


PHASE II SUSTAINABILITY STUDY

Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont regional school districts

Introductions



AGENDA

- 
- Charge and Problem
 - Update of Ongoing work
 - Steering Committee
 - Advisory Teams
 - Community Outreach
 - Educational Indicators/quality
 - Feedback questions



CHARGE

Support ongoing study and analysis of the operating and organizational structures of the two Regional School Districts



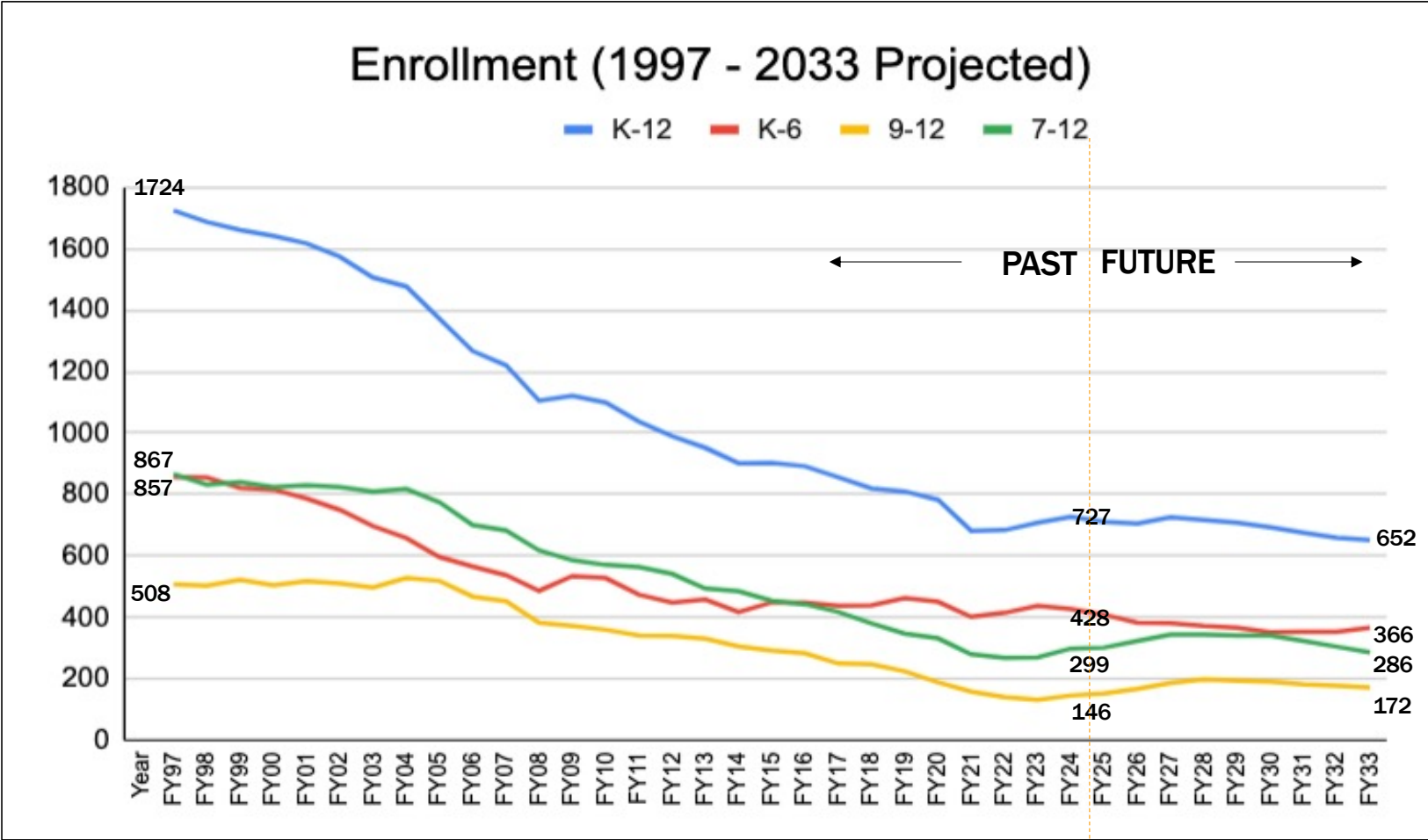
THE PROBLEM

Our region, like many rural areas across the northeast, faces educational and fiscal challenges associated with:

- declining enrollment,
- rising operational costs,
- relatively flat state aid, and
- increasing needs of our student body.

