

# Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

**HWRSD School Committee 23-24:**

**Michal Boudreau, Chair**  
**Sean Kennedy, Vice Chair**  
**Lisa Murray, Secretary**  
**William Bontempi**  
**Sherrill Caruana**  
**Richard Rediker**  
**Michael Tirabassi**

**John A. Provost, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent of Schools**  
**621 Main Street**  
**Wilbraham, MA 01095**  
**413-596-3804**

Dear Town Residents:

We are writing to invite you to a **community forum on district reorganization** to be held from **6:30 to 8:30 on February 15th in the Minnechaug Auditorium**. Babysitting services will be provided by members of the National Honor Society and Student Council. After studying this issue for more than a year, the Planning Committee and School Committee have narrowed the potential reorganization options to just the two shown below. Before taking the final votes needed to move forward with the reorganization, the School Committee would like to hear from faculty, staff, families, and other interested parties who would like to share their opinions concerning these options. While evaluating many potential redistricting options, the Committees were guided by five goals that surfaced these two options as the most viable one for the future of our district. These goals were to improve the quality of education in the district, eliminate overcrowding, reduce student transitions, maximize the use of available space within the schools, and exercise fiscal responsibility. Videos and documentation of all Planning Committee meetings are available on the District Website:

<https://www.hwrsd.org/>

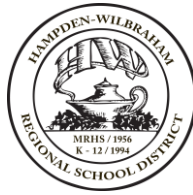
**District Reorganization Options**

Option	Mile Tree	Green Meadows	Stony Hill	Soule Road	TWB	WMS	MRHS
1	K-1	PreK-5	2-3	4-5	closed	6-7	8-12
2	K-1	PreK-5	2-5 (three per grade)	2-5 (four per grade)	closed	6-7	8-12



**Key Difference**

The key difference between the two options is whether Stony Hill and Soule Road should continue to serve grades 2-3 and 4-5, respectively or change to a 2-5 configuration.



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### **Important Potential Changes to the Regional Agreement**

The current Regional Agreement requires students in grades K-8 to be educated in their hometowns. In recent years, this has become a barrier to the optimum organization and allocation of resources. The School Committee is proposing changing the Regional Agreement to unite the District as a whole, and permit students in any grade to be educated anywhere within the district. This integrated approach would allow the District to design services based upon the needs of students rather than on political boundaries.

The current Regional Agreement allows students to be educated in other schools within the district when requested by the parent or guardian and approved by the School Committee. This has created situations in which some resources have been over stretched while others have been underutilized. To resolve this problem, the Committee is proposing substantially revising or eliminating the within-district transfer process.

### **Next Steps**

Implementing either of these plans will require changing the *District Regional Agreement*. After the School Committee approves a revised version of the *Agreement*, it will go before the voters of both towns for approval at their town meetings. The School Committee would like this to happen at the 2024 Annual Town Meetings. If the towns approve the revised agreement, it will go to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education for final approval.

Given all that needs to be done to implement a reorganization of this nature, there will be **no changes for the 2024-25 school year**. Should this plan be approved by the Committee, the towns, and the Commissioner this spring, next school year would be spent preparing for **implementation during the 2025-26 school year**.

**This may be your last opportunity to share your thoughts about district reorganization before the School Committee votes.** If there is anything you would like the members to consider before they cast their votes, we would encourage you to attend this important meeting.

Sincerely,

Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee