

Regionalization Overview

Temporary Regional School District Study Committee

May 2022

History and Overview



TEMPORARY REGIONAL SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Town of Litchfield:

William Davenport, Litchfield

Margaret Hunt, Litchfield

Jill Johnson, Litchfield

John Morosani, Board of Education

Lynn Stone, Board of Education

Regional School District No. 6 Public Schools:

Mike Bergin, Board of Education – Goshen

Rob DeLayo – Warren

Billie Jean Sideris – Morris

Stephen Tracy – Goshen

Denise Weik, Board of Education – Morris

The TRSSC organized its report to address the following requirements of Section 10-43 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.):

1. *the advisability of establishing a regional school district,*
2. *the towns to be included,*
3. *the grade levels for which educational programs are to be provided,*
4. *detailed educational and budget plans for at least a five-year period, including projections of enrollments, staff needs and deployment, and a description of all programs and supportive services planned for the proposed regional school district,*
5. *the facilities recommended,*
6. *estimates of the cost of land and facilities,*
7. *a recommendation concerning the capital contribution of each participating town based on appraisals or a negotiated valuation of existing land and facilities owned and used by each town for public elementary and secondary education which the committee recommends be acquired for use by the proposed regional school district, together with a plan for the transfer of such land and facilities,*
8. *a recommendation concerning the size of the board of education to serve the proposed regional school district and the representation of each town thereon,*
9. *such other matters as the TRSSC deems pertinent.*

**TRSSC
Findings**



In combination with a review of historical documents, the TRSSC relied upon the following findings in reaching its conclusion:

- *Two previous Temporary Regional School Study Committees were formed in 1988 and 1992 to consider a possible merging of LPS and RSD6. In each case, there was no move to a referendum.*
- *At the present moment, both LPS and RSD6 are grappling with challenges to long term viability resulting from over a decade of declining enrollment and the consequent increase in fiscal and programmatic constraints.*
- *There is little projected enrollment change in Region 20 over the next 10 years.*
- *Each of Region 20's four towns has its own elementary school facilities and programs and is committed to keeping them localized.*
- *LPS and RSD6 have collaborated since 2019 to share services including: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum Office, Business Office, Facilities, Operations, Human Resources, and Technology.*

