



8 TOWN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING BOARD

Panelists:

Lucy Prashker, Chair

Nadine Hawver, Finance Subcommittee, Chair

Jon Sylbert, Operations Subcommittee, Chair

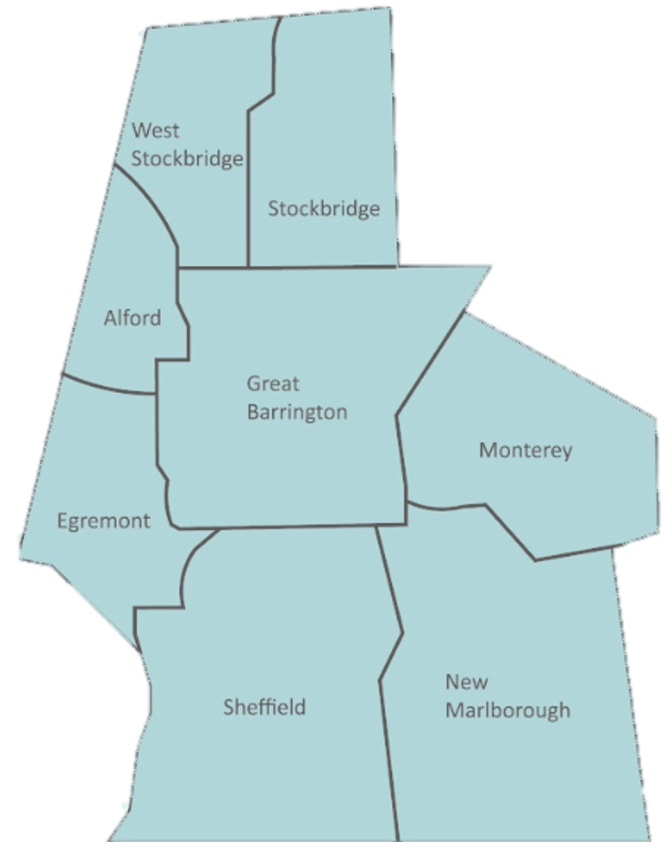
Deb Phillips, Educational Quality Subcommittee, Chair

Colin Smith, Sheffield Representative

H. Jake Eberwein, Project Manager



Can our districts do better together?



How we got here.

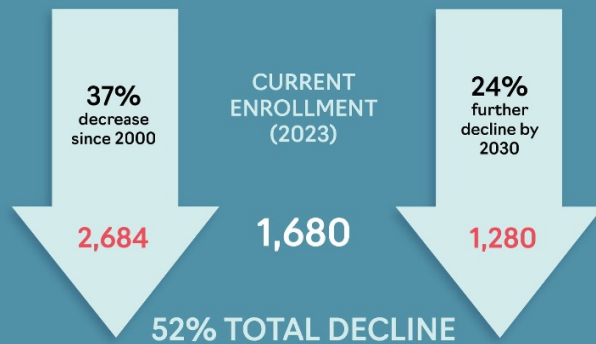


Our challenges:

- Staggering declines in enrollment over the last decade
- Rising operational costs
- Flat state revenue, taxpayers shouldering increasing tax burdens
- Limited ability to offer broad range of programs and supports



CHANGE IN ENROLLMENT FROM 2000 - 2030



TOTAL ENROLLMENT K-12 BY YEAR

Year	Number of Students K-12		
	BHRSD	SBRSD	Combined
2000	1,612	1,072	2,684
2010	1,356	865	2,221
2023	1,112	568	1,680
2030 (projected)	877	403	1,280

Sources: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
 New England School Development Council
 Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools

"Sheffield's own housing production plan shows students dropping from 860 in 2000 to 396 to 2020 to just 151 in 2040. That's what this is about."

Conclusion: Current models not sustainable.



Recommended Solution:

Create a new PreK-12 regional school district – to be known as the Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District - that maintains all existing elementary and middle schools as they are but creates a single high school in a new state-of-the-art facility to be built on the Great Barrington campus.

- The new facility would have greatly expanded vocational (also known as Chapter 74) facilities and programs, which would be available to high school students in all eight towns. Plan would be to offer 6 (chapter 74) programs – which would be triple what is currently offered in South County.

Why? (Value Proposition)

1

With single district, could achieve economies of scale and efficiencies, with cost savings projected at \$1.2 to \$1.8 million a year.

