

Town of Otis
Selectboard/ Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Gymnasium
1 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253
Tuesday, Jan 28, 2025, at 6:30 PM

This meeting will be held in person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend. A remote option is offered via zoom with the link provided below.

Please note that while an option for remote participation is being provided as a courtesy, the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Anyone with interest in any specific item should plan in person attendance.

Topic: Select Board
Time: Jan 28, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88129601078?pwd=9y6LalfkObe8qP7aS2qnvNiKZ10Qqs.1>
Meeting ID: 881 2960 1078
Passcode: 236387

Attendance: Gary Thomas-Chair, Larry Southard, Terry Gould and Brandi Page, See attached list. Zoom: Josh Warren, iPhone, Rebecca Hamill, Barb Cormier, Karen Yvon (iPhone), Janey Beardsley, iPhone (3), Barb Cormier, Trish Tetreault, Carol Lombardo, Janet Lee, Rebecca Hamill, Mimis phone, Josh Warren, Lisa Warren, Michelle O'Brien-Ransom, Kathy's Couch, Aimee Magovern, Rebecca Hamill, Roberta Sarnacki, Amy, William Hiller, Jessica Poirier, Betsy Bobo, sarah tracy, Jennifer Catolane.

Call to Order: 6:30 PM

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from Dec 10th as written and both minutes from Jan 14th as amended.

Town Center Speed Limit: Brandi said she had reached out to Pat Tierney at Mass DOT in Lenox. He indicated the Town would make a written request to Boston that the speed limit be modified on this stretch of State owned Highway. The Board was in favor of sending this request to Boston. Brandi will work on drafting the letter.

Library Grant Update: Sue Brofman updated the Board that the Library Building Committee has been meeting. OPM qualifications have come in. Brandi corrected they are due next Thursday. Sue stated the review team will consist of herself, Stephanie Skinner, Brandi and Don Chaffee.

Proposed Regional Agreement Amendments: Tim Lee, Superintendent of Farmington River, was present to give a summary of the history of the District and the events leading up to amending the current agreement. His power point was pulled up on the screen while he presented. He took questions at the end. Several from the audience had concerns. Discussion followed about per pupil costs and scenarios if FRRSD was dissolved. The Board discussed having the vote on the amendments at our Annual Town Meeting in May. Denise was concerned this will conflict with the certification timeline of the budget by the School Committee. The Board anticipated the SC providing two numbers. One if the amendments pass and one using the existing method if the amendments don't pass. The Board wanted to know when the SC will be having their information sessions. Denise was hoping to hear that we were scheduling a special town meeting and then they would plan the info

sessions. Gary ended the discussion and polled the other members to see if they were in favor of a special or ATM. Larry and Terry both felt ATM was appropriate. Denise asked if they would consider holding off on deciding until their next meeting. The Board agreed. Item tabled until next meeting.

Recent and Upcoming Events: Budget meetings will be starting in February.

Review & Approval of Warrants: Payroll and vendor warrants are on the table for signature.

Not Anticipated by the Board: None.

Adjournment: 8:11 PM

Sign in Sheet ~ Select Board Meeting

Jan 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Ofis Town Hall Conference Room

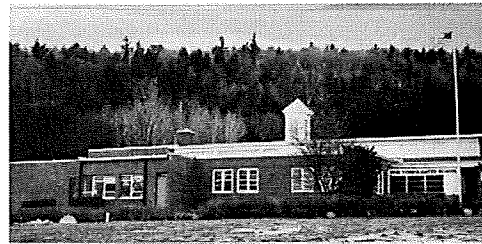
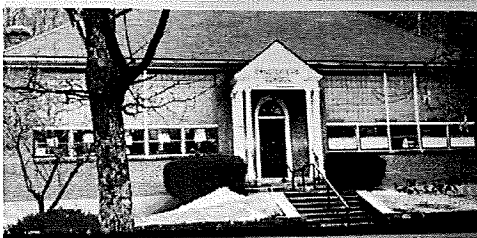
Name	Address	Department
Dorothy Fope	274 West Center Rd	School
Lyn OBrien	238 W. Center	Town Clerk
BT OBrien	238 W. Center	Ind
TIM LEE	GB	School
Teff Bye	SANDSFIELD	School School Committee
MELISSA Bye	100 Newtact	School Committee
Lisa D'Draco	490 Pine Rd	Finance
MARK AMADO	440 Becket Rd	
William Hyland	106 N Blandford	
James Casadall	895 Becket Rd	FINANCE
Phil Magovern	108 Magovern Dr	School Cnt.
Maryk Punderman	85 Judd Rd	Warrant

PROPOSED REVISIONS: REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT 2025

FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1

FRRSD BACKGROUND



- PRIOR TO 1992: Each town operates its own town school, administered as part of distinct superintendency unions.
- 1992: Two towns regionalize into new district with a common budget and superintendent.