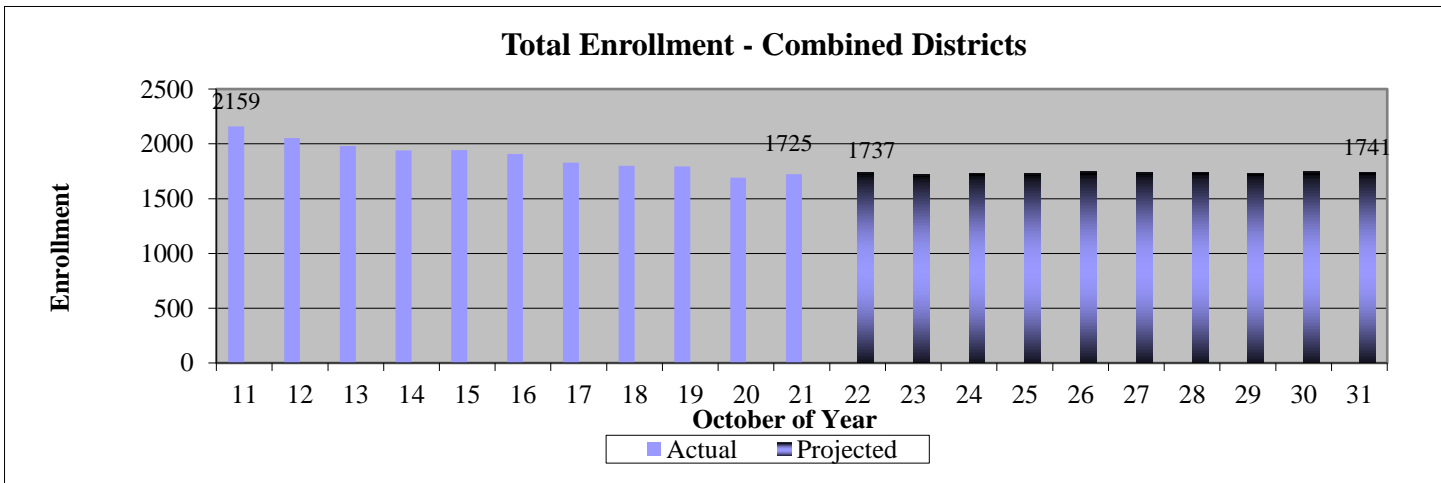
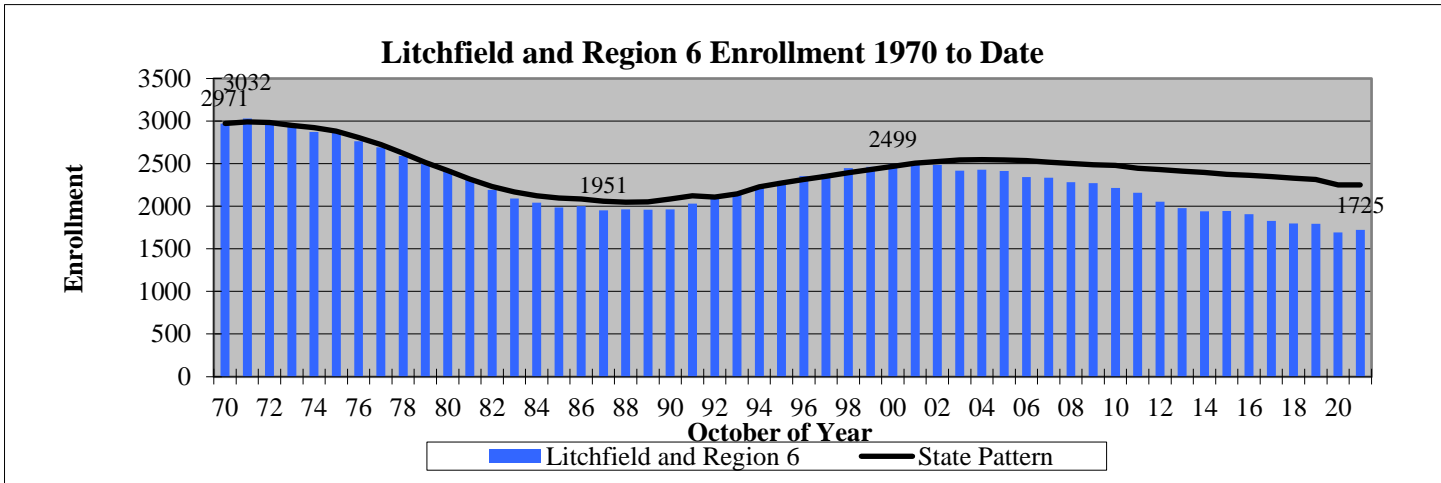
- *The facilities for the State of Connecticut Agriculture Science and Technology Education (ASTE) program are located at WAMOGO High School, so the ASTE program must remain there. The location, facilities, and size of WAMOGO High School are suitable for the Region 20 9-12 students. The location, facilities, and size of the Litchfield Middle/High School are suitable for the new Region 20 6-8 students.*
- *Consolidating Litchfield High School and WAMOGO programs will not only enrich and expand their strengths but will also offer new opportunities. The consolidation of the two districts will also sustain and enhance the already excellent elementary (grades K-5) curriculum and instruction currently being provided to the students, as well as positively impact the residents of Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, and Warren.*
- *The formation of Region 20 can be completed in good faith with minimal impact on jobs with the vast majority of staff reductions coming from retirements and natural attrition.*
- *The consolidation of the two districts will yield long-term fiscal savings for all four towns.*

**R20
District
Structure**



DISTRICT CONFIGURATION:

Region 20 will serve the towns of Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, and Warren.



