

OCTOBER 10, 2018

Public Information Session
Hampden-Wilbraham
Regional School District
Reorganization Plan

RESPECT

INTERACTIVE LEARNING

COMMUNITY VALUING

ENVIRONMENT

INDIVIDUAL

OPPORTUNITIES

GLOBAL INTEGRITY

CREATIVE COMMUNITY

EMBRACING

CONTRIBUTE VALUING

SAFE

THINKERS EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Our Vision

In pursuit of educational excellence, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District envisions an interactive learning community of creative, passionate thinkers in a safe and healthy environment, embracing opportunities to contribute to and compete in a global society while valuing honesty, integrity, responsibility, and respect for each individual.

PASSIONATE ENVISION

EMBRACING

COMPETE

Tonight's focus:

Our goal tonight is to present the public with all available information regarding the upcoming town meeting votes pertaining to an 8-12 MRHS in 2019-2020 and a 7-12 MRHS in 2022-2023

October 15, 2018 town meeting being held in Wilbraham at Minnechaug Regional High School

October 29, 2018 town meeting being held in Hampden at the Bethlehem Baptist Church

Tonight's presentation examines the structures and areas to create the best educational setting for an 8-12 and 7-12 Minnechaug Regional High School

Voters in both towns will be asked to vote on the following warrant article:

Proposed Article:

Proposed Amendment to Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District Agreement. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section III, Paragraph B, of the Regional Agreement, by adding a new subparagraph providing that “Effective with the start of the 2019-2020 school year, students in grade 8 regardless of their town of residence, will attend school and receive their education at Minnechaug Regional High School. Effective with the start of the 2022-2023 school year, students in grade 7 regardless of their town of residence, will attend school and receive their education at Minnechaug Regional High School

Explanation

This article would allow for implementation of the District's Reorganization Plan by transitioning students over time from the two member towns in grades 7 & 8 at Minnechaug Regional High School. The staggered start dates are intended to ensure the District has appropriate time to prepare for the eventual unification at Minnechaug Regional High School. This Article will allow the District and students from both towns in grades 7 & 8 to capitalize on the facilities and educational opportunities available at Minnechaug Regional High School.

Strategic Goals

- 1) Creating the optimal learning environment for students and staff
 - a) High quality teaching and learning
 - b) Maximizing the physical space(s)

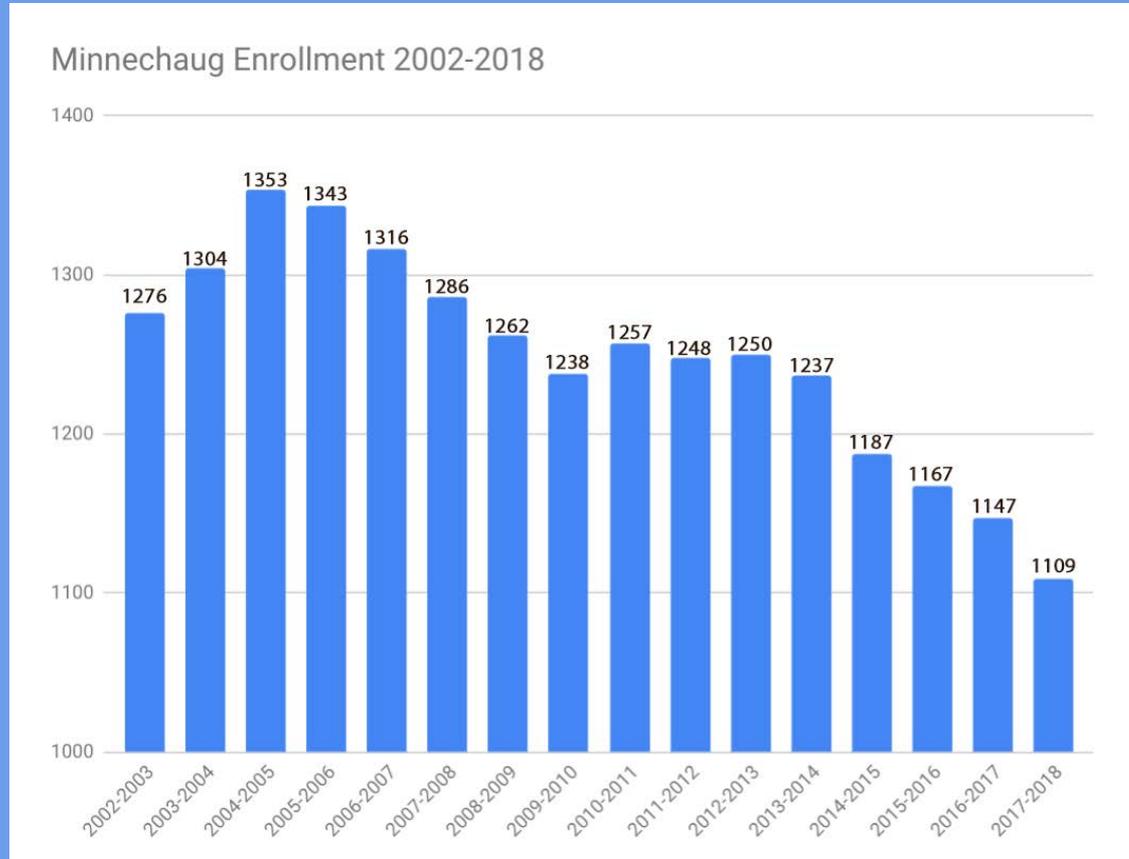
- 2) Maximize use of district resources (buildings, staff, services, and funds)

Timeline and Action Steps

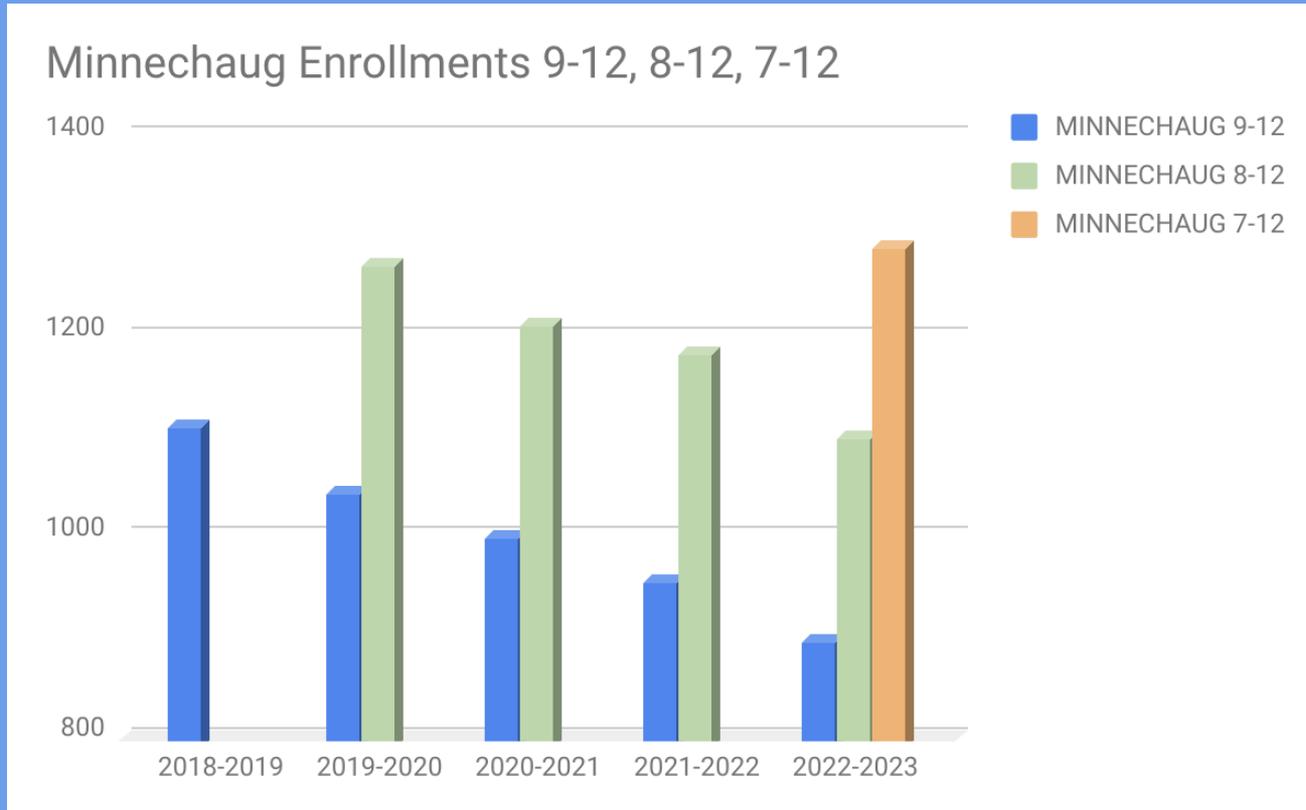
2018-19***	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Begin prep and planning for 7-12 Minnechaug	***8-12 Minnechaug			***7-12 Minnechaug
Close TWB	GM K-7 WMS 6&7			K-6 GM
Establish K-8 GM	Begin discussion about reorganization of schools in Wilbraham			Reorganization in Wilbraham:
District Early Childhood Center Move GM Preschool to MT			Plan and execute reorganization of Wilbraham schools	Preschool-1; 2-3; 4-6 OR
Decisions about School Choice				Preschool-K, 1-3, and 4-6
Transfers between towns				
Renovations				