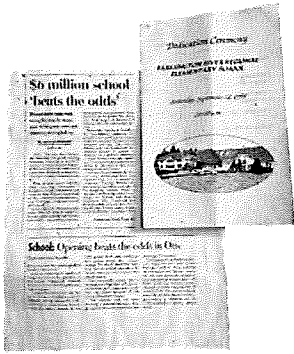
2



Farmington River Regional School

**FRRSD
BACKGROUND**

- New school 1998
- 30 years of collaboration



3

RDA REVISIONS: RATIONALE



Request of the Town of Sandisfield to consider sustainability issues related to cost apportionment.



Subsequent vote and request of Sandisfield to amend the agreement to identify terms and conditions of withdrawal.



Program and statutory changes indicated updates to some of the RDA's sections.

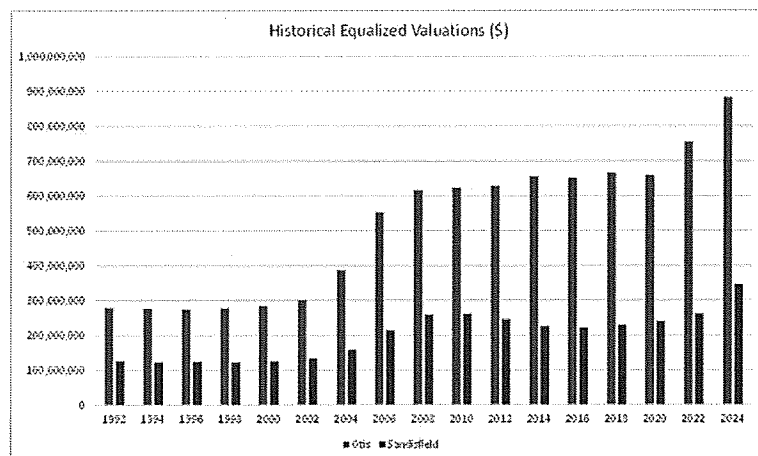
4

FRRSD ASSESSMENTS

YEAR	Total Assessment	OTIS share	SANDISFIELD share	Percentage split
1998-1999	\$1,845,233	\$1,224,128	\$621,105	66/34
2001-2002	\$1,956,353	\$1,290,108	\$666,245	66/34
2004-2005	\$2,187,417	\$1,429,001	\$758,416	65/35
2010-2011	\$3,252,308	\$2,073,871	\$1,178,437	64/36
2015-2016	\$3,711,685	\$2,337,787	\$1,373,898	63/37
2023-2024	\$3,849,071	\$2,301,992	\$1,547,079	60/40

5

TOWN DATA BY YEAR: EQV



6



DLS

DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES
MA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Data Analytics and Resources Bureau

DOR Income per Capita
Data current as of 01/23/2025

Municipality(ies): Fiscal Year(s):

1

DOR Code	Municipality	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
225	Otis	23,230	23,477	23,933	27,266	28,600	35,607	21,065	24,037	24,341	26,603	20,047	28,670	29,326	29,168	33,141	35,153	35,226	41,157	50,272
260	Sandisfield	14,055	15,070	15,901	17,215	18,173	18,051	14,776	16,435	16,267	16,211	20,012	20,953	20,129	19,531	25,675	22,113	19,338	23,596	29,501

TOWN DATA BY YEAR: INCOME PER CAPITA

7

FY 24 Basis	OTIS	SANDISFIELD
FRRSD Cost as % of tax levy	40.99%	47.03%
FRRSD Portion of ASFTB	\$1225	\$1783
FRRSD Cost as % of IPC	2.98%	7.56%

FY 25 Basis	OTIS	SANDISFIELD
FRRSD Cost as % of tax levy	38.18%	46.43%
FRRSD Portion of ASFTB	\$1278	\$1685
FRRSD Cost as % of IPC	2.54%	5.71%

TOWN DATA: SCHOOL COSTS AS % OF TAX LEVY, ASFT, IPC (CURRENT RDA)

8

COMBINED EFFORT YIELD (CEY)