**Facility
Use**



The following facilities will house secondary schools:

- **Current Litchfield Middle School / Litchfield High School will house the Region 20 Middle School, grades 6-8.**
- **Current WAMOGO Regional High School will house the Region 20 High School, grades 9-12 including the ASTE program.**
- **The following facilities will house the elementary schools:**
 - **Goshen Center School – Goshen resident students (grades K-5)**
 - **Litchfield Center School – Litchfield resident students (grades K-3)**
 - **Litchfield Intermediate School – Litchfield resident students (grades 4-5)**
 - **James Morris School – Morris resident students (grades K-5)**
 - **Warren School – Warren resident students (grades K-5)**
- **No Kindergarten through Grade 5 students will be transported from their local, town-based school to another school in the region for their regular education.**
- Should the Region 20 Board of Education determine that a facility is no longer needed, and the public approves such decision per C.G.S. Sec. 10-47c, the facility would revert to the town in which it is located with the exception of the WAMOGO building which would revert to the towns of Warren, Morris, and Goshen.
- All town programs (including Parks & Rec) will have access to school facilities at no cost.

Facility Use

**Board
Governance**



- **A new Region 20 Board will preside over the regionalized district.**
- **The Region 20 Board will have 12 members with 3 members each from Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, and Warren (hereinafter referred to collectively as “Member Towns”).**
- The first members of such Board (“Initial Members”) will be nominated and elected at a meeting of the legislative body of each Member Town held within thirty (30) calendar days after the referendum creating the district.
- Each Board meeting of this section will be conducted in accordance with standard parliamentary practice.
- To increase participation in the Board, it is recommended that the process for becoming a Board candidate in each Member Town be publicly posted on the district website, on each Member Town website, and in each Member Town Hall. It is also recommended that candidates be nominated no less than two weeks in advance of the election.
- **The voting power of each Initial, or Regular, Member from each Member Town will be weighted in the proportion, within permissible deviant limits consistent with federal constitutional standards, that the population of each Member Town bears to the population of the entire regional school district and must approve items with a weighted super-majority of at least 66% of the Board present and voting, including at least one member from each Member Town voting favorably.**

LPS BOE (2022-2023)		
Per Member	11.11%	
Per Party (5/4)	55.56%	44.44%

RSD6 (2022-2023)			
Town	Members	Weight	Per Member
Goshen	3	48.05	16.02
Morris	3	31.98	10.66
Warren	3	19.97	6.66

R20 (PROPOSED)

Town	Members	Weight*	Per Member
Goshen	3	21.13	7.04
Litchfield	3	56.12	18.71
Morris	3	14.6	4.87
Warren	3	8.15	2.72

Notes:

- 1) *Weight changes annually based on enrollment as of October 1st.
- 2) Recommendation requires:
8 of 12 weighted votes in the affirmative and
one affirmative vote from each town.

**Financial
Operations**



External Revenue (5-Year)					
Category	Concept District (Year 1)	Concept District (Year 2) 2 % Annual Escalator	Concept District (Year 3) 2 % Annual Escalator	Concept District (Year 4) 2 % Annual Escalator	Concept District (Year 5) 2 % Annual Escalator
Tuition					
ASTE Tuition (Regular Ed)	\$ 1,398,715.00	\$ 1,426,689.30	\$ 1,455,223.09	\$ 1,484,327.55	\$ 1,514,014.10
ASTE Tuition (Spec Ed)	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 357,000.00	\$ 364,140.00	\$ 371,422.80	\$ 378,851.26
Pre School Tuition	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 102,000.00	\$ 104,040.00	\$ 106,120.80	\$ 108,243.22
State Revenue					
ASTE Grant	\$ 1,350,000.00	\$ 1,377,000.00	\$ 1,404,540.00	\$ 1,432,630.80	\$ 1,461,283.42
Medicaid	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 61,200.00	\$ 62,424.00	\$ 63,672.48	\$ 64,945.93
Excess Costs (Special Education)	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 178,500.00	\$ 182,070.00	\$ 185,711.40	\$ 189,425.63
Other (Local)					
Misc (Including Tuition)	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 91,800.00	\$ 93,636.00	\$ 95,508.72	\$ 97,418.89
Interest	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 51,000.00	\$ 52,020.00	\$ 53,060.40	\$ 54,121.61
Rental Fees	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,200.00	\$ 10,404.00	\$ 10,612.08	\$ 10,824.32
FY Carryover	\$ -	\$ 378,000.00	\$ 382,000.00	\$ 387,000.00	\$ 392,000.00
Adjustments (State Revisions Grants, LPS)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 204,000.00	\$ 208,080.00	\$ 212,241.60	\$ 216,486.43
Total Revenue	\$ 3,783,715.00	\$ 4,237,389.30	\$ 4,318,577.09	\$ 4,402,308.63	\$ 4,487,614.80

