

An Alternative Organizational Structure...

... Is an agreement among towns to share a superintendent office but keeps decisions in the hands of each town's school committee;

... is an agreement to reduce costs by sharing other personnel and services such as a Special Education Director, a Business Manager, a transportation coordinator, or a curriculum director;

... is a way to give each town's Town Meeting (and town government and school committee) the final say in raising a budget for its public schools;

... is an agreement to reduce costs in any and all possible ways, such as bulk purchasing of heating fuel, classroom materials, furniture, food service supplies and equipment;

... is a way to keep schools listening to their towns and for parents and citizens to be active participants in their own schools.

An AOS Plan (the "Reorganization Plan") must....

1. ensure consolidation of system administration;
2. consolidation of special education administration, transportation administration, and the administration of business functions;
3. include the adoption of a core curriculum and standardized assessment procedures;
4. include the adoption of consistent school policies and school calendars;
5. include the adoption of consistent collective bargaining agreements (separate CBA's are allowed).
6. include Interlocal Agreements among the towns describing the arrangements for financial transactions, governance, dissolution, and the like.

Developing an AOS Reorganization Plan (and Interlocal Agreements):

Gordon has talked with Jennifer Pooler at MDOE and with several AOS superintendents and has copies of approved AOS Plans. Jennifer recommended that we consult these for direction. The structure required by MDOE has two parts: the Reorganization Plan and the Interlocal Agreements

Structure of the Reorganization Plan

1. Units (towns) to be included.
2. Size, Composition and Apportionment of Governing Body
3. Method of Voting of Governing Body
4. Composition, Powers and Duties of Local School Boards
5. Disposition of Real and Personal School Property
6. Disposition of Existing School Indebtedness and Leas/Purchase Agreements
7. Assignment of School Personnel Contracts, School Collective Bargaining Agreements and other School Contractual Obligations
8. Disposition of Existing School Funds and Existing Financial Obligations, Including Undesignated Fund Balances, Trust Funds, Reserve Funds, and other Funds Appropriated for School Purposes
9. A Transition Plan that addresses the Development of a Budget for the First School Year of the Reorganized Unit and Internal Personnel Policies
10. Reorganization Planning Committee Meetings are Public (list of meetings; attach agendas and minutes)
11. An Explanation of How Units that Approve the Reorganization Plan will proceed if One or More of the Proposed Members of the Regional School Unit Fail to Approve the Plan.
12. Estimate of the Cost Savings to be Achieved by the Formation of a Regional School Unit and how these savings will be achieved.
13. Other Matters Determined to be Necessary
(such as curriculum; instruction; assessment; management approaches)

Structure of the Interlocal Agreement

1. Purpose
2. Reorganization Plan
3. Creation of Legal and Administrative Agency

4. AOS School Board
5. Member School Units
6. Powers, Authority and Responsibility (of AOS system office and Board)
7. Other Educational Improvements and Cost Savings
8. Budget Adoption Procedure
9. Cost Sharing of AOS Budget
10. Distribution of State Subsidy
11. Real Estate and Personal Property
12. School Closing
13. Duration
14. Termination of Participation of Member School Unit
15. Withdrawal of Member School Unit
16. Termination of Interlocal Agreement
17. Amendment of Interlocal Agreement
18. Joinder of Additional Members School Units
19. Conditions of Approval
20. Filing of Agreement
21. Miscellaneous Provisions