(***Requires change to regional agreement to reflect a 7-12 Minnechaug.)

A Look at Declining Enrollment

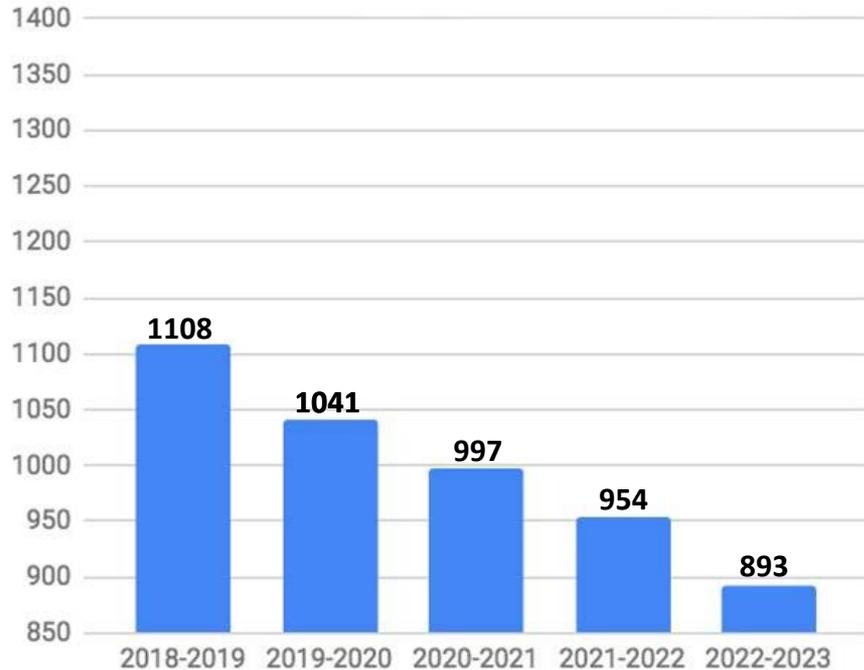


Enrollment of a 9-12, 8-12, or 7-12 Minnechaug

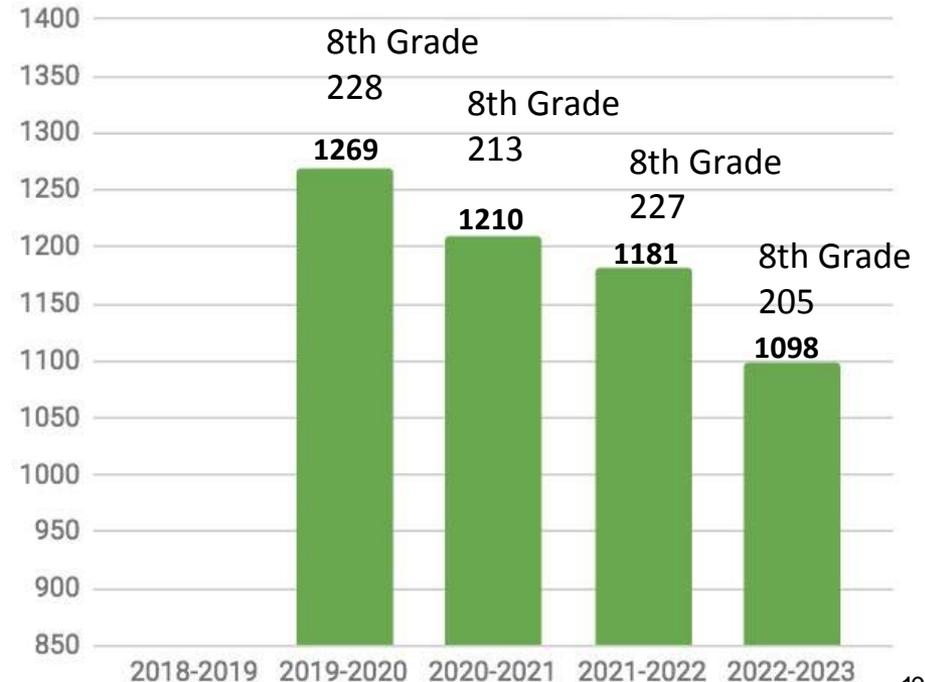


Examining a 9-12 and an 8-12 Minnechaug

MINNECHAUG 9-12

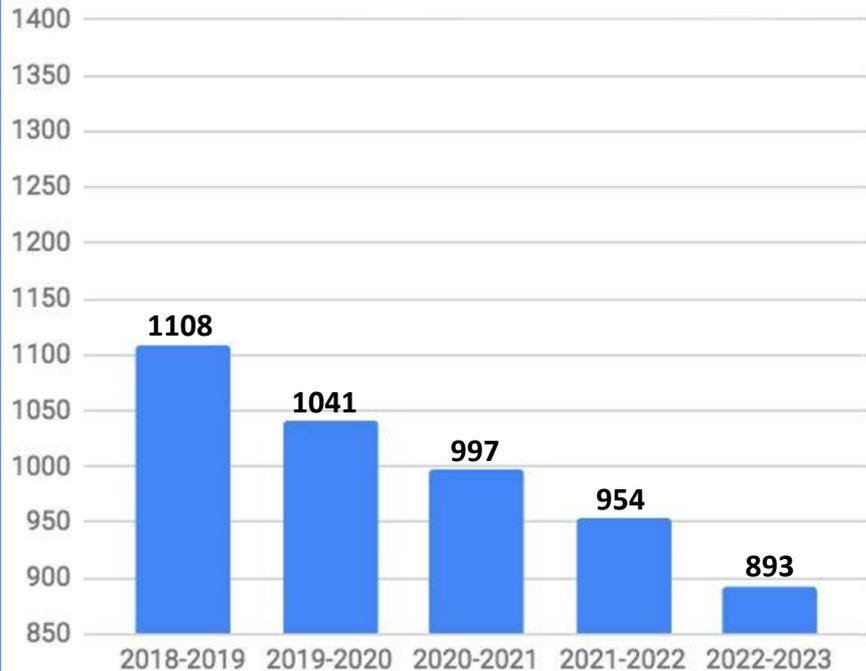


MINNECHAUG 8-12

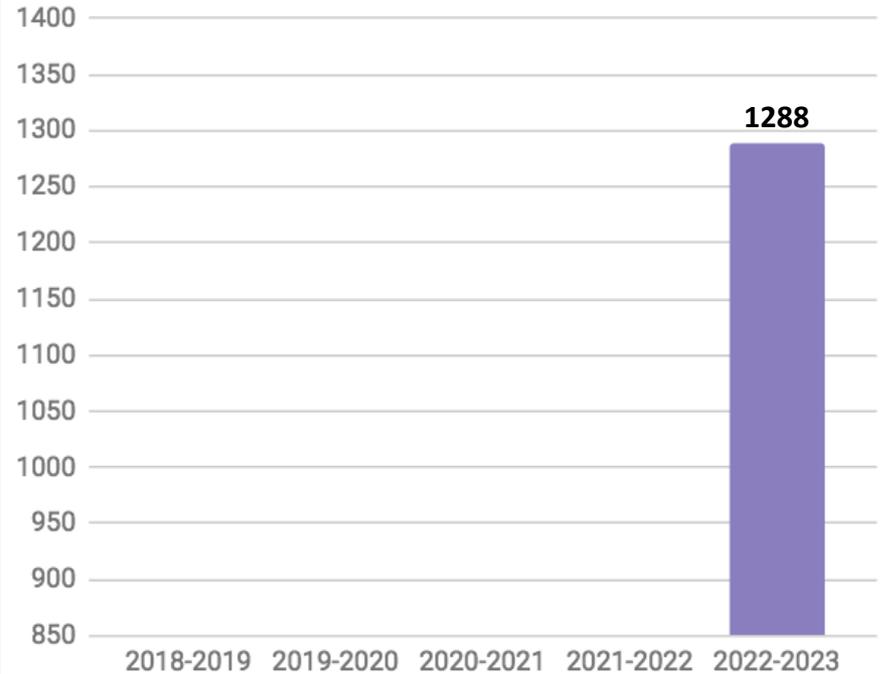


Examining a 9-12 and a 7-12 Minnechaug

MINNECHAUG 9-12



MINNECHAUG 7-12



Enrollment Numbers- Roll up of Existing HWRSD Students

GRADE	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
K	180				
1	192	180			
2	209	192	180		
3	190	209	192	180	
4	205	190	209	192	180
5	227	205	190	209	192
6	213	227	205	190	209
7	228	213	227	205	190
8	225	228	213	227	205
9	288	225	228	213	227
10	256	288	225	228	213
11	272	256	288	225	228
12	292	272	256	288	225
MINNECHAUG 9-12	1108	1041	997	954	893
MINNECHAUG 8-12		1269	1210	1181	1098
MINNECHAUG 7-12					1288

A Look Back

Reorganization plan developed in October 2017

Inclusive of Boards of Selectmen, Finance Committees, School Committee

October 5, 2017 - Presentation to Public and School Committee

October 11, 2017 - Quarterly Round Table presentation

October 19, 2017 - Approved by the HWRSD School Committee

January 18, 2018 - Quarterly Round Table discussion

Planning to date and steps moving forward

Minnechaug Regional High School School Transition Goal

Research surrounding academic and social-emotional implications of a 7-12 grade configuration

