

**Consolidation Study Expectations - Yarmouth School Committee
Regionalization/Consolidation/Shared Services Study
Key Questions to Answer**

Overall:

Vendor expected to maximize objectivity of the study.

Scope is limited to those school departments participating in study and not expected to address issues and opportunities statewide (which could be very different than for our communities)

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. No negative impact
2. Broader course, subject matter and/or depth of offering (i.e. what can be accomplished together which cannot be practically accomplished alone)
3. Improved performance as a result of No. 2

Organizational Efficiencies

- Elimination of truly redundant and transferable services without a loss of substantive quality.
- Sharing of information/resources in a way that will result in more efficient, yet still independent delivery of services
- For other school districts which have consolidated – and which could reasonably be considered “comparable” to the school districts sponsoring this study -- what has the impact been to culture and what should be expected for Yarmouth specifically?

Financial Improvements:

- Spend less money, but don't harm our mission.
- What are the practical, realistic savings initially and longer term?
- When joining another school district, who assumes responsibility for what debt? How do costs for capital improvements, due to growth or other factors, get shared by municipality?

Governance Structure:

- None or at least an imperceptible change.
- The question suggests that there is something wrong with the current governance structure that I am "hoping" will be changed as a result of the study.
- My take is really that, unless you can show me that changing the governance structure will result in savings without impacting service, I am not hoping for any such change.
- With a proposal to reduce to 35 school districts in the state of Maine, I'd like the study to report on the REAL costs and benefits if this proposal was adopted for Yarmouth. For example, what would such a governance structure mean for Yarmouth in terms of school department and financial savings? What is the most natural combination for Yarmouth?

- To what extent would Yarmouth residents lose a voice in establishing school policy and taxpayers lose control over the school budget?
- How would so many collective bargaining agreements be consolidated how could this realistically be accomplished? What would the costs and benefits be to Yarmouth by joining a larger school district?

Operational Synergies:

- Again, this is what I expect the study to tell me -- are there any such synergies

Off the Table:

- Nothing is off the table.

Additional Comments:

- My hope is that this effort will be as objective as possible and perceived as such.
- In terms of parameters, if there are financial limitations preventing a look at all aspects (right up to true consolidation) of the issues, it would seem logical to begin the analysis with the non-teaching aspects of our school operations (transportation, fuel, etc.) and then move into learning areas (sharing certain curricula) as possible.
- Start with the least difficult areas.

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