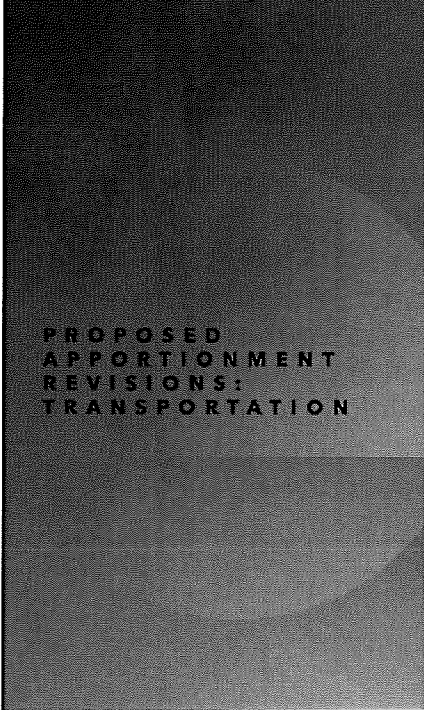
In the Massachusetts Chapter 70 school funding formula, "Combined Effort Yield" refers to the calculated sum of a municipality's equalized property valuation (multiplied by a uniform property percentage) and its municipal income (multiplied by a uniform income percentage), essentially representing a measure of a town's overall ability to fund education based on its wealth level.

9

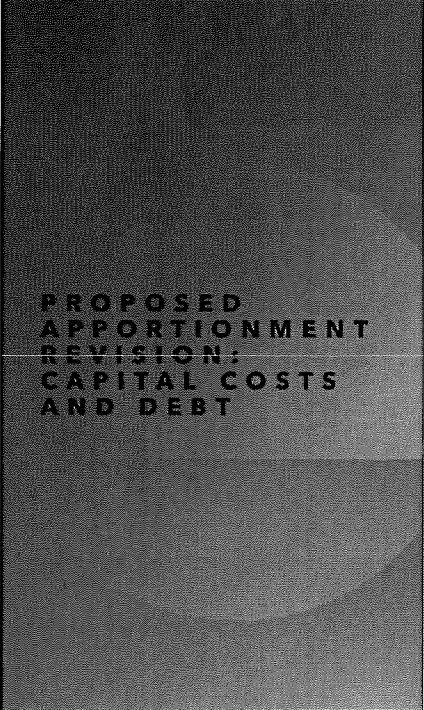
	Otis			Sandisfield			A % of CEY Difference
	CEY	Total Assessment (A)	A % of CEY	CEY	Total Assessment (A)	A % of CEY	
FY19	\$3,055,021	\$2,421,150	79.25%	\$1,078,573	\$1,443,802	133.86%	54.61%
FY20	\$2,991,542	\$2,389,710	79.88%	\$926,306	\$1,553,966	167.76%	87.88%
FY21	\$3,151,253	\$2,352,330	74.65%	\$1,164,387	\$1,652,728	141.94%	67.29%
FY22	\$2,960,227	\$1,988,757	67.18%	\$1,077,416	\$1,453,014	134.86%	67.68%
FY23	\$3,265,803	\$2,141,357	65.57%	\$1,160,614	\$1,426,042	122.87%	57.30%
FY24	\$3,698,113	\$2,302,460	62.26%	\$1,281,171	\$1,547,355	120.78%	58.52%
FY25	\$4,117,067	\$2,385,519	57.94%	\$1,436,564	\$1,580,296	110.01%	52.06%
FY23 MA average A% of CEY Difference across all 33 of its 2 town regional districts is 21.89%, with a median of 15.85%							

TOWN DATA: ASSESSMENTS AS % OF CEY

10

 PROPOSED APPORTIONMENT REVISIONS: TRANSPORTATION	CURRENT RDA: Transportation assessed to towns based on three-year average enrollment. FY 25 basis: Otis 57.56%, Sandisfield 42.44% PROPOSED REVISED RDA: Transportation assessed to towns based on their required minimum local contribution fraction. FY 25 basis: Otis 61.5%, Sandisfield 38.5%
--	--

11

 PROPOSED APPORTIONMENT REVISION: CAPITAL COSTS AND DEBT	CURRENT RDA: Capital costs are assessed using an average of EQV percentage and the three-year average enrollment percentage. FY 25 basis: Otis 66%, Sandisfield 34% PROPOSED REVISED RDA: Capital Costs are assessed using the EQV percentage. FY 25 basis: Otis *74.25%, Sandisfield *25.75% (*DLS 2022)
---	--

12

**PROPOSED
APPORTIONMENT
REVISION:
OPERATING
COSTS**

CURRENT RDA:

Adjusted operating costs assessed to towns based on three-year average enrollment. FY 25 basis: Otis 57.56%, Sandisfield 42.44%

Total Assessment FY25 Basis: 60%, Sandisfield 40%

PROPOSED REVISED RDA:

1. Adjusted operating costs are assessed by first applying the required minimum local contribution fraction. (FY 25 basis: Otis 61.5%, Sandisfield 38.5%)
2. After preliminary operating assessments are determined (above), these amounts are calculated as a percent of Combined Effort Yield.
3. If the preliminary operating assessment amounts vary by more than 20 percentage points, incremental adjustment will be made up or down until the difference in percent does not exceed 20%.