Identification of 7-12 schools throughout MA

Collaborative Planning with MRHS Principal

Integration discussions: Curriculum, Facilities, Co-curricular

Speak to other educators throughout the state

Minnechaug Regional High School

MRHS School Improvement Plan Transition Goal

Planning the stages and implementation steps for the potential transition of Minnechaug Regional High School to a 7-12 school

- Visit and research existing 7-12 schools
- Develop Four subcommittees to establish a representative body
 - Mission and Core Value Subcommittee
 - Facility and Governance Subcommittee
 - Student Engagement and Voice subcommittee
 - Instruction and Professional Learning Subcommittee

Facility and Governance Subcommittee

- Evaluate facility resource to determine location and building usage
- Evaluate academic and instructional scheduling format and structures
- Evaluate and design an integrated 8-12 & 7-12 MTSS model that considers Special Education service delivery, counseling services, intervention and support structures
- Evaluate and revise school safety protocols for a 7-12 Minnechaug Regional High School

Student Engagement and Voice

- Evaluate and determine student participation in co-curricular clubs and activities
- Evaluate and determine student participation in MIAA interscholastic athletics
- Evaluate and identify student engagement opportunities
- Develop avenues to participate in advisory and student activities

Instruction and Professional Learning

- Review and Evaluate Programs of Study and develop and combine 7-12 program of studies.
- Identify professional learning needs to support the needs of all learners within multi-level classes from grades 7-12
- Allows for the review, revision and alignment of curriculum vertically 7-12
- Review and Revise benchmark assessments to provide targeted instructional feedback and student performance data

QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS

Community Survey

Online survey provided parents and community members the ability to submit questions for the forum.

A ConnectEd call went out with the survey information and the District website featured the form.

89 responses were received

Forum to Discuss the Contemplated Use of Minnechaug Regional High School for Grades 7-8

On October 10, 2018 from 6:30-8:00 a public forum will be held in the Minnechaug Auditorium. Please use this form to submit any questions you may have on 8th graders from Hampden and Wilbraham attending school at MRHS in the 2019-2020 school year, or 7th graders beginning in the year 2022-2023. This form will be open through Tuesday, October 2nd.

Please use this space to submit a single question.

Your answer

Please use this space to submit a single question.

Your answer

Please use this space to submit a single question.

Your answer

Are you a parent/guardian of current HWRSD students?