2

Good for students – more choices (academic and extra curricular), more support (English Language Learners, Special Education, alternative education, and social-emotional health) - PLUS expanded vocational and technical programs.

3

Critical mass and pooled resources better positioned to provide our kids with the education they need and deserve.

Agreed School Committee Composition

11 Members, district-wide elections/with residency requirements:

- (3) Great Barrington
- (2) Sheffield
- (1) Alford
- (1) Egremont
- (1) Monterey
- (1) New Marlborough
- (1) Stockbridge
- (1) West Stockbridge

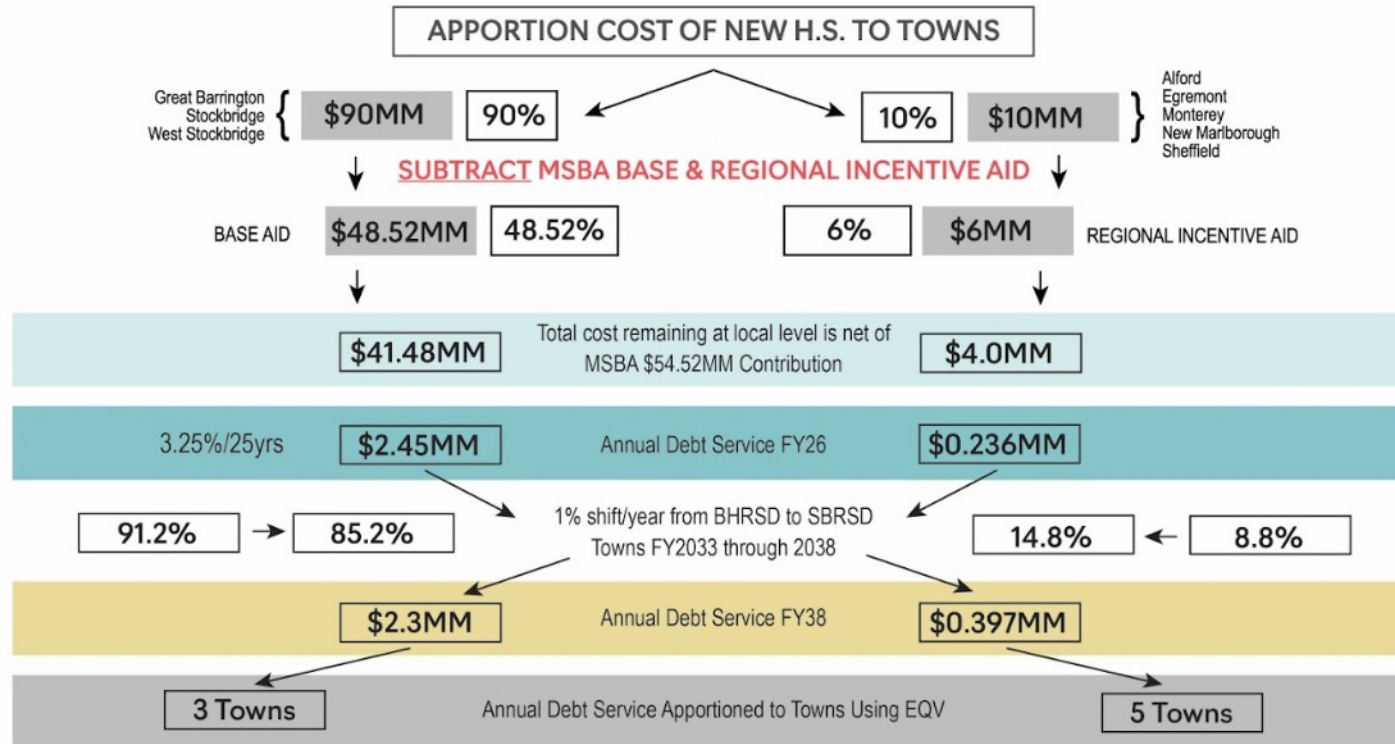
6 members resident SBRSD; 5 members resident BHRSD

Transportation

1. No increase in cost.
2. Elementary/middle school students same or shorter (two-tier system instead of one).
3. High school – Some longer, some shorter. Report consultant believes we could get all under 45 minutes with a modest investment in additional vehicles (vans).



