

Nashoba Valley Technical School District



Article 22

Expansion of School District Westford Town Meeting March 24, 2012

*Dr. Judith L. Klimkiewicz
Superintendent of Schools*

Nashoba Valley Technical School District History

The district was formed in 1965 and the **four** towns that formed the district through a “Regional Technical School District Agreement” were Chelmsford, Groton, Littleton and Westford. The school opened its doors to students in 1969.

In the fall of 1977 the towns of Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend and Ayer expressed interest in joining the district. To accommodate four more towns the building would need to be expanded. Before the amendment was finalized Ayer withdrew.

It was decided the new towns would be assessed for all the costs of the new addition to the school because no bond or note existed. The present towns would be apportioned as was provided in the District Agreement.

Any subsequent capital improvements after the addition would be apportioned to **all** member towns.

Process of Membership into Nashoba Valley Technical School District

Before a new membership in the district can be completed the following admission process has to take place. This process is in the District Agreement, as well as Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, section 14B:

- A proposal for an amendment to admit another town may be initiated by a vote of a majority of the District Committee or by a petition signed by at least ten (10) percent of the registered voters of any one of the member towns (the percent must be certified by the town clerk).
- The District Secretary shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the Board of Selectman of each member town that a proposal to amend the District Agreement has been made. A copy of the vote of the proposal or the petition (with names redacted) must be attached.
- The proposed amendment must be voted upon at an annual or special town meeting of all member towns. The amendment will take effect upon its acceptance by two thirds of the member towns through a majority vote.

**Nashoba Valley Technical School District
Chelmsford, Groton, Littleton, Westford, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, Ayer**

Article

To see if the town will vote to accept the proposal of the Regional District School Committee passed on October 11, 2011 to amend the agreement establishing the Nashoba Valley Technical School District as amended (a) by providing for the admission to the district of the Town of Ayer as a vote to accept the agreement as amended; (b) by providing that members of the Committee shall be appointed by an appointing committee in each in each town consisting of the moderator, selectmen and local school committee members; (c) by providing that membership on the committee shall be as follows: Chelmsford - 3 members, Groton – 1 member, Littleton - 1 member, Westford – 2 members, Pepperell – 3 members, Shirley – 1 members, Townsend – 2 member, Ayer – 1 member (if Ayer joins the district); (d) by providing that each member town will have an alternate member to the committee who can serve in the absence or disability of a member from the town involved; (e) by providing that the admission of a new town or towns to the District shall result in the reapportionment accordingly of capital costs of the District represented by bonds or notes of the District then outstanding and of interest thereon; (f) by providing that the capital costs of any subsequent capital improvements of the district shall be apportioned among all the member towns on the basis of their respective pupil enrollments in the district school; (g) by providing that in each case where the apportionment of capital costs is to be based on pupil enrollments in the district school, each member town shall be deemed to have an enrollment of at least five pupils; (h) by conforming the dates on which payments to the district by the member towns are due to a July 1 - June 30 fiscal year; and (i) by making technical changes incidental to the foregoing amendments. (Such amendment will not become effective until the amendment is accepted by two-thirds of the member towns, approved by the Town of Ayer and upon the authorization of the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education). Copies of the agreement as amended and proposed to be amended, as described in this Article, are available at the office of the town clerk.

Vote

Voted: that the town accept the proposal of the Regional District School Committee passed on October 11, 2011, to amend the agreement establishing the Nashoba Valley Technical High School District as amended.

School Committee Members

Section I of the District Committee Agreement states that school committee members are appointed through an Appointing Committee comprised of the member Town Moderator as Chairman, Selectman and local school committee members.

There is an alternate member from each town in the event the regular member cannot make a meeting. Alternates are appointed in the same manner as regular members.

**NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR 2011
TOWN ASSESSMENTS WITHOUT AYER**

	10/1/2009									
Proposed FY11 Budget	No. of District Students	Students Per Town Percentage	Town's Minimum Contribution	Capital Equipment	Student Transportation	Sub-total Assessment 2010-2011	Debt Service	Premium Offset	Total Assessment 2010-2011	
Chelmsford	139	23.76%	1,611,503	23,761	83,162	1,718,426	138,681	(3,210)	1,853,897	
Groton	44	7.52%	459,315	7,521	26,325	493,161	43,899	(1,016)	536,044	
Littleton	48	8.21%	514,202	8,205	28,718	551,125	47,890	(1,109)	597,906	
Pepperell	132	22.56%	848,887	22,564	78,974	950,425	131,697	(3,048)	1,079,074	
Shirley	52	8.89%	378,071	8,889	31,111	418,071	51,881	(1,201)	468,751	
Townsend	109	18.63%	715,704	18,632	65,214	799,550	108,750	(2,517)	905,783	
Westford	61	10.43%	576,888	10,427	36,496	623,811	60,860	(1,409)	683,262	
	585	100.00%	5,104,570	100,000	350,000	5,554,570	583,658	(13,510)	6,124,718	

**NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR 2011
TOWN ASSESSMENTS WITH AN ESTIMATE FOR AYER**

	10/1/2009									
Proposed FY11 Budget	No. of District Students	Students Per Town Percentage	Town's Minimum Contribution	Capital Equipment	Student Transportation	Sub-total Assessment 2010-2011	Debt Service	Premium Offset	Total Assessment 2010-2011	
Ayer	41	6.55%	415,421	6,550	22,923	444,894	38,227	(885)	482,236	
Chelmsford	139	22.20%	1,611,503	22,204	77,716	1,711,423	129,598	(3,000)	1,838,021	
Groton	44	7.03%	459,315	7,029	24,601	490,944	41,024	(950)	531,019	
Littleton	48	7.67%	514,202	7,668	26,837	548,707	44,753	(1,036)	592,424	
Pepperell	132	21.09%	848,887	21,086	73,802	943,775	123,072	(2,849)	1,063,998	
Shirley	52	8.31%	378,071	8,307	29,073	415,451	48,483	(1,122)	462,812	
Townsend	109	17.41%	715,704	17,412	60,942	794,059	101,627	(2,352)	893,334	
Westford	61	9.74%	576,888	9,744	34,105	620,738	56,874	(1,316)	676,295	
	626	100.00%	5,519,991	100,000	350,000	5,969,991	583,658	(13,510)	6,540,139	

**NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR 2012
TOWN ASSESSMENTS WITHOUT AYER**

	10/1/2010								
Proposed FY12 Budget	No. of District Students	Students Per Town Percentage	Town's Minimum Contribution	Capital Equipment	Student Transportation	Sub-total Assessment 2011-2012	Debt Service	Premium Offset	Total Assessment 2011-2012
Chelmsford	133	23.50%	1,604,695	23,498	82,244	1,710,437	137,149	(3,175)	1,844,412
Groton	36	6.36%	396,873	6,360	22,261	425,495	37,123	(859)	461,759
Littleton	48	8.48%	535,187	8,481	29,682	573,350	49,497	(1,146)	621,701
Pepperell	114	20.14%	788,730	20,141	70,495	879,366	117,557	(2,721)	994,202
Shirley	66	11.66%	478,616	11,661	40,813	531,089	68,059	(1,575)	597,573
Townsend	108	19.08%	759,422	19,081	66,784	845,288	111,369	(2,578)	954,079
Westford	61	10.78%	588,458	10,777	37,721	636,956	62,903	(1,456)	698,403
	566	100.00%	5,151,981	100,000	350,000	5,601,981	583,658	(13,510)	6,172,129

**NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR 2012
TOWN ASSESSMENTS INCLUDING AN ESTIMATE FOR AYER**

	10/1/2010								
Proposed FY12 Budget	No. of District Students	Students Per Town Percentage	Town's Minimum Contribution	Capital Equipment	Student Transportation	Sub-total Assessment 2011-2012	Debt Service	Premium Offset	Total Assessment 2011-2012
Ayer	47	7.67%	504,740	7,667	26,835	539,242	44,750	(1,036)	582,957
Chelmsford	133	21.70%	1,604,695	21,697	75,938	1,702,330	126,634	(2,931)	1,826,032
Groton	36	5.87%	396,873	5,873	20,555	423,301	34,277	(793)	456,784
Littleton	48	7.83%	535,187	7,830	27,406	570,423	45,702	(1,058)	615,068
Pepperell	114	18.60%	788,730	18,597	65,090	872,417	108,543	(2,512)	978,448
Shirley	66	10.77%	478,616	10,767	37,684	527,067	62,841	(1,455)	588,453
Townsend	108	17.62%	759,422	17,618	61,664	838,704	102,830	(2,380)	939,154
Westford	61	9.95%	588,458	9,951	34,828	633,237	58,080	(1,344)	689,973
	613	100.00%	5,656,721	100,000	350,000	6,106,721	583,658	(13,510)	6,676,869

**NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR 2013
TOWN ASSESSMENTS WITHOUT AYER**

Proposed FY13 Budget	10/1/2011 No. of District Students	Students Per Town Percentage	Town's Minimum Contribution	Capital Equipment	Student Transportation	Sub-total Assessment 2012-2013	Debt Service	Premium Offset	Total Assessment 2012-2013
Chelmsford	144	24.78%	1,799,490	24,785	86,747	1,911,022	136,960	(3,348)	2,044,633
Groton	33	5.68%	393,788	5,680	19,880	419,347	31,387	(767)	449,967
Littleton	52	8.95%	603,850	8,950	31,325	644,125	49,458	(1,209)	692,374
Pepperell	122	21.00%	900,587	20,998	73,494	995,079	116,035	(2,837)	1,108,278
Shirley	75	12.91%	581,042	12,909	45,181	639,132	71,333	(1,744)	708,721
Townsend	102	17.56%	748,443	17,556	61,446	827,445	97,013	(2,372)	922,086
Westford	53	9.12%	534,430	9,122	31,928	575,480	50,409	(1,232)	624,656
	581	100.00%	5,561,630	100,000	350,000	6,011,630	552,595	(13,510)	6,550,715

**NASHOBA VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR 2013
TOWN ASSESSMENTS INCLUDING AN ESTIMATE FOR AYER**

Proposed FY13 Budget	10/1/2011 No. of District Students	Students Per Town Percentage	Town's Minimum Contribution	Capital Equipment	Student Transportation	Sub-total Assessment 2012-2013	Debt Service	Premium Offset	Total Assessment 2012-2013
Ayer	60	9.36%	557,301	9,360	32,761	599,423	51,725	(1,265)	649,883
Chelmsford	144	22.46%	1,799,490	22,465	78,627	1,900,582	124,140	(3,035)	2,021,687
Groton	33	5.15%	393,788	5,148	18,019	416,955	28,449	(696)	444,708
Littleton	52	8.11%	603,850	8,112	28,393	640,355	44,828	(1,096)	684,088
Pepperell	122	19.03%	900,587	19,033	66,615	986,234	105,174	(2,571)	1,088,837
Shirley	75	11.70%	581,042	11,700	40,952	633,694	64,656	(1,581)	696,770
Townsend	102	15.91%	748,443	15,913	55,694	820,050	87,932	(2,150)	905,833
Westford	53	8.27%	534,430	8,268	28,939	571,637	45,690	(1,117)	616,211
	641	100.00%	6,118,931	100,000	350,000	6,568,931	552,595	(13,510)	7,108,016

ESTIMATE OF AYER CAPITAL, TRANSPORTATION AND DEBT

Below is an estimate of cost for capital items, student transportation and debt, in addition to the minimum contribution that Ayer would have incurred as a member of the Nashoba Valley Technical School District:

Fiscal Year 2011 the estimated Ayer share at 6.55% would have been \$66,815 above the minimum assessment of \$415,421

Fiscal Year 2012 the estimated Ayer share at 7.67% would have been \$78,216 above the minimum assessment of \$504,740

Fiscal Year 2013 the estimated Ayer share at 9.36% would be \$92,581 above the minimum assessment of \$557,301

Nashoba Valley Technical High School Ayer Tuition History

Fiscal Year	# Students	Tuition	SPED	Transportation	Total
FY 02	25	\$256,782.56	\$25,002.00	\$26,820.00	\$308,604.56
FY 03	27	\$295,887.98	\$21,996.38	\$26,820.00	\$344,704.36
FY 04	31	\$343,126.32	\$22,354.02	\$28,620.00	\$394,100.34
FY 05	31	\$336,505.32	\$13,125.87	\$29,883.20	\$379,514.39
FY 06	31	\$374,697.00	\$0.00	\$39,394.80	\$414,091.80
FY 07	28	\$277,932.58	\$30,086.15	\$39,420.00	\$347,438.73
FY 08	37	\$432,052.53	\$62,749.66	\$42,275.02	\$537,077.21
FY 09	36	\$446,962.85	\$40,138.89	\$43,961.61	\$531,063.35
FY 10	41	\$551,952.32	\$51,392.36		\$603,344.68
FY 11	47	\$650,823.66	\$57,489.22		\$708,312.88
FY 12*	59	\$763,907.58	\$67,248.78		\$831,156.36

