

## Outline of Ripton Requests and Examples

### 1. Provisions for Closure of a School

- a. Define clear data-driven parameters by which a school can be formally considered for closure and create policy(ies) that outline them
- b. Require the process for school closure to include: evidence that the school has not met specified parameters after a defined amount of time, recommendation of the Superintendent, supermajority board approval, and majority town approval

**Example:** *The Unified District Board shall not close any school conveyed to the Unified District by a Forming Elementary District within the first four (4) years of operation of the Unified District unless approved by the voters in the town where the school is located.*

*No school shall be closed except in accordance with the New Unified District "Annual Report", "Campus Sustainability", and "School Closure" policies. Each campus will be reviewed annually to assess and report on their educational, fiscal and enrollment conditions. If a campus fails to meet optimum targets in these categories, measured on a three consecutive year average and as described in the policies, closure may be formally contemplated.*

*If a campus has met the thresholds defined in the Campus Sustainability Policy including a per-pupil cost of 120%; and a subsequent recommendation for closure has been made by the Superintendent in the Annual Report, a formal Board conversation on the subject shall commence. If the Board decides to move forward with the question of the closure of a campus, the Board will vote on whether to bring the question to the voters. If there is an affirmative Board vote of at least 75% to move forward with possible closure, a vote will be held in the affected town. A campus shall not be closed without a supermajority of 60%.*

*In cases where the per-pupil cost has exceeded 130% at the campus in question over three years, the Board is still required to have a vote with a supermajority of 75% to move forward. A vote will be held in all towns within the district by Australian ballot and a combined supermajority of 60% shall be required. Votes shall be reported by each town.*

*A town meeting will be held in the affected town preceding a vote if the per-pupil cost at the campus is 120-129%. When 130% or greater, a town meeting will be held in each of the district's towns preceding a vote. Modification of the terms and conditions provided for in this Article shall be considered matters of public question and shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the New Unified District for ratification.*

Articles of Agreement Windsor Central Unified Union School District, Article 13, Paragraph 1-6

### 2. Restructuring of School Configurations

- a. Increase community-involvement in any changes in school configuration
- b. Revisit guiding principles so that a school's existing configuration upon joining the district is not counted against them
- c. Examine potential of bringing Pre-K back to schools and prioritize early education

*Example: From and after July 1, 2020, grade configuration changes will be made consistent with the New Unified District Board's District Grade Reorganization Policy. Grade configuration changes will either be based on 1) sustainability criteria or 2) on educational aims and/or initiatives, as defined in the Board's Campus Sustainability Policy.*

*Grade configuration change shall require a 60% majority Board vote. Grade configuration changes made on the basis of educational aims or initiatives shall be made equitably for all affected students.*

*In considering any plan that involves grade reconfiguration at a campus or campuses, public input will be sought and considered. There will be not less than two Information Meetings, including one in each town where an affected school is located.*

*There will be a process to collect community feedback by a survey of the public in each town and the Board and Administration will weigh the results when deciding on the matter.*

*If grade configuration changes are made at any campus, then appropriate adjustments will be made to the Campus Sustainability Policy.*

*Modification of the terms and conditions provided for in this Article shall be considered matters of public question and shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the New Unified District for ratification.*

Articles of Agreement Windsor Central Unified Union School District, Article 15, Paragraph 1-6

### **3. Community Engagement and Input**

- a. Establish local advisory groups that have direct access to the board

*Example: For each operating school within the New Unified District, the New Unified District Board shall provide opportunity for local input. Structures to support, encourage, and recognize the local participation of advisory groups created by and located within the forming communities shall be established by the New Unified District Board on or before July 1, 2018. Local input will be advisory. The New Unified District Board may create strategies for local participation at each school and may develop procedures to receive input from each school and/or town.*

Articles of Agreement Windsor Central Unified Union School District, Article 17, Paragraph 1

### **4. Composition of Unified School District Board**

- a. Localize the process of nomination for school board directors

*Example: The Union School District Board of Directors shall be composed of thirteen (13) directors if all advisable districts vote in favor of the merger. Directors shall be nominated from the legal voters of each forming town and shall be elected on an at-large basis by Australian Ballot vote by the voters of the Union School District.*

Taconic and Green Regional School District Articles of Agreement, Article 10, Paragraph 3