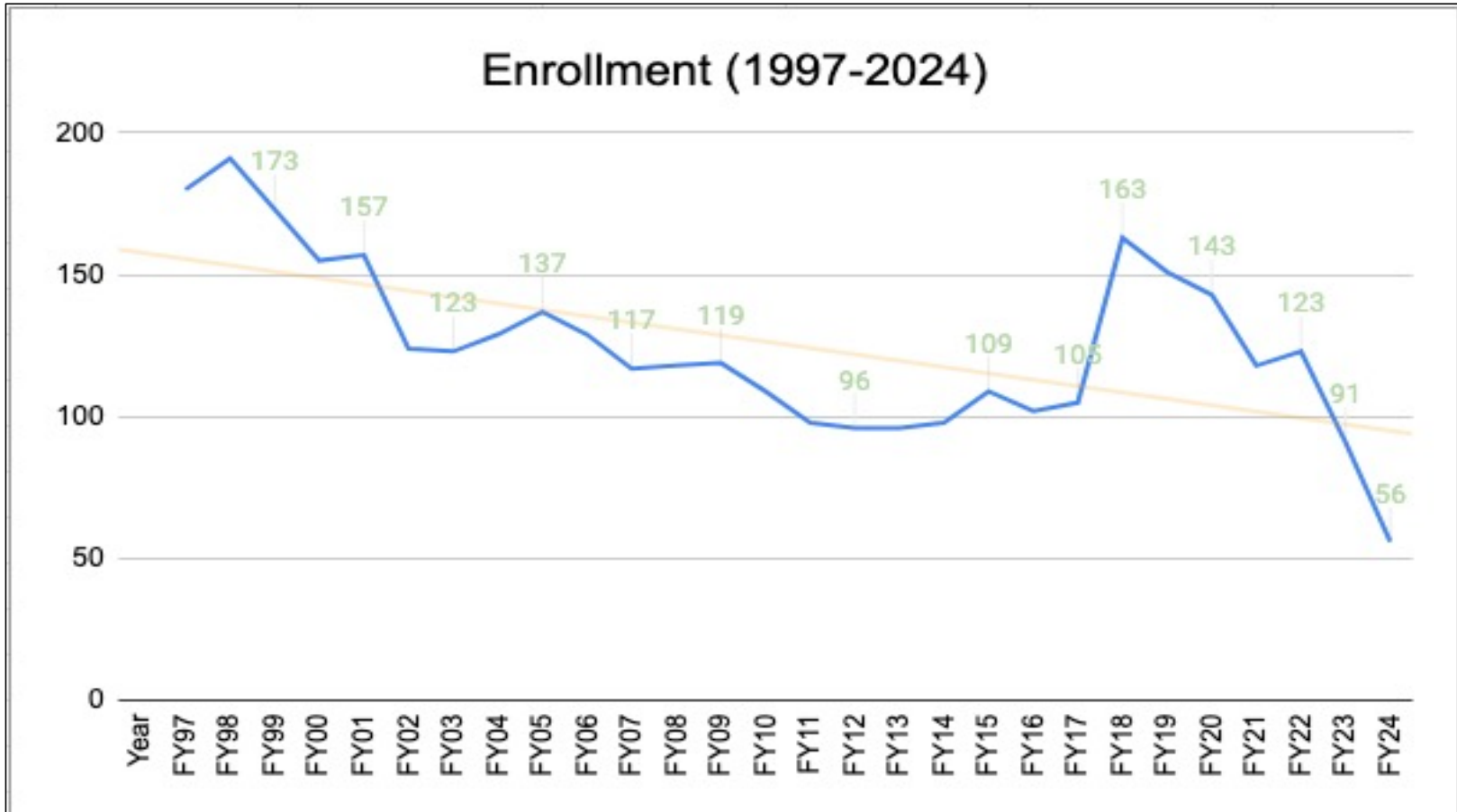
We must continue to explore options and opportunities - in light of these challenges - to ensure our students receive a **high-quality set of educational experiences** (academics, co-curricular, services and supports) they need to ensure success in college, career and life.