Estimated Total Assessment FY25 Basis: Otis 68.33%, Sandisfield 31.67%

13

	Current RDA	Proposed RDA
Apportionment Change	\$0	\$324,136
%Apportionment Change, Otis	0.00%	13.59%
%Apportionment Change, Sandisfield	0.00%	-20.51%
ASFTB Change, Otis	\$0	+\$174
ASFTB Change, Sandisfield	\$0	-\$346
ASFTB as % of IPC, Otis	6.49%	6.83%
ASFTB as % of IPC, Sandisfield	12.30%	11.13%
FRRSD Apportionment Share, Otis	60.15%	68.33%
FRRSD Apportionment Share, Sandisfield	39.15%	31.67%
Assessment as % of CEY, Otis	55.22%	62.86%
Assessment as % of CEY, Sandisfield	104.75%	82.86%

**PROPOSED APPORTIONMENT
REVISIONS: IMPACTS(FY25 BASIS)**

14

OTHER PROPOSED RDA CHANGES

Section I	Section II	Section IX	Section XI
Section I: Clarification of PreK Program	Section II: Composition of School Committee	Section IX: Withdrawal and Termination	Section XI: Periodic Review

15

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES



Proposed RDA approved by towns and DESE Commissioner.

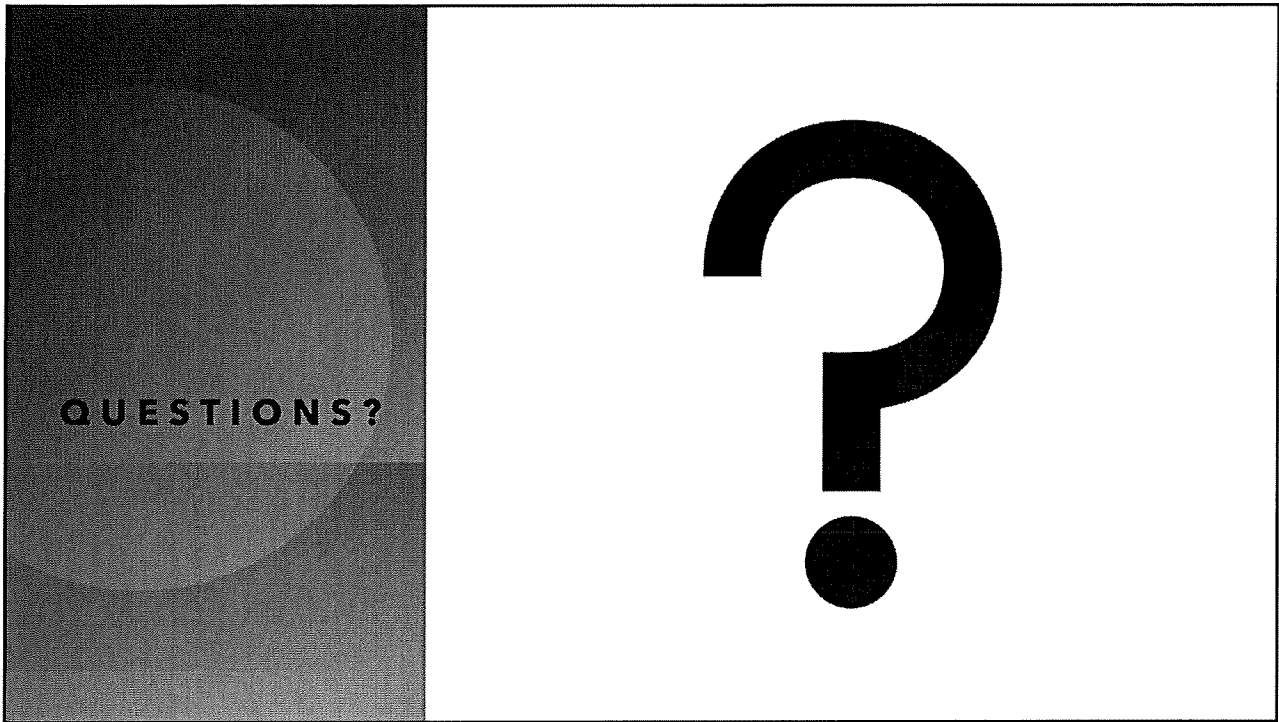


Proposed RDA rejected by one or both towns, current RDA remains in effect.



Sandisfield re-issues request for terms of withdrawal.

16



17