in 25-50 students, set to raise tuition 4% per year |
| Woodstock Academy | \$12,617 | Could take in 20-30 students |
| | | |
| BASIC TUITION AVERAGE: | \$12,558 | |

Working Group Recommendations

- ❖ Status Quo Not A Viable Option for Future
- ❖ Consensus Around Regionalization
 - ❖ No Strong Agreement on Consolidation of Parish Hill or Elementary School
 - ❖ Regionalization Without Consolidations or Grade Reconfiguration Could Be First Step to Larger Changes Guided by Unified Board of Education