Region 20: External Revenue

Town Assessments (5-Year)					
Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Warren	\$ 2,861,058.94	\$ 2,866,981.16	\$ 2,901,771.45	\$ 2,934,548.94	\$ 2,967,990.41
Morris	\$ 4,797,880.31	\$ 4,807,811.64	\$ 4,866,153.54	\$ 4,921,120.08	\$ 4,977,200.07
Goshen	\$ 7,298,758.43	\$ 7,313,866.44	\$ 7,402,618.84	\$ 7,486,236.50	\$ 7,571,547.98
Litchfield	\$ 19,021,624.64	\$ 19,060,998.29	\$ 19,292,299.94	\$ 19,510,219.70	\$ 19,732,553.83
Total Town Assessments	\$ 33,979,322.32	\$ 34,049,657.53	\$ 34,462,843.77	\$ 34,852,125.22	\$ 35,249,292.29
Total Revenue	\$ 37,763,037.32	\$ 38,287,046.83	\$ 38,781,420.86	\$ 39,254,433.85	\$ 39,736,907.09

Region 20: Town Assessments

Projected Expenses (5-Year)					
Category	Concept (Year 1)	Concept (Year 2)	Concept (Year 3)	Concept (Year 4)	Concept (Year 5)
1) Certified Salaries	\$16,351,544.50	\$16,678,575.39	\$17,012,146.90	\$17,352,389.84	\$17,699,437.63
2) Classified Salaries	\$4,478,415.30	\$4,567,983.61	\$4,659,343.28	\$4,752,530.15	\$4,847,580.75
3) Employee Benefits	\$7,275,553.00	\$7,275,553.00	\$7,275,553.00	\$7,275,553.00	\$7,275,553.00
4) Learning Programs and Contracted Services	\$2,068,550.35	\$2,068,550.35	\$2,068,550.35	\$2,068,550.35	\$2,068,550.35
5) Tuition	\$953,134.00	\$953,134.00	\$953,134.00	\$953,134.00	\$953,134.00
6) Transportation	\$1,902,306.00	\$1,940,352.12	\$1,979,159.16	\$2,018,742.35	\$2,059,117.19
7) Shared Services	\$1,811,079.00	\$1,811,079.00	\$1,811,079.00	\$1,811,079.00	\$1,811,079.00
8) Administration	\$554,612.22	\$554,612.22	\$554,612.22	\$554,612.22	\$554,612.22
9) Operations and Maintenance	\$1,117,842.95	\$1,117,842.95	\$1,117,842.95	\$1,117,842.95	\$1,117,842.95
0) Capital	\$1,250,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$1,250,000.00
CONTINGENCY	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Total Expenses	\$37,763,037.32	\$38,317,682.64	\$38,781,420.86	\$39,254,433.85	\$39,736,907.09

