

February 1, 2013

Special Informational Meeting

February 11, 2013 at 6pm at Townshend Elementary School

To the Town of Townshend Voters:

The Townshend School Board and representatives from the Voluntary Regional Education District (RED) Study Committee will meet at the Townshend Elementary School on February 11, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. to discuss and answer questions concerning the proposed creation of a new Regional Education District for grades pre-K-12 within the Windham Central Supervisory Union.

In 2010 the State Legislature passed Act 153 requiring all school boards in the State to explore mergers with other districts within the Supervisory Union. The school boards of Jamaica, Brookline, Newfane, Townshend, Windham and Leland and Gray agreed to establish the Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee to evaluate the pros and cons of such a merger. After nearly two years of intense discussions, the RED Study Committee has created a draft report — “The Voluntary Regional Education District Study Committee Report of January 17, 2013.” The report opens with “Articles of Agreement” followed by “Student Opportunities and Cost Benefit Analysis”. If approved by the Committee, the report will be submitted to the State Board of Education.

The report is available at: <http://www.windhamcentralboard.org/home/r-e-d-committee>

The next RED Study Committee meeting will be on February 27, 2013 at 7pm at L&GUHS.

Key objectives for the creation of the proposed Regional Education District:

1. Improve student opportunities and outcomes.
2. Expand co-curricular activities.
3. Common curriculum that would smooth transition to 7th Grade.
4. Creative use of personnel.
5. Open up flexibility in enrollment.
6. Unified approach to technology.
7. Consistent policies and procedures.
8. A single governance structure would create efficiencies and savings.
9. Take advantage of short-term State tax relief for towns involved in the new District.
10. Construct a new school for the students of Jamaica and Townshend.

Townshend School Board

Chair – April Chase

Clerk – Brian Schmidt

Member – Beth Cutts

Vice-Chair – Al Claussen

Member – Kimberly Liebow