

DY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ARTICLES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR DENNIS
MAY 7, 2019 – 7:00 PM
WIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL

This is a brief explanation of four Articles that are on the Town of Dennis Annual Town Meeting Warrant. It is meant to provide information and not to try and persuade for a yeah or nay vote.

ARTICLE 9 **Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District Assessment**

This article was placed on the warrant by the Board of Selectmen. The total amount of the School’s budget, \$62,001,508, has been supported by both the Board of Selectmen and the Dennis Finance Committee. The article intends to, at a minimum, approve Dennis’ share of the school budget at \$16,491,782, which is the amount based on the current regional agreement. This was not submitted by the School Committee but, on advice of the Town’s attorney, it was placed on the warrant.

Text of Article 9

To see if the Town will vote to approve an annual school budget of \$62,001,508 for the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019 and to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$16,491,782 for the operating expenses of the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019; or to take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10 **Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District Agreement**

Old Language Deleted & Clarification of Wording: The School Committee is proposing to delete a great deal of the Regional Agreement because some of the wording dates back decades and is no longer relevant or necessary. The proposed deleted portions are not reprinted here due to its length. One example of wording changes include clarification such as including “Pre-Kindergarten” and not just “Kindergarten”. The entire text of all of the proposed changes to the Regional Agreement are available on the Board of Selectmen’s website and should be available shortly in print.

Why the Article is on Warrant: The School Committee was advised by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to focus the changes on what they felt was most important in order to expedite the review and approval process. The School Committee requested just Section 4 – the section that distributes the cost between the two towns. However, legally the Board of Selectmen is bound to include the entire proposed Regional Agreement in the warrant as it was originally voted and submitted by the School Committee. The Selectmen have been advised that there may be a motion made during Town Meeting to only deal with Section 4.

Composition of Subcommittee to Fill a Vacancy: One of the other changes purposed is how to fill a vacancy on the School Committee. Currently, the Board of Selectmen fill a vacancy by appointing someone from their respective town until the next annual election. The School Committee is proposing that a subcommittee be created. They propose two selectmen from the town that has the vacancy, two

school committee members representing the town that has the vacancy and one school committee member from the other town.

Capital Costs For decades the costs of sharing any capital costs of a “District-owned” building was shared based on the percentage of student enrollment for each Town. That percentage was set at the time of bonding and remains that way until the debt is paid no matter what the changes in enrollment might be. The School Committee is proposing that the shared percentages be fixed at 35% and 65% regardless of student enrollment.

Operating Budget Assessments: Currently, the Regional Agreement shares the cost based on the student of enrollment in each school building. Dennis Selectmen have proposed that the operating budget assessments be based on the total student enrollment that attends all schools including Choice and Charter (not parochial or private) This is known as Foundation Enrollment. The current percentage of Foundation Enrollment for Dennis is 31.346%. The School Committee proposes that the Town of Dennis pay 32% of the operating budget regardless of the number of its students for the next Fiscal Year. The proposal is then to increase Dennis’ percentage as follows:

- 33% FY 2021
- 33% FY 2022
- 34% FY 2023
- 35% FY 2024

After FY 2024 the School Committee may create their own subcommittee to address any significant increases or decreases in student enrollment that may be occurring between the two towns.

Text of Article 9 - Partial

To see if the Town will vote, consistent with the “Agreement Between the Towns of Dennis and Yarmouth Establishing a Regional School District as most recently amended in Spring 2013,” to accept further amendments to said Agreement, which have been initiated and approved by a vote of the Regional School Committee on March 11, 2019, the text of which showing the deletions by strikethrough and new language in bold is set forth below:

By rewording the following and

Section (e) Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs on the Committee, such vacancy shall be filled within thirty (30) days therefrom by the Board of Selectmen **and members of the School Committee (added)**. ~~of the member town in which the member vacating office resided at the time of his election.~~

The School Committee Chair will create an appointment committee by requesting two members of the town’s Board of Selectmen from which the member vacating office resided at the time of his election to be part of the subcommittee. The School Committee Chair will appoint two School Committee members from the same town and one School Committee member from the other town as an at-large member for a subcommittee of five members. This subcommittee will make a recommendation to the full Board of Selectmen for an appointment.

The person so appointed shall be a resident of the town from which the

vacancy occurred and shall serve until the next annual town election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve the balance of the unexpired term, if any.

(Reason: School Committee members would like to be involved in selecting members for vacancies. They feel their knowledge of the role will be helpful in this process. In other districts it is a joint effort.)