Region 20: Proposed Expenses

Projected Savings (5-Year)								
Town	Previous Costs (FY)	Year 1 (Savings)	Year 2 (Savings)	Year 3 (Savings)	Year 4 (Savings)	Year 5 (Savings)	Cumulative Savings	Notes
Warren	\$ 3,456,083.67	-\$ 595,024.73	-\$ 586,522.97	-\$ 554,312.22	-\$ 521,534.73	-\$ 488,093.26	\$ 2,745,487.91	
Morris	\$ 5,535,134.00	-\$ 737,253.69	-\$ 722,996.58	-\$ 668,980.46	-\$ 614,013.92	-\$ 557,933.93	-\$ 3,301,178.58	
Goshen	\$ 8,316,201.33	-\$ 1,017,442.90	-\$ 995,754.32	-\$ 913,582.49	-\$ 829,964.83	-\$ 744,653.35	-\$ 4,501,397.88	
Litchfield	\$ 19,277,500.00	-\$ 875,875.36	-\$ 819,351.79	-\$ 605,200.06	-\$ 387,280.30	-\$ 164,946.17	\$ 2,852,653.69	Additional Annual Savings to Town of Litchfield includes estimated Capital \$380K: Plumb Hill \$60K; Electric \$180K
TOTAL SAVINGS		-\$ 3,225,596.68	-\$ 3,124,625.66	-\$ 2,742,075.23	-\$ 2,352,793.78	-\$ 1,955,626.71	-\$ 13,400,718.06	

To limit annual budget fluctuations in annual assessments and maintain stability for educational programs, the four member towns of Region 20 will commit to using a five-year average of student enrollment.

Actual budgets are subject to approval by Region 20 Board of Education and voters in Goshen, Litchfield, Morris and Warren.

Savings are projected against 2022-2023 costs.

Region 20: Potential Savings

**Transfer
of
Facilities
and
Debt**



The TRSSC reviewed town assessments and appraisals on the school buildings and land belonging to the Town of Litchfield and Region 6 currently being used for the purposes of public elementary and secondary education to establish and value capital contributions of each town in accordance with C.G.S. §10-43(a).

From this review, the TRSSC determined that the transfer by Litchfield and Region 6 of such land and facilities to Region 20 would provide sufficient and appropriate accommodations to meet the foreseeable educational needs of Region 20 and that the value of such lands and facilities represented a reasonable negotiated value of donated property from the four towns to provide a proportional capital contribution for each of such towns approximately equal to the ratio of students sent by each town for enrollment in Region 20.

The properties and debt, including each building and the surrounding land, that the Litchfield and Region 6 Boards of Education, respectively, will transfer to Regional School District 20 are listed below, along with the negotiated value of each. These negotiated values are based upon existing debt, census figures, and enrollments at the time of the issuance of the report.

From Litchfield:

Litchfield Middle / High School	\$20,921,700
Litchfield Intermediate School	\$9,781,250
Litchfield Center School	\$8,158,801
Litchfield Education Debt (as of June 30, 2024)	(\$1,817,790)
<u>Total from Town of Litchfield:</u>	<u>\$37,043,961</u>

From Region 6:

WAMOGO High School	\$22,043,886
Goshen Center School	\$5,153,950
James Morris School	\$2,300,120
Warren School	\$2,397,279
RSD6 Education Debt (as of June 30, 2024)	(\$1,755,481)
<u>Total from RSD6:</u>	<u>\$30,139,754</u>

TOTAL VALUE OF ALL **\$67,183,715**

Region 20: Transfer of Facilities and Debt

Based upon the negotiated values of each property, and in conformance with C.G.S. Sec. 10-43(a), Litchfield will contribute approximately 55% of the total and Region 6 will contribute approximately 45% of the total. **There will be no transfer of funds.**

Based upon the defined school debt on each property, and in conformance with C.G.S. Sec. 10-56(b) Region 20 will assume debt of the existing district.

The Region 6 Board of Education will transfer ownership of WAMOGO High School, Goshen Center School, James Morris School, and Warren School, all corresponding land, and school debt, to the Region 20 Board of Education at a negotiated date on or after January 1, 2024, and no later than June 30, 2024.

