

WCSU Board Voting Membership Proposals for FY14

If a Regional Education District were created

The WCSU Board considered these voting proposals on March 27, 2013 because if a Regional Education District (RED) were created within the WCSU, the number of school district boards would be reduced from ten (10) to six (6). If the RED included Windham the number of school district boards would be further reduced to five (5).

The WCSU Board is considering proposals to reform the number of voting representatives because of VT Statute Title 16 §266. This law requires that every school district that operates a school gets three votes on the supervisory union board. If the school district does not operate a school it gets one vote on the supervisory union board. If a K-12 RED were created the RED board would represent its four or five member towns and the L&G Board would no longer exist. According to VT Title 16 §266, 60% of the WCSU's total population would be represented by only three votes. As this would be contrary to the "one person one vote" decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, the Windham Central Voluntary RED Study Committee (a.k.a. the RED Committee) asked the WCSU Board to propose a more equitable way to determine voting representation.

The RED Committee has no legal authority nor responsibility to determine which voting proposal would be best for the WCSU. At its meeting on March 27, the WCSU Board asked every school district board to consider the various voting membership proposals and make a recommendation. The Board directed its Executive Committee to make a decision based on the recommendations of the school district boards. The Executive Committee will meet on Wed., April 24 at 6 p.m. at Jamaica Village School. Once the WCSU Executive Committee decides which proposal is best, the WCSU will ask the State Board of Education (SBE) to waive VT Title 16 §266 and approve the WCSU's proposal to change its voting membership. Then if the K-12 RED, to be known as the Windham Central Education District (WCED) were approved by the voters, the change in WCSU Board voting as approved by the SBE would be adopted in the WCSU By-Laws.

In response to a request from the WCSU Board, the Superintendent prepared the following table and references to help school boards compare the various proposals. Options A, B, and C were proposed by the RED Committee's Consultant, John Everitt, and are based solely on the population of each town. Steven John based Options D-1 and D-2 on the premise that the present relative balance of voting power on the WCSU Board should be maintained. Option D-1 assumes that Windham votes "no" on joining the WCED, while Option D-2 assumes that Windham votes "yes". Options E-1 and E-2 show how voting on the WCSU Board would be changed automatically by VT Title 16 §266 if no waiver were granted by the SBE.

Beginning July 1, 2013 (FY14) the WCSU will have 9 town school districts plus the L&G Union School District. The second column below shows the 28 voting members as required by VT Statute Title 16 §266. The third column cites the 2010 census for each town and the town's percentage of the total population in the WCSU.

The rest of table compares how Options A through E would affect voting power on the WCSU Board if a K-12 WCED were created. Options A, B, C, D-1, or D-2 would each require SBE approval. Options E-1 and E-2 would not require SBE approval as these both comply with VT Statute Title 16 §266.

School District	WCSU Voting Reps.	2010 Town Census (# and %)	Opt. A: by town pop. (10% per Rep)	Opt. B: by town pop. (5% per Rep)	Opt. C: Weighted vote by pop.	Opt. D-1: by present % of voting power	Opt. D-2: by present % of voting power	Opt. E-1: by VT Statute, Title 16	Opt. E-2: by VT Statute, Title 16
B-N Joint Board	0		NA	NA					
Brookline	3	530 – 6%	1	1	6*	1 *	1 *	(1) *	(1) *
Newfane	3	1,726–21%	2	4	21*	4 *	4 *	(4) *	(4) *
Jamaica	3	1035 -13%	1	3	13*	2 *	2 *	(2) *	(2) *
Townshend	3	1,232 -15%	2	3	15*	3 *	3 *	(3) *	(3) *
Windham	3	419 - 5%	1	1	5*	2	1 *	3	(1) *
WCED					(60)	(10)	(11)	3	3
L&G UM/HS	3		NA	NA					
Dover	3	1,124–14%	1	3	14	2	2	3	3
Marlboro	3	1,078–13%	1	3	13	2	2	3	3
Stratton	1	216 – 3%	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
Wardsboro	3	900 – 11%	1	2	11	2	2	3	3
Totals	28	8,260-101%	11	21	101	19	18	16	13
# for quorum	15		6	11	51	10	10	9	7
# on Ex. Com.	10		5	5	5	6	5	6	5

Notes:

Options D-1 and E-1 assume that Windham is not a member town of the WCED.

Options D-2 and E-2 assume that Windham is a member town of the WCED.

Requirements for a quorum could be established differently than above if approved by the SBE.

* Indicates the town is a member of the WCED.

() Indicates non-voting or for Option E a representative of a town non-voting on the WCSU Board.

