

To: Board of Selectmen, Town Manager
From: Dan Matthews, Selectman
Re: Minuteman Regional School District Agreement - Proposed Resolution
Date: April 4, 2014

In working on ratification of the proposed revised Minuteman Regional School District Agreement, it has become apparent that some towns considering *approving the new agreement* in order to be able to *withdraw from the district* are concerned that once the agreement is approved, other towns may object to their withdrawal.

Under the new agreement, blocking a withdrawal would require an affirmative “no” vote by each of eight town meetings (half of the district members). Although boards of selectmen cannot bind their town meetings, the board as warrant committee could decline to put such an article in the warrant unless required by law, as in a citizens petition, and could commit to oppose a blocking vote in any case.

As background, in drafting the new agreement, the municipal representatives on the Agreement Study recommended that towns have a *unilateral* right to withdraw from the district (subject to reasonable notice and payment of outstanding capital shares). Waiving exercise of the blocking provisions in this instance would allay community concerns in the ratification process.

In that context, this is to recommend that the boards of selectmen of each of the member towns, including those considering withdrawing from the district, consider voting a resolution in substantially the following form:

Resolved: That in the event of ratification of the revised the Minuteman Regional Vocational School District agreement as approved by the Regional School Committee on March 11, 2014, and in the event of notice of desire to withdraw by one or more members of the District given within one year of the effective date of the revised Agreement, the Board of Selectmen will not place a warrant article disapproving such withdrawal in a Town Meeting warrant, unless required by law, and will oppose such a disapproval article or motion in any event.