MOHAWK TRAIL RSD

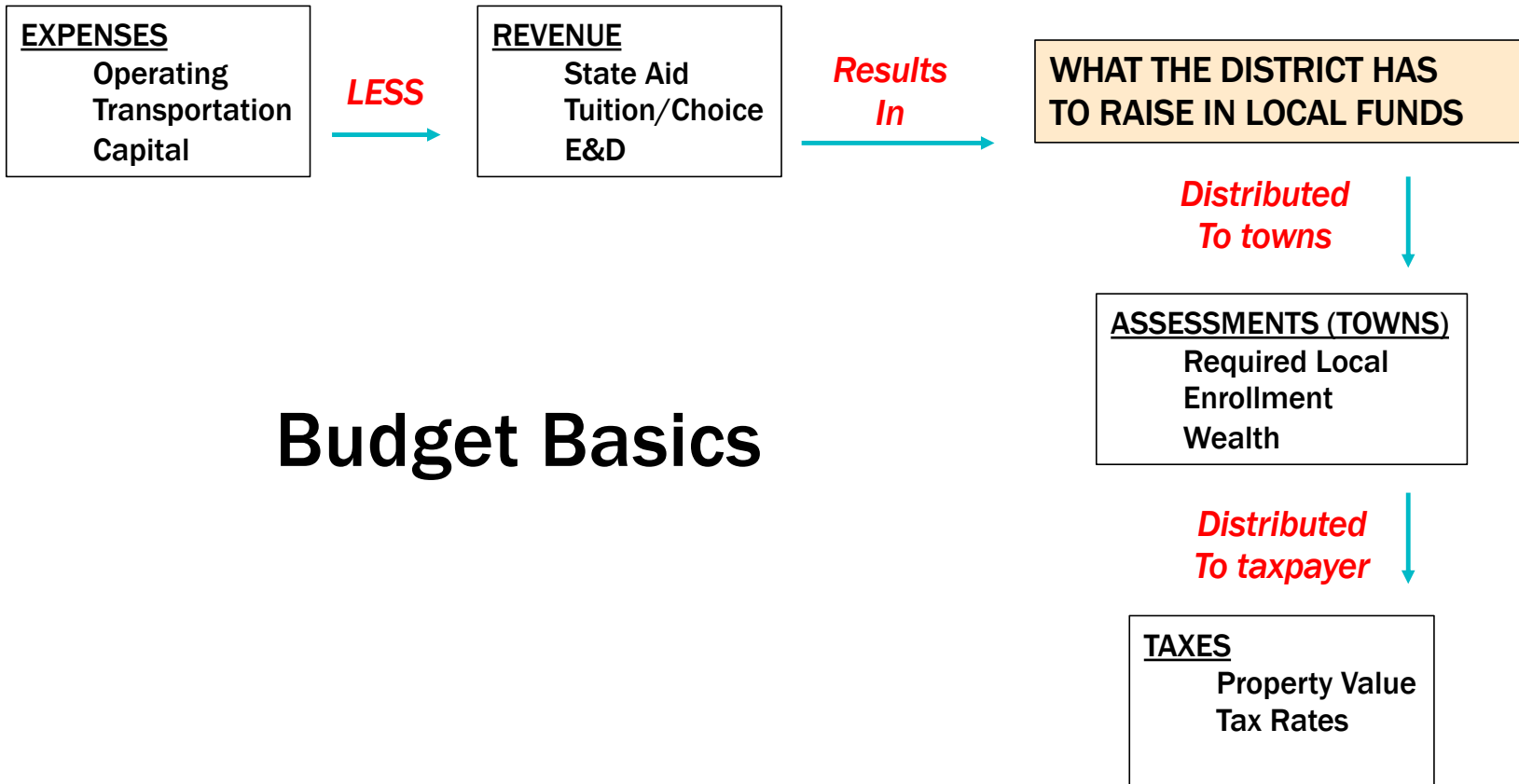


SOURCE: DESE, MARS/NESDEC

HAWLEMONT RSD

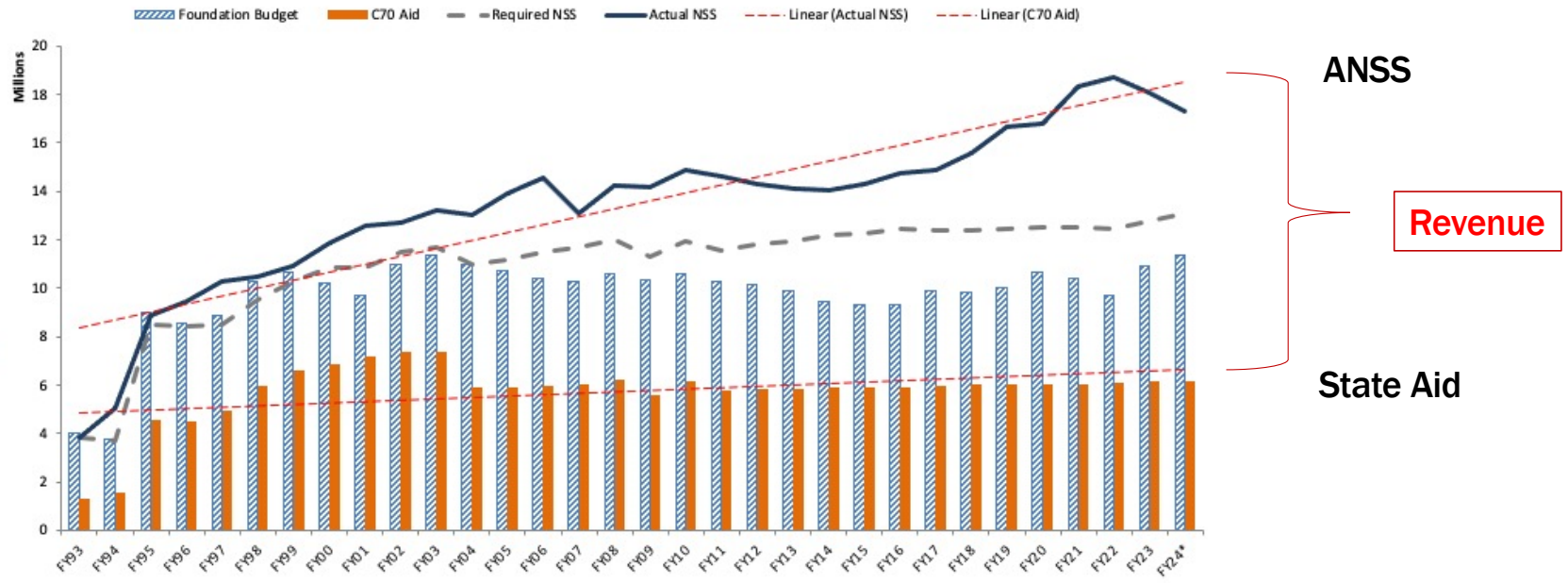


SOURCE: DESE

