

Frequently Asked Questions

Options

What are the Town’s Options?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stay at Minuteman 2. Withdraw from Minuteman <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Join another District b. Enter into an Inter-municipal agreement with another District c. Do not join another District – go it alone
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Option 1: Stay at Minuteman

<p>Question #1</p> <p>What is the financial impact of changing the formula for non-member Towns to pay a portion of the capital costs?</p>	<p>Answer</p> <p>The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has approved a capital fee assessment for students accepted by the District from non-member Towns.</p> <p>MM plans to assess a capital fee on non-member towns, which will reduce the burden on member Towns. Fees may vary depending on whether the student enters the Vocational school in the 9th or 10th grade. Guidelines will be issued by DESE within the next 6 months</p>										
<p>Question #2</p> <p>What are the current costs per pupil and the estimated costs per pupil including the cost of capital under the new amended agreement?</p>	<p>Answer</p> <p>FY2016 costs per pupil, are \$27,224 including transportation \$6,802 and capital costs of \$14,118. That figure could change based on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment during the transition period while the new building is under construction could move up or down • Enrollment could go down if member Towns seek to withdraw • Assumes non-member Towns will pay tuition plus a fee for capital estimated at \$8,121 <p>Estimated costs per pupil, including transportation and capital costs under the new amended agreement are with 10 member Towns</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Minimum required contribution</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$75,353</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Assessment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$41,568</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$11,742</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$82,422</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Per pupil cost</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$42,254</td> </tr> </table>	Minimum required contribution	\$75,353	Operating Assessment	\$41,568	Transportation	\$11,742	Capital	\$82,422	Per pupil cost	\$42,254
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Question #3

Can we estimate the number of students from the Jefferson at Beaver Brook building project who might apply to a Vocational Education school?

Answer

There is no way to accurately estimate the number of students who might avail themselves of a Vocational Education school. However, based on what we learned from the Avalon Development in Acton, we believe the impact on MM enrollment would be nominal.

Jefferson Beaver Brook

- 244 rental units
- 132 one BR units
- 106 two BR units
- 6 three BR units
- 61 affordable housing
- Builder estimated 45-50 students

Avalon Development Acton

- 296 rental units
- 60 affordable housing
- 136 students
- One student at MM

Options 2 (a) (b)

Withdraw from Minuteman and join another District **or** enter into an Inter-municipal agreement (IMA)

<p>Question #1 What Vocational schools did the committee consider and why?</p>	<p>Answer The committee considered schools in communities that closely mirrored Boxborough’s rural environment. That meant schools located in cities like Lawrence, Lowell and Worcester were not considered. Ultimately, the committee considered two schools within close proximity to Boxborough – namely Nashoba Valley Tech and Assabet Tech.</p>
<p>Question #2 What happens to Boxborough students enrolled at MM if the Town is allowed to withdraw? Would those students be guaranteed continued enrollment at MM until graduation?</p>	<p>Answer Yes, students enrolled at the time of withdrawal from MM would be allowed to complete their program at MM through graduation.</p>
<p>Question #3 If Boxborough applies to become a member town of Nashoba Valley Tech or Assabet Tech, would the Towns in the District have to vote to accept Boxborough into that District and would the new District have to amend their agreement?</p>	<p>Answer Yes to both questions. However, the Administration for Assabet has indicated that the Assabet SC is not accepting new <u>member towns</u>. However, Assabet will accept Boxborough students as long as they qualify for admission.</p>
<p>Question #4 What is the likelihood that we could enter into an inter-municipal agreement with either Assabet or Nashoba? Is there any advantage to doing so?</p>	<p>Answer Neither Assabet nor Nashoba have any inter-municipal agreements with any non-member Towns.</p> <p>The advantage would be to hold a specific number of slots open for Boxborough students, provided students qualify for admission.</p>
<p>Question #5 Would there be any upfront cost as a buy-in to join the District?</p>	<p>Answer Yes. The upfront cost to buy-in to a new District would be negotiated between the District and Boxborough. For example, when Ayer joined the Nashoba Valley Tech District, their buy-in cost to the District was \$550K.</p> <p>Ayer had been sending approximately 60 students to Nashoba for 10 years. Nashoba Valley gave Ayer “credit” for those 10 years.</p>