Yes

No

Please use this space to submit a single question.

Your answer

If you are a parent, please check the grade(s) your child/children are currently enrolled.

Questions Submitted through Google Survey

- Will middle school aged students use shared spaces gym, cafeteria, locker rooms with high school students ?
- How will the school schedule lunch for middle school students?
- Would the 7th and 8th grade program be a separate school within the high school?
- Will 8th graders at MRHS be taking classes with 9th and 10th graders or will they have their own schedule and maintain the middle school model?
- What Social and emotional support will be provided to support the younger students at MRHS?
- What will happen to the Collaborative and school choice programs ?
- How will related arts (art, music, orchestra, band, technology, PE, health) be taught? Will the teachers be middle level or high school?
- How do you plan to integrate 7 & 8th grade students into the MRHS extra curricular activities/sports/clubs etc.?

“Will middle school aged students use shared spaces gym, cafeteria, locker rooms with high school students?”

Cafeteria would be accessed during a lunch period that only has middle school aged students in it. There is no plan to integrate the 7th and 8th grade students into the current lunch schedule with high school aged students.

Physical Education space would be scheduled for the middle level students. This space is not designated to specific area but utilizes all PE spaces including the pool, fitness room, outside spaces etc.

Physical Education locker rooms will be assigned exclusively to middle school students during their PE blocks

“How will the school schedule lunch for middle school students?”

We are examining different options for middle school schedules.

Middle school students will eat lunch on their own. They will not eat with high school students.

“Would the 7th and 8th grade program be a separate school within the high school?”

The current plan is to assign a designated hallway in the building to middle school students. We anticipate dedicating middle school classrooms to accommodate the team model.

The space would include science lab space and special education space as all other core content classes can be taught in any classroom setting.

The students would have access to a bathroom in close proximity to their location in the building.

Related arts spaces would be designated to the middle school students during their class time.

“Will 8th graders at MRHS be taking classes with 9th and 10th graders or will they have their own schedule and maintain the middle school model?”

The current plan would be to have the middle school students on their own schedule. The schedule that currently exists is a drop block schedule with 50-55 minute classes.

The benefits of the middle school model are teams of teachers who share common planning time.

We anticipate creating a schedule that keeps these two important functions intact for our middle school students

“What social and emotional support will be provided to support the younger students at MRHS?”

In the planning process, we would determine the possible reassignment of 7-12 counseling staff to be designated to the middle school students.

The Social-Emotional support of our students is not only provided by counseling staff but is maintained through the team model and common planning time which allows our staff to discuss students and strategies to support positive behaviors.

We anticipate maintaining the Star Time Advisory period every morning to create and strengthen the connections with a trusted adult in the school. The Advisory program includes lessons and activities for a variety of important developmentally appropriate aspects of the student's life.

“What will happen to the Collaborative and school choice programs?”

Adding the 8th and eventually 7th grade to Minnechaug would require the reclaiming of the classroom spaces currently utilized by Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative.

School choice programming is at the discretion of the School Committee. The addition of school choice students K-12 may have an impact on class size and the overall capacity of the school buildings at each level.

“How will related arts (art, music, orchestra, band, technology, PE, health) be taught? Will the teachers be middle level or high school?”

In planning for the schedule and the related arts offerings several factors will be considered.

- 1. The schedule of related arts blocks to allow for common planning time**
- 2. Teacher schedules and availability**
- 3. Possible shared related arts staff between middle and high school programs**
- 4. Certifications of the current staff and what they are able to teach**

“How do you plan to integrate 7 & 8th grade students into the MRHS extra curricular activities/ sports/ clubs etc.?”

Our plan is to examine all opportunities to make our students 7-12 feel included and a part of the school culture. In the process we will work collaboratively with the recreation departments from Hampden and Wilbraham to identify the impacts on their programming.

We would like to maintain as many of the current opportunities as possible for our middle level students.

Current 7-12 Schools Across Massachusetts

Frontier Regional High School

East Bridgewater Jr./Sr. High

Granby Jr./Sr. High

Avon Middle High School

Drury High School

Westport Jr./Sr. High School

Hampshire Regional Middle High

Millbury Junior/Senior High

Mount Greylock

Mahar Regional

Southwick-Tolland-Granville

Holbrook Middle High School

Final Quote

“We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

Albert Einstein