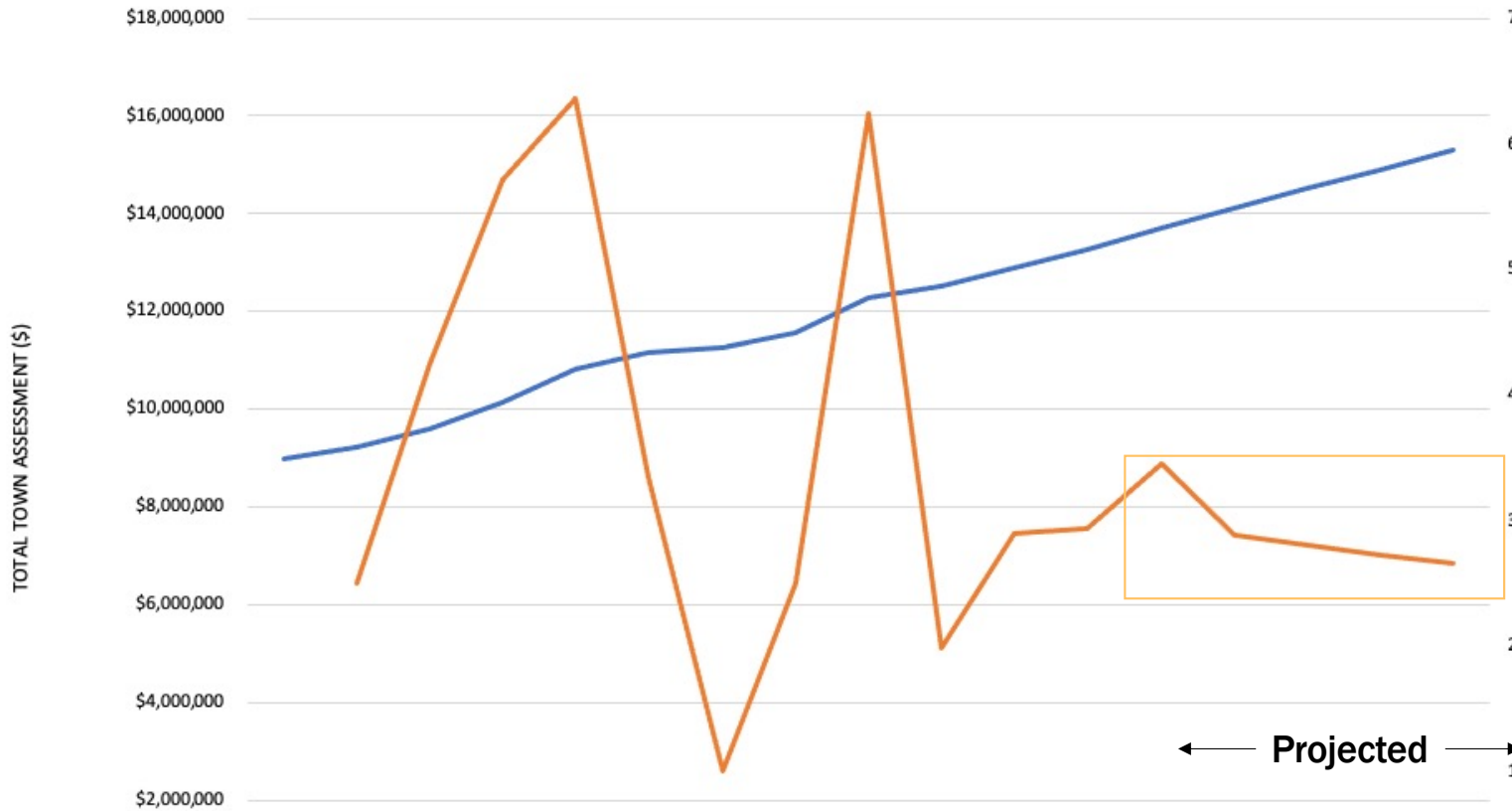


Budget Basics

0717 Mohawk Trail



**TOTAL TOWN ASSESSMENTS (FY13-FY29)
TOTAL/% CHANGE**



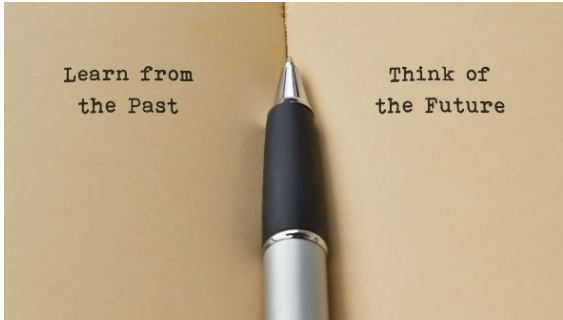
% Change 24-25 (All*)

- Ashfield: 7.41%
- Buckland: 4.34%
- Charlemont: 5.58%
- Colrain: 6.03%
- Heath: -0.02%
- Hawley: 19.09%
- Plainfield: 4.28%
- Shelburne: 5.19%