<p>Question #6</p> <p>Would Boxborough students be allowed to participate in the R.J. Grey Junior High Technology Program called “Grey Block” sponsored by MM if Boxborough is allowed to withdraw from the District?</p>	<p>Answer</p> <p>Yes.</p>
<p>Question #7</p> <p>Would there be an additional charge to Boxborough by ABRS for allowing our students to participate in the “Grey Block” program if Boxborough is no longer a member of the MM District?</p>	<p>Answer</p> <p>MM currently charges the Town \$29,221/year for the Middle School Assessment for Boxborough students.</p> <p>If Boxborough withdraws from MM, but our students continue to participate in the Middle School “Grey Block”, ABRS will charge Boxborough some fee for participation.</p>
<p>Question #8</p> <p>Is either Nashoba Valley or Assabet considering any new construction or building rehab?</p>	<p>Answer</p> <p>Nashoba did a capital project in 2004 to rehab the existing building. They have no plans to build a new building. Nashoba has a capital plan to ensure their infrastructure is regularly maintained.</p> <p>Assabet completed a 3 year capital project in October 2015. Assabet has a capital plan to ensure their infrastructure is regularly maintained.</p>

Option 2 (c): Withdraw from MM. Do not join another District

<p><u>Question #1</u> Who would provide <u>oversite</u> of Vocational Education if the Town is not a part of a Vocational Education District?</p>	<p><u>Answer</u> The responsibility falls with the Selectmen. However, the Selectman could appoint a committee to provide oversite.</p>
<p><u>Question #2</u> Would the Town have to hire additional staff to provide administrative support to Boxborough families contemplating sending a student to a Vocational Technology school?</p>	<p><u>Answer</u> Students would continue to receive guidance and counseling at R.J. Grey. The Town would be responsible for notifying parents and students of a “preferred” technical school and managing the transportation of students to the Vocational Education School. We do not anticipate the need to hire additional staff.</p>
<p><u>Question #3</u> If Boxborough is no longer a part of the MM District, can Boxborough students apply to any Vocational Education school in the Commonwealth?</p>	<p><u>Answer</u> Yes, however the Town may designate a “preferred” vocational school, provided that “clear and timely” notice is given to students and their families “well in advance” of the application process.</p>
<p><u>Question #4</u> If Boxborough designates a “preferred” vocational school, and the school does not offer a specific program, can the student apply to a different vocational school that offers the program?</p>	<p><u>Answer</u> Yes.</p>
<p><u>Question #5</u> How do Vocational schools make their decisions about admissions?</p>	<p><u>Answer</u> Most Vocational Education schools consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic achievement/grades • Attendance • Recommendation from RJ Grey • Discipline record • Personal interview <p>In-District students get preference over out of District students when both are equally qualified.</p>

<p>Question #6 Do in-District students get preference in selecting a program over out-of-District students?</p>	<p>Answer Once a student has been accepted at either Nashoba or Assabet, they are treated the same for program selection.</p> <p>Nashoba indicated that they have not had a problem placing all out-of-District students in their preferred program.</p>												
<p>Question #7 What is the cost of Vocational Education for an out-of-District student?</p>	<p>Answer DESE determines the tuition for out-of-District students. Additionally, the Town pays the per pupil share of capital, plus transportation plus SPED services required.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="776 695 1430 768"> <tr> <td>Nashoba Valley</td> <td>\$15,000 + transportation + SPED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assabet</td> <td>\$16,587 + transportation + SPED</td> </tr> </table> <p>Neither Nashoba nor Assabet have any plans to charge out-of-District Towns for the cost of capital.</p>	Nashoba Valley	\$15,000 + transportation + SPED	Assabet	\$16,587 + transportation + SPED								
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<p>Question #8 How would Boxborough arrange for transportation?</p>	<p>Answer We would either:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="776 1020 1430 1167"> <tr> <td>Option 1</td> <td>Purchase & operate a used or new van</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Option 2</td> <td>Outsource</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Option 3</td> <td>Piggy back with another town(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Option 4</td> <td>Reimburse parents for mileage</td> </tr> </table>	Option 1	Purchase & operate a used or new van	Option 2	Outsource	Option 3	Piggy back with another town(s)	Option 4	Reimburse parents for mileage				
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<p>Question #9 What is the cost of transportation?</p>	<p>Answer The State typically reimburses Regional School Districts the cost of transportation currently estimated at 60%.</p> <p>If the Town is not a member of a Regional School District, the Town pays all transportation costs. There is no reimbursement by the state. The Board of Selectmen would have to manage the transportation process. Cost estimates are based on a <u>per school basis</u>.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="776 1560 1430 1850"> <tr> <td>Option 1</td> <td>Purchase & operate used van</td> <td>\$25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Option 2</td> <td>Outsource</td> <td>\$36,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Option 3</td> <td>Piggy back w/ another Town</td> <td><\$36,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Option 4</td> <td>Reimburse parents for mileage</td> <td>\$2,643/student</td> </tr> </table>	Option 1	Purchase & operate used van	\$25,000	Option 2	Outsource	\$36,000	Option 3	Piggy back w/ another Town	<\$36,000	Option 4	Reimburse parents for mileage	\$2,643/student
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Question # 10

What if parents could not drive their children to school because of work schedules or because the parents did not have access to a car?

Answer

The Town would have to contract with a bus company or purchase a van to transport students.

Revised 02/04/2016