

The **Temporary Regional School Study Committee (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In combination with a review of historical documents, the TRSSC relied upon the following findings in reaching its conclusion: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.*

A Copy of the Final Report can be found [HERE \(ADD LINK\)](#)

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.
- All town programs (including Parks & Rec) will have access to school facilities at no cost.

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 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.

EDUCATION AND 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.
- More secondary (grade 6-12) opportunity for students without sacrificing student:teacher ratio / class size
- 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);
- 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.

FINANCES:

- 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.
- Estimated \$13.4M in savings for all four towns over first five years of new district

FACILITY TRANSFER AND CAPITAL:

- 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, buildings, and land, of the existing districts.
- Current “Non-Lapsing Capital Savings” returned to the towns (Over \$1.25M)

CULTURE, IDENTITY AND HISTORY:

- Respect and honor the past of each of the four communities, while also creating a new cultural identity.
- 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);
- Annually measure and share survey results on parent engagement and school climate.

STAFFING:

- 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.