Total: 5.34%

*Operating+Transport+Capital

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
Total Town Assessments	\$8,988,4	\$9,213,1	\$9,604,	\$10,153	\$10,799	\$11,161	\$11,273	\$11,555	\$12,276	\$12,519	\$12,883	\$13,261	\$13,718	\$14,115	\$14,512	\$14,908	\$15,305
% Change		2.50	4.25	5.72	6.36	3.35	1.01	2.50	6.24	1.98	2.90	2.94	3.45	2.89	2.81	2.73	2.66



BUILDING UPON PRIOR WORK.

- Interim Planning Committee (2007)
- Potomac Reports (2013)
- Long Range Planning Committee (2015)
- BEST Study (2016/2017)
- Jetzon Data Presentation (2022)
- Phase I: MARS (2023)

MANY IDEAS TO BUILD UPON

Mohawk Trail Regional
School District



Data Collection
(current and projected)



Enrollment
Fiscal conditions
Educational programming
Building infrastructure

Long-term sustainability plan (obstacles, observations, options)....**foundation for developing specific strategies** to make the district sustainable.

OUR PLAN.

CONTEXT

Stage 1. Process Organization, Context Setting, Community Engagement (A)
Target dates: January 1, 2024 through May 1, 2024

OPTIONS

Stage 2. Deep Data Dive & Analysis, Option Generation
Target dates: May 1, 2024 through August 1, 2024

MODELING

Stage 3. Preferred Models, Community Engagement (B), Final Report/Next Steps
Target dates: August 1, 2024 through January 15, 2025

Final Report Delivery: SPRING, 2025



Future Town Actions



PROGRESS

PROGRESS	TASK
Done, ongoing adjustment	Project Planning: Work with the leadership team/committee to define the work plan, priorities, any remaining questions, consulting team, and schedule.
Done, ongoing processing	Administration. Establish budget, invoicing/accounting processes, contracts and processes for subcontractors.
Done, launching	Committee: Identify/Recruit/Establish membership and subcommittee structure, if any. Hold meetings to orient and launch.
Done, ongoing content	Website: Draft website framework for review. Website: By close of Stage 1, launch a website and establish social media (FB/IG) presence. Curate mailing lists and mechanisms for public submissions.
Done	Tours/Visits (2 days): Site visits to schools, district offices, facilities - initial meetings with administration & staff.
In progress (80%)	Key Stakeholders: Following site visits, schedule meetings with established groups such as staff, PAC/School Council, union leads, select boards/finance committees. Use question protocol to collect perspectives, early thoughts/ideas, aspirations/opportunities, challenges, and non-negotiables.
To be developed, May-June	Community Survey: Develop a choice and community survey to be distributed electronically through school/community listservs. Aggregate data.
Done, ongoing	Develop communications plan: In concert with PM and Committee, draft a communications plan for 12 months forward, by the close of Stage 1.
Done, ongoing	Press/Update: Jointly develop press release/updates to send to stakeholders as part of monthly outreach.
First meeting, more to be had	Delegates: Meet with the local delegation to review aims of the Study, seek input and support, and build a foundation for advocacy.
In progress, target for May/June	Historical review: Complete a review of collaboration/regionalization/sustainability studies in the district, include recent and relevant literature as relates to rural districts and parallel sustainability efforts (mergers, collaboration, regionalization).
Mostly done, still bumping into additional resources	Review completed reports: Carefully review and synthesize the most recent district studies including MARS Phase I, BEST, and Jetzon Data, etc. Present synthesis to Committee.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enrollment, draft 2. Finance baseline, draft 3. Ed Quality, visits launched 4. Personnel, lists organized 5. Buildings, in planning 6. RA analysis, about done 	<p>Using specialized consultants, organize and launch a process to begin a deep dive into a number of functional domains with the aim of establishing a deep understanding of the current state of the district. In doing so, options explored in Stage 2 & 3 can be evaluated for impact (the value proposition) within each domain. Note: a particular emphasis will be placed on finance, educational indicators, and buildings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enrollment. Review NESDEC, update enrollment projections independently, examine student flow (choice/tuition). 2. Educational Quality. Use school/district review protocol when meeting with key district leaders, reviewing plans, examining outcomes, cataloging programs, services and supports, student activities, specialized programming (special education, ELL, alternative education, career education), etc. 3. Finance & Operations. Build a model for budget projections (revenue and expenses for both operating and capital based on actuals) that can be manipulated based on varying options, examine select operational systems (facilities, food, technology) as time/funds allow. 4. Personnel. Establish clarity of organizational charting, roles/responsibilities, assignments (load), longevity, salary/benefits, etc. 5. Buildings. Advance MARS work in clarifying physical plant needs, capacity, appropriateness of educational spaces. 6. Contracts/Agreements. As is useful towards understanding the present and future state of the district, review contracts and regional agreement to establish key considerations.