The Town of Litchfield will transfer ownership of Litchfield Middle School/High School, Litchfield Intermediate School, and Litchfield Center School, all corresponding land, and school debt, to the Region 20 Board of Education at a date on or after January 1, 2024, and no later than June 30, 2024.

The precise percentages are: Litchfield - 55.14% and Region 6 - 44.86%.

Region 20: Transfer of Facilities and Debt

**Capital
Accounts**



Non-Lapsing Capital Accounts

District	Town	Capital Fund	As of
Litchfield	Litchfield	\$253,000	12/1/2021
Regional School District No. 6	District	\$1,048,000	12/1/2021

Based on a review of “Non-Lapsing Capital Fund Accounts,” the TRSSC recommends that **Region 20 not assume any funds from the Non-Lapsing Capital Fund Accounts from either LPS or RSD6.**

Region 20 will continue to publish an annual capital needs plan and the district will make an annual operating budget expense of no less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per year for each of the first five years of its existence to a special account designated for the improvement of its facilities.

**Education
Curriculum
Program
Offerings**



The TRSSC, in a review of enrollment, along with educational program, makes no suggested revisions to the grade K-5 programs, or staffing, of Goshen Center School, James Morris School, Litchfield Center School, Litchfield Intermediate School, or the Warren School.

The TRSSC focused on combined secondary programs, grades 6-12:

Middle School [6-8] Exploratory Courses/Encore Subjects		
LMS	Wamogo	Concept School
Band	Band	Band/Beginner's Band (2)
Chorus	Chorus	Chorus
Art	Art	Art
PE	PE	PE
Health	Health	Health
World Language (Spanish)	World Language (Spanish/French) (2)	World Language (Spanish, French, Chinese) (3)
Mindset	Learning Lab	Learning Lab / Mindset
Information Tech Literacy		Information Tech Literacy
	Robotics	Robotics
	Digital Apps	Digital Media and Movie Making
	Agri Sci	Agri Sci
		Code 21
		Culinary
		Digital Music
		Digital Journalism and Social Media
TOTAL: 8	TOTAL: 11	TOTAL: 18

High School Electives - STEM		
LHS	WAMOGO	Concept School
Anatomy & Physiology	Anatomy & Physiology	Anatomy & Physiology
AP Biology	AP Biology	AP Biology
AP Chemistry	AP Chemistry	AP Chemistry
AP Environmental Science	AP Environmental Science	AP Environmental Science
	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science Principles
Forensic Science	Forensic Science	Forensic Science
	Human Biology	Human Biology
Physics	Physics	Physics
AP Physics		AP Physics
Zoology and Evolution		Zoology and Evolution
Ecology		Ecology
Horticulture		Horticulture
Embryology		Embryology
Biotechnology		Biotechnology
		Meteorology
		Genetics
		Astronomy
Trig/PreCalc H	Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus
AP Calculus	AP Calculus	AP Calculus
Calculus	Calculus	Calculus
Statistics	Probability & Statistics	Probability & Statistics
		AP Statistics
	UCONN ECE Essentials of Economics	UCONN ECE Essentials of Economics
Trig		
Concepts of Calculus		Mathematics Modeling & Application
Trig/PreCalc		Trig / PreCalc
Personal Finance	Personal Finance	Personal Finance
		Data Science
TOTAL: 20	TOTAL: 14	TOTAL: 27

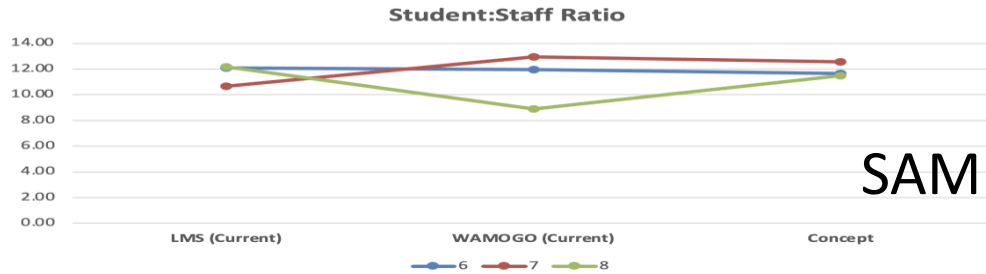
SAMPLE

SUMMARY – More secondary (grade 6-12) opportunity for students without sacrificing student:teacher ratio / class size

