

In light of recent public comments by the Superintendent of the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School District regarding the initiation of a district wide ballot initiative to support a school building project, the Arlington Board of Selectmen hereby adopts the following position statement:

- 1) The Arlington Board of Selectmen has long supported vocational and technical academic opportunities in partnership with the Minuteman School District.
- 2) Representatives of Arlington's Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and other Town officials have worked tirelessly for the past several years to revise the regional agreement to allow for a collaborative approach to approving a school building project, including assisting in the development of a proposed revised agreement, which was approved by the 2014 Arlington Town Meeting, as well as 9 other Minuteman member communities
- 3) These Representatives remain committed to a collaborative process focused on a revised agreement that will augment district sustainability and equity.
- 4) Based upon this, the Arlington Board of Selectmen is steadfastly opposed to the Minuteman School Committee pursuing the initiation of the district wide ballot initiative regarding the proposed school building project. Pursuing such a path is not compatible with a collaborative process and undermines trust between Town leadership and the leadership of the regional school district.
- 5) The Arlington Board of Selectmen does not believe that an adequate analysis and resulting methodology has been offered to support the 628 student school enrollment figure the Minuteman School Committee has approved for submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA").
- 6) The Arlington Board of Selectmen does not currently support the proposed building project as the conditions outlined by both the Board and the Finance Committee in 2012 have not been met. These conditions are as follows:
 - Amend the MSBA statute to allow for a greater reimbursement for the Minuteman project. This may come in the form of a change in the formula that recognizes the higher costs of building a vocational school, a change in the formula that recognizes the demographics of all enrollees in the school, not just the member town enrollees, or a change that allows for 100% capital reimbursement for non-member students. Arlington is also interested in the possibility of a non-MSBA state appropriation that could be directed to the project.
 - Make the following changes to the regional agreement:
 - A. Adopt a Capital Apportionment Model that provides a fair share of the project be paid by Arlington. That model might include a common share, wealth factors described in the DESE "Combined Effort", and enrollment; use of other funding sources; or other creative solutions.
 - B. Adoption/Voting Formula – A change to the regional agreement that would require Minuteman's annual operating budget to be approved by 11 town legislative bodies that represent at least two-thirds of the in-district enrollment.
 - C. Exit Provision – A change to the regional agreement that would allow for member communities to exit the district without unanimous consent of all member communities. This proposed provision would require any member community interested in exiting to pay capital costs for a pre-determined amount of time after their exit.