STEERING COMMITTEE LAUNCHED ON FEBRUARY 3

Thought partners

Review/critique/enhance deliverables

Evaluate (Options and opportunities)

Communication (to-from) and advocacy

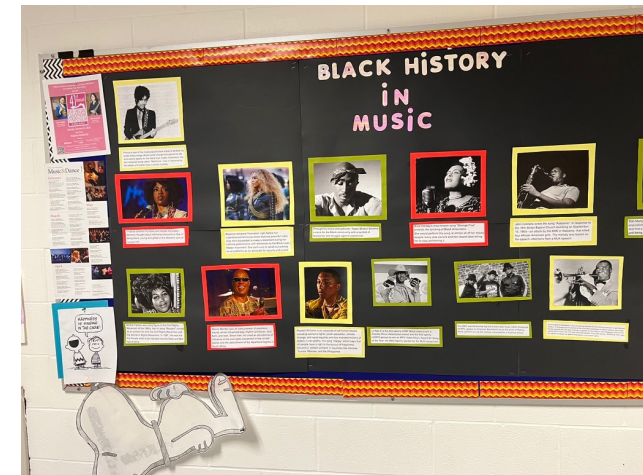
Four meetings held; next meeting 5/16, 5:30p



STEERING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Greg Lilly, Ashfield, District Athletic Director
Paula Consolo, Buckland, Finance Committee
Jenny Van Wyk, Colrain, Parent and Educator
Lindsey Sall, Charlemont, Parent
Ellen Purinton, Hawley, Community Member
Elizabeth Finn, Heath, Parent
Judy Cole, Plainfield, Select Board
Paul Hollings, Shelburne, Community Member
Robin Pease, Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Director of Facilities and Transportation
Kristen Tilona-Baker, Executive Director, Mary Lyon Foundation
Sheryl Stanton, Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Superintendent of Schools
Martha Thurber, Chair, Mohawk Trail School Committee
Elizabeth Van Iderstine, Chair, Hawlemont School Committee



ADVISORY TEAMS

Sign up if interested

Community
Outreach

Publicity
Engaging the community
Social media, website
Surveys

Finance

School costs
Financial models
Town contributions

Educational
Quality

Academics
Vocational education
School activities

Facilities

Buildings and grounds
Maintenance
Operations

ADVISORY TEAM



2Districts8Towns

HOME WHO WE ARE RESOURCES CONTACT

SEARCH

Interested?



2 DISTRICTS, 8 TOWNS SUSTAINABILITY STUDY



News from Our Team

- **ADVISORY TEAMS.** The **2D8T Steering Committee** will be assembling advisory teams in the areas of Community Outreach, Educational Quality, and Finance. If you are interested in learning more and providing feedback on these topics... drop us a note [HERE](#).

OUR CHARGE.

To support ongoing study and analysis of the operating and organizational structures of the two Regional School Districts: Mohawk Trail & Hawlemont

EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS/ QUALITY

Educational Indicators,
5 year historical

Classroom observations at each
school

Teacher focus groups

Springpoint classroom visit tool

Educational Quality report
completed by the end of June

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Meetings with town managers, legislative delegation

Meetings with school committees, school staff

Meetings with all eight select boards/finance comm.