Reference Tables

- WCSU will ...place students at the center of our decision-making.
- ...build trust and respect by acting ethically, transparently, and with integrity.
- ...operate as a community of learners, committed to developing the skills and capabilities of all.
- ...collaborate, share and seek creative solutions.

Re: Options A and B are based on town population only.

The table below shows two possibilities for a restructured WCSU Board with members appointed by each school district or WCED board representing the towns. Each town would have one member for each 10% of the WCSU population (rounded) and no town would have less than one member. Allowing for a larger board, each town would have one member for each 5% of the WCSU population (rounded) and no town would have less than one member. – John Everitt

Towns (Population - %)	WCSU Members (using 10%)	WCSU Members (using 5%)
Brookline (530 - 6%)	1	1
Dover (1,124 - 14%)	1	3
Jamaica (1035 - 13%)	1	3
Marlboro (1,078 - 13%)	1	3
Newfane (1,726 - 21%)	2	4
Stratton (216 - 3%)	1	1
Townshend (1,232 - 15%)	2	3
Wardsboro (900 - 11%)	1	2
Windham (419 - 5%)	1	1
TOTAL (8,260)	11 Members	21 Members

Re: Option C is based on town population regardless of the number of persons serving as WCSU Representatives.

An alternative way to restructure, using a weighted voting system follows below. Boards, not towns, would each have one or more members, but with differently weighted votes based on their share of the total WCSU population. – John Everitt

Boards (Population - %)	Weight of Vote	Weight of Vote
Dover (1,124 - 14%)	14	14
Marlboro (1,078 - 13%)	13	13
Stratton (216 - 3%)	3	3
Wardsboro (900 - 11%)	11	11
Windham (419 – 5%)	5	5*
WCED (w/o Windham 4,523 - 55%)	55	60*
TOTAL (8,260 –101%)	101	101

* Indicates Windham votes to join the WCED.

Re: Option D-1 If Windham voted not to join the WCED, the WCSU Board would have 19 voting members as follows.

School District	% of Voting Reps. on 28	% of Voting Reps. on	Voting Reps. for each

- WCSU will ...place students at the center of our decision-making.
 ...build trust and respect by acting ethically, transparently, and with integrity.
 ...operate as a community of learners, committed to developing the skills and capabilities of all.
 ...collaborate, share and seek creative solutions.

	member WCSU Bd. (FY14)	18 member WCSU Bd.	School District
Dover (PK-6)	3/28 = 10.7%	2/19 = 10.5%	2 voting Reps.
Marlboro (K-8)	3/28 = 10.7%	2/19 = 10.5%	2 voting Reps.
Stratton	1/28 = 3.6%	1/18 = 5.3%	1 voting Rep.
Wardsboro (PK-6)	3/28 = 10.7%	2/19 = 10.5%	2 voting Reps.
Windham (PK-6)	3/28 = 10.7%	2/19 = 10.5%	2 voting Reps.
WCED (K-12) Brookline -1 Jamaica – 2 Newfane – 4 Townshend – 3	15/28 = 53.6% (four towns plus L&G x 3 votes each = 15 votes)	10/19 = 52.6%	10 voting Reps.
6 Boards	28 votes	19 votes	19 votes

The four WCED member towns would realize a slight reduction in voting representation on the WCSU Board from the present 53.6% to 52.6%. The non-WCED member school districts would realize a slight change in voting power.

Re: Option D-2 If Windham voted to join the WCED, the WCSU Board would have 18 voting members as follows.

School District	% of Voting Reps. on 28 member WCSU Bd. (FY14)	% of Voting Reps. on 17 member WCSU Bd.	Voting Reps. for each School District
Dover (PK-6)	3/28 = 10.7%	2/18 = 11.1%	2 voting Reps.
Marlboro (K-8)	3/28 = 10.7%	2/18 = 11.1%	2 voting Reps.
Stratton	1/28 = 3.6%	1/18 = 5.5%	1 voting Rep.
Wardsboro (PK-6)	3/28 = 10.7%	2/18 = 11.1%	2 voting Reps.
WCED (K-12) Brookline -1 Jamaica – 2 Newfane – 4 Townshend – 3 Windham - 1	18/28 = 64.3% (five towns plus L&G x 3 votes each = 18 votes)	11/18 = 61.1%	11 voting Reps.
5 Boards	28 votes	18 votes	18 votes

The five WCED member towns would realize a slight reduction in voting representation on the WCSU Board from the present 64.3% to 61.1%. The non-WCED member school districts would realize a slight change in voting power.

3/27/13, 3/31/13 – sbj•