ASSUMING \$100MM NEW HIGH SCHOOL



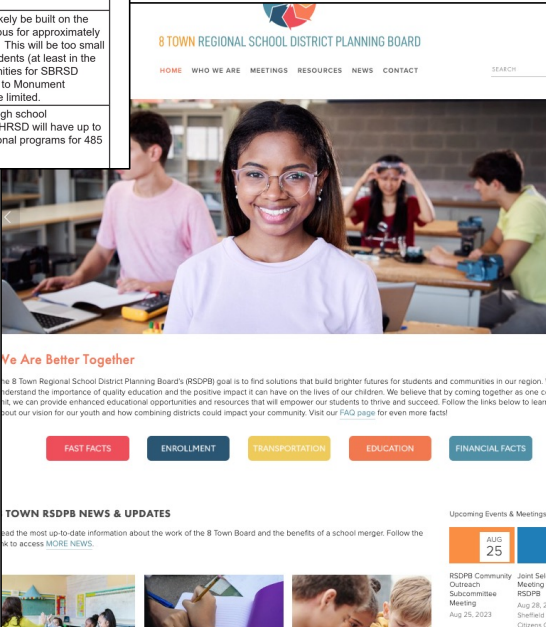
**Any MSBA incentives received, other than base aid and regional incentive aid, will be applied to reduce the cost to be apportioned to the Towns.*

TOWN	COST FOR AVERAGE HOME/YEAR	COST PER \$100,000 HOME VALUE
SHEFFIELD	\$32.79	\$9.05
NEW MARLBOROUGH	\$40.29	\$9.00
MONTEREY	\$47.73	\$8.13
EGREMONT	\$51.70	\$10.39
ALFORD	\$66.59	\$8.71
GREAT BARRINGTON	\$350.07	\$81.88
WEST STOCKBRIDGE	\$368.96	\$81.17
STOCKBRIDGE	\$476.69	\$81.30

Resources:

8towns.org

 Your VOTE. Your CHOICE.		
Topic	What Voting YES Would Mean	What Voting NO Would Mean
Number of Towns in the District	8 Towns join to form a new single regional district: the Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District.	5 towns in Southern Berkshire Regional District, 3 towns in Berkshire Hills Regional District. Districts remain separate and continue to compete for students and teachers.
Number of Students in the District	District (K-12): 1,680 combined 2022-23 1,280 projected by 2030	SBRSD: 568 (K-12) in 2023 403 projected by 2030 BHRSD: 1,112 (K-12) in 2023 877 projected by 2030
Elementary and Middle Schools	All existing elementary and middle schools remain as they are.	All existing elementary and middle schools remain as they are.
New High School	Grades 9-12 are combined at a new state-of-the-art high school to be built in Great Barrington for approximately 620 students.	New high school will likely be built on the Great Barrington campus for approximately 485 BHRSD students. This will be too small to hold Mt. Everett students (at least in the near future). Opportunities for SBRSD students to "choice in" to Monument Mountain may be more limited.
CVTE/Chapter 74 (Vocational) Offerings	Up to 6 robust Chapter 74 vocational programs will be available in the new high school to students in all 8 towns to prepare them for careers that lead to living (plus) wage opportunities in the region post-graduation.	A newly constructed high school (Monument) built by BHRSD will have up to 4-5 Chapter 74 vocational programs for 485 BHRSD students.



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We Are Better Together

The 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board's (RSDPB) goal is to find solutions that build brighter futures for students and communities in our region. We understand the importance of quality education and the positive impact it can have on the lives of our children. We believe that by coming together as one community, we can provide enhanced educational opportunities and resources that will empower our students to thrive and succeed. Follow the links below to learn about our vision for our youth and how combining districts could impact your community. Visit our [FAQ page](#) for even more facts!

[FAST FACTS](#) [ENROLLMENT](#) [TRANSPORTATION](#) [EDUCATION](#) [FINANCIAL FACTS](#)

TOWN RSDPB NEWS & UPDATES

Read the most up-to-date information about the work of the 8 Town Board and the benefits of a school merger. Follow the links to access [MORE NEWS](#).

Upcoming Events & Meetings

AUG 25

RSDPB Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting
Aug 25, 2023
Sheffield
Classroom 1

Joint Self-Meeting
RSDPB
Aug 28, 2023
Sheffield
Classroom 1



OUR SCHOOLS



BETTER TOGETHER

VISIT 8TOWNS.ORG FOR THE FACTS