2nd update send out earlier this month

Community Outreach Advisory Team met

Table at Celebration of Learning

2 more school community engagement sessions

Website and social media

Choice Survey in draft form; community survey to come

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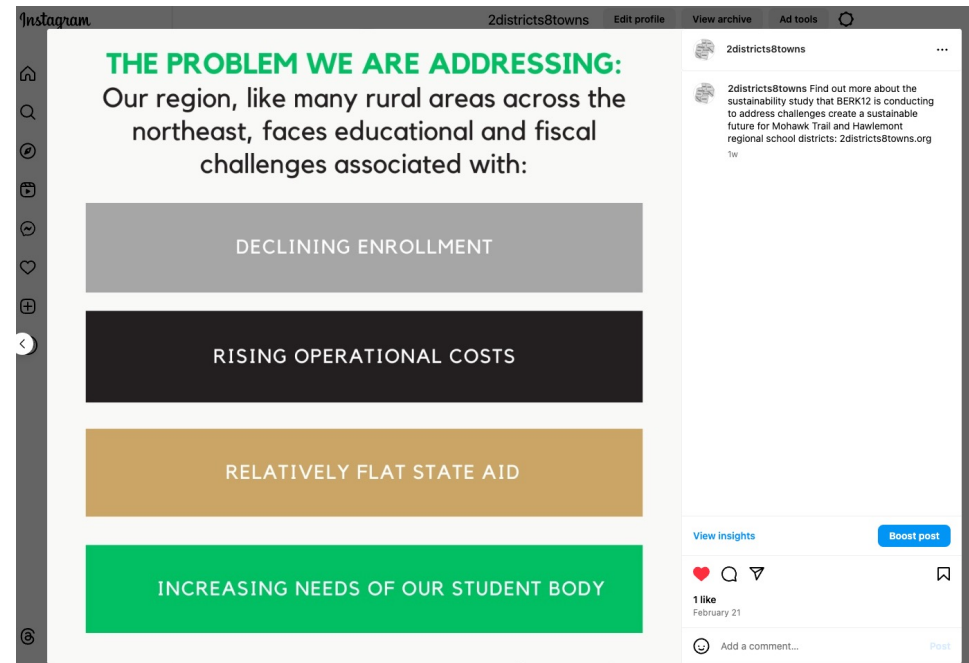
**2 DISTRICTS, 8 TOWNS
SUSTAINABILITY STUDY**



[News from Our Team](#)

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

2DISTRICTS8TOWNS



SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Please
spread the
word!

School	Dates, times
Buckland Shelburne Elementary	March 11, 6-7:15 pm, cafeteria, with Zoom option
Colrain Central School	April 9, 6-7:15 pm, cafeteria, with Zoom option
Sanderson Academy	April 11, 6-7:15 pm, all virtual on Zoom
Mohawk Trail Regional School	April 24, 6-7:15 pm, superintendents' conference room with Zoom option
Hawlemont Elementary	April 25, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, cafeteria, with Zoom option, dinner and childcare to be provided



YOUR INPUT MATTERS.

FEEDBACK QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on question
2. Brief discussion – 5 minutes
3. Those on Zoom raise hand to speak or write comments in chat box

5 Questions, 2 Closing Prompts



YOUR FEEDBACK: Q1

1. What are the strengths of the districts and/or schools?

- what the districts and schools do well
- what you highly value and appreciate

YOUR FEEDBACK: Q2

2. What are the challenges and/or weaknesses of the districts/schools?

- tension points
- gaps
- things you'd like to change/improve

YOUR FEEDBACK: Q3

3. What would you protect at all costs and could not do without (your non-negotiables)?

YOUR FEEDBACK: Q4

4. **What options and potential solutions should be considered to build upon the district's/school's strengths while addressing challenges and gaps?**

YOUR FEEDBACK: Q5

5. What is your vision for the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont districts in 10 years?

QUESTIONS

- **What questions do you have now or would you like us to address in the future?**
- **Is there anything else we should know?**

CONTACT

2Districts8Towns.org

Jakeeberwein@gmail.com

413.329.4336

msnash3@gmail.com

413.822.6356