



**Town of Arlington
Office of the Town Manager**

**Adam W. Chapdelaine
Town Manager**

**730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington MA 02476-4908
Phone (781) 316-3010
Fax (781) 316-3019
E-mail: achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us
Website: www.arlingtonma.gov**

Memorandum

To: Town Managers/Administrators in Minuteman Regional School District

From: Adam W. Chapdelaine, Arlington Town Manager

Re: Arlington Position on Minuteman School Building Project

Date: September 6, 2012

In an effort to communicate Arlington's position on the Minuteman School building project, I would like to provide the following information to the Town Managers/Administrators in the Minuteman Regional School District prior to our meeting on September 10th.

The Arlington Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee have taken the position that the Minuteman School Building Committee should complete the work as defined in Modules 3 and 4, Feasibility Study and Schematic Design, of the school rebuild/renovation project. This work will provide needed details on the scope and cost of any proposed project.

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee have also recognized that no movement on any subsequent Warrant Article in any member town can be made until such time the Final Schematic Design is determined. Arlington's position has been that the feasibility Study must go forward at this time to understand the financial impact of a potential project on Arlington and other member towns in the district.

However, The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee of Arlington have taken the position that they will not support the Minuteman Regional District moving into Module 5 as described in the MSBA Process, unless revisions to the district agreement have been adopted by the region and funding issues have been resolved. Specifically, Arlington will not support the project moving forward beyond Module 4 without action on the following items:

- 1) 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.

2) 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.

Arlington is committed to working with the member communities to make this project successful. We also acknowledge all of the effort that has already been put forth by the Regional Agreement Task Force, the Town Manager/Administrator group, the Superintendent and the School Committee.

I look forward to our discussion on September 10th.