Region 20: Education, Program, and Curriculum Offerings

Concept Middle School (Staffing)

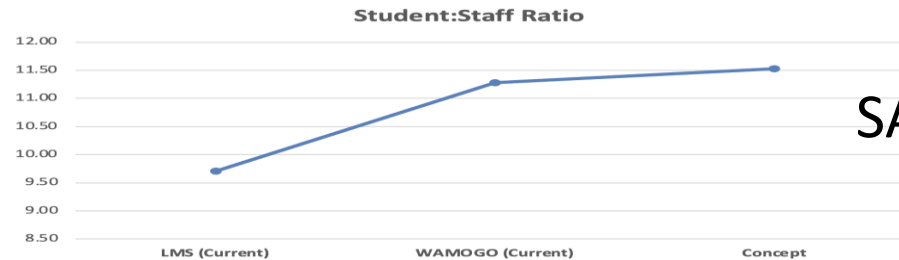
Grade	LPS	RSD6	Total	Staff										Staff Per Student
				Math	Science	ELA	SS	ASTE	WL	PE Health SEL Wellness	Electives	Total Staff		
6	64	55	119	2	1.6	2	0.8	0.2	0.8	1.6	1.2	10.2	11.67	
7	64	64	128	2	1.6	2	0.8	0.2	0.8	1.6	1.2	10.2	12.55	
8	73	44	117	2	1.6	2	0.8	0.2	0.8	1.6	1.2	10.2	11.47	
TOTAL	201	163	364	6	4.8	6	2.4	0.6	2.4	4.8	3.6	30.6	11.90	



SAMPLE

Concept High School (Staffing)

Grade	LPS	RSD6	Total	Staff										Staff Per Student
				Math	Science	ELA	SS	ASTE	WL	PE Health SEL Wellness	Electives	Total Staff		
9	53	94	147											
10	59	94	153											
11	57	98	155											
12	63	93	156											
HS Total	232	379	611	7	7	7	7	7	7	5	3.5	9.5	53	11.53



SAMPLE

The TRSSC recommends that Region 20 commit to the following:

1) Enhancement and expansion of educational opportunities for all students (inclusive of, but not limited to, course offerings, enrichment programs, life skills, special education, mental health and social emotional needs, the arts, and athletics);

2) Equity of curriculum and instruction across all schools to ensure that students develop global good citizenship skills that allow them to be participating members of diverse communities.

**Culture
Identity
History**



The TRSSC recommends that Region 20 commit to the following:

- 1) Respect and honor the past of each of the four communities, while also creating a new cultural identity.
- 2) Work with students, staff, and community to develop new logos, mascots, school colors, uniforms (sports and band), vision statement, motto, signage, core values, school name, and traditions (regional and community);
- 3) Annually measure and share survey results on parent engagement and school climate.



Staffing and Organization



Region 20 is required to collectively bargain with existing unions (AFSCME, LAA, LEA, WAA, and WEA) before opening.

At least 75% of any reductions from current total staff levels resulting from the creation of Region 20 will come from retirements and natural attrition.



Next Steps



Next Steps:

- 1) Connecticut State Board of Education approved TRSSC Recommendation (May 4, 2022)
- 2) TRSSC schedules referendum (June 2022)
- 3) If referendum approved (in every town):
 - Region 20 Board Seated (July 2022)
 - 2-Year Transition (July 2022 – June 2024)
 - Projected Start for Region 20 – July 2024
- 1) If referendum rejected:
 - Continued Collaboration?
 - Next Steps?



What Comes Next?