*Includes estimate for second half of year

Totals to Date		\$4,730,630.70	\$391,583.33	\$277,194.63	\$5,399,408.66
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Cost Advantages to Membership for Ayer

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) Chapter 74 non-residential tuition rate for FY12 is \$13,502. Special education students have an additional \$5,125 mandated by the state for a total non-residential tuition amount of \$18,627 .

The **estimated** total savings between the Chapter 74 non-residential tuition rate, which is the current method of payment and the projected assessment for Ayer as a district member town, would have been approximately \$226,000 in Fiscal Year 2011 and \$248,000 for Fiscal Year 2012. Fiscal Year 2013 is unable to be estimated at this time, due to the lack of non-residential tuition rates being available.

Finally, there would be no direct fees for transportation.

Additional Advantages of Membership for Ayer

- Total reduced annual costs
- Ownership of site – approximately 50 acres and state of the art buildings and facilities
- No responsibility for transportation
- District has experienced annual audits with zero findings and been consistently declared well managed (Powers & Sullivan, DESE)
- District requires no user fees
- Budget maintained at minimum without impact to direct student services

Advantages of Expanding Membership For District Members

- Total reduced assessment, capital, transportation and debt by adding additional member to the District
- Anticipated buy-in may allow for facilities and major capital updates
- Ayer becomes a member of Nashoba Valley Technical School District, (rather than another Regional Technical District) which will result in increased enrollment and revenue for NVTHS
- Will continue to help maintain the Budget at minimum without impact to direct student services

Accept Ayer into Nashoba school district

The Lowell Sun

Updated: 03/17/2012 10:02:26 AM EDT

In an age when education is so vital to the global economy, why are 60 Ayer students being held hostage over the annual budget battle with the Nashoba Valley Technical High School?

The town of Ayer has petitioned to join the seven-member regional school district and for the most part has received a warm welcome from other communities -- Westford, Littleton, Pepperell, Groton, Shirley, and Townsend. Only Chelmsford has expressed reluctance to the plan.

The way some Chelmsford officials see it, Ayer now pays a premium tuition rate to send its students to Nashoba and the extra money helps offset any increases that might fall on other members. If Ayer's membership request is approved, its costs would be subject to the same formula used to set members' rates, and the premium eliminated.

Ayer paid \$708,312 in out-of-district tuition costs in 2011, compared to an estimated \$482,236 assessment charge it might have paid if it had been a district member. That's a \$226,000 boost to the district. Seen another way, it's a \$226,000 loss for Ayer taxpayers and the state of Massachusetts.

Ayer kids are Massachusetts kids. They deserve every right to the educational choice of a solid vocational-technical education being offered at Nashoba Valley Tech. Ayer should be welcomed into the district with open arms, not scrutinized for every penny that can be squeezed out of its residents and parents.

Nashoba Superintendent Judith Klimkiewicz has presented a reasonable plan justifying Ayer's acceptance. The students have been attending the Westford school for several years without incident. There has been no decrease in the quality of programs or lack of access to programs for any student. As she points out, Ayer's inclusion will actually result in a slight reduction in annual assessments for all district members. For instance, Chelmsford now pays the highest assessment based on its school-leading 144 students. But its overall percentage of total student population will be reduced once Ayer joins, resulting in a \$22,000 savings.

Klimkiewicz added that Ayer will also pay one-time buy-in costs that will help fund a new track for Nashoba student-athletes.

This is a win-win for the district. It expands the number of regional members and creates more opportunities for future educational collaboration. More important, it is the right thing to do. The town of Ayer should not be exploited because it wasn't an original member; instead it should be embraced because it wants to be a good partner and is willing to pay its fair share.

We urge all the district towns to support Klimkiewicz's recommendation for Ayer's acceptance into the Nashoba Valley school district.