Apportionment of Capital Costs

3) Such costs incurred on or after the effective date of this amended agreement shall be apportioned to the member towns separately with respect to each district school facility, as follows:

a. Such costs incurred in connection with any particular district elementary school (**Pre-3**) shall be **the sole responsibility of the member town in which such school resides and whose students are primarily residents of that member town.** ~~apportioned for each fiscal year on the basis of each member town's enrollment, if any, in such school on October first of the preceding fiscal year. Each member town's share for each fiscal year shall be determined by computing the ratio which that town's pupil enrollment in such school facility on October first of the preceding fiscal year bears to the total pupil enrollment from both of the member towns in that school facility on the same date. If enrollment in any school facility has not been accomplished by October first of any year, capital costs shall be apportioned on the basis of the enrollment on the preceding October first of pupils in the grades of each town for which the facility is being or has been planned, as shall be determined by the Committee.~~

b. Such costs incurred in connection with any particular district high school shall be apportioned between the member towns on the basis of **35% of the costs to Dennis and 65% of the costs to Yarmouth.** ~~each town's enrollment in the regional district high schools, wherever located, on October first of the preceding fiscal year. Each town's share for each fiscal year shall be determined by computing the ratio which that town's pupil enrollment in the regional district high school or schools, wherever located, on October first of the preceding fiscal year bears to the total pupil enrollment from both of the member towns in the regional district high school or schools, wherever located, on the same date.~~

c. **As long as Wixon (Grades 4-5) and Mattacheese (Grades 6-7) are serving as district schools the capital costs associated with Wixon will be the responsibility of Dennis and the capital costs associated with Mattacheese will be the responsibility of Yarmouth. When a new district school is built for grades 4-7 the capital costs will be split as 35% of the costs to Dennis and 65% of the costs to Yarmouth.**

d. **Such cost incurred in connection with any new district schools that may be built shall be apportioned 100% to the town in which the**

school is located unless the school to be built is considered a regional (district) school, then costs shall be apportioned between the member towns on the basis of 35% of the costs to Dennis and 65% of the cost to Yarmouth.

e. Whenever bonding is required for a capital project(s) for a regional district school facility the split of the bond costs will be 35% to Dennis and 65% to Yarmouth and will remain the same for the life of the bond.

(2) Any capital costs incurred prior to this 2019 amendment will continue to be paid according to the split costs agreed upon at the time of the project.

Apportionment of Operating Costs

Apportionment of Operating costs will utilize the Massachusetts Statutory School funding formula. Any amount above required minimum contributions and state and district revenue will be divided by the two towns based on the following:

FY20 32% for Dennis and 68% for Yarmouth

FY21 33% for Dennis and 67% for Yarmouth

FY22 33% for Dennis and 67% for Yarmouth

FY23 34% for Dennis and 66% for Yarmouth

FY24 35%for Dennis and 65% for Yarmouth

After FY24 the apportionment will remain 35% for Dennis and 65% for Yarmouth unless changed by an amendment to this agreement.

(Reason: This eliminates any need to split certain costs 50-50. It phases in some additional costs for Dennis as was discussed during the agreement meetings.)

~~Operating costs not attributable to a particular district school facility or not attributable solely to the district school facilities located in one member town, which shall include, but not be limited to, any operating costs that exceeds any minimum local contribution as required by the state, the costs of operation and maintenance of the District's central administration office and staff, the responsibilities of which are District—wide, and the costs of transportation of pupils to and from school, food services, employees' retirement, and insurance, and capital costs not otherwise apportioned under section 4(b), shall be apportioned to the member towns for any fiscal year on the basis of each town's enrollment in the regional district schools, wherever located, on October first of the preceding fiscal year. (This section needed to be changed based on changes above.)~~

ARTICLE 11 **Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District Supplement Appropriation**

On advice of the Town Attorney, the Selectmen placed an additional article following the article about changes to the Regional Agreement. If the new funding assessment percentages passes, it will require an additional vote to add the difference between the current agreement (Article 10) and the new Regional Agreement. The additional appropriation would be \$469,504 as stated in the article.

TEXT OF ARTICLE 11

To see if the town will vote to supplement the appropriation voted under Article 9 for the Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District for the Fiscal Year 2020 as set forth in the amendment to the regional school district agreement approved under Article 10 at an enrollment split of 32% for Dennis and 68% for Yarmouth; and to raise and appropriate \$469,504 to meet such supplemental assessment; or to take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12 **Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District Stabilization Fund**

The School Committee is requesting approval from both Yarmouth and Dennis to create a Stabilization Fund. Stabilization Funds act as savings accounts and would allow the schools to quickly respond to emergency repairs, etc. No funding for the Stabilization Fund is being requested.

TEXT OF ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town of Dennis will vote to approve the Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District request to establish a Stabilization Fund subject to Chapter 71 Section 16 G ½; or take any other action relative thereto.