

**2017
SPRING TOWN
MEETING**

**SCHOOL ARTICLE
INFORMATION**

APRIL 10, 2016

Article 8: Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Assessment Methodology

The chart below outlines the calculation of the proposed modified assessment methodology.

Proposed FY 18 Budget	\$	31,317,900
Other Revenue Sources	\$	(11,551,346)
Net to be Assessed	\$	19,766,554

Step 1

Determine 10% of assessment by five year average of statutory formula min. contributions

	FY14-18 Average		Assessment
	\$\$	%	10%
Amherst	\$ 9,219,264	79.63%	\$ 1,574,011
Pelham	\$ 627,345	5.42%	\$ 107,135
Leverett	\$ 947,139	8.18%	\$ 161,690
Shutesbury	\$ 783,610	6.77%	\$ 133,820
	\$ 11,577,358	100.00%	\$ 1,976,656

Step 3

Add it all together

	\$\$
Amherst	\$ 15,502,710
Pelham	\$ 1,035,183
Leverett	\$ 1,492,715
Shutesbury	\$ 1,735,946
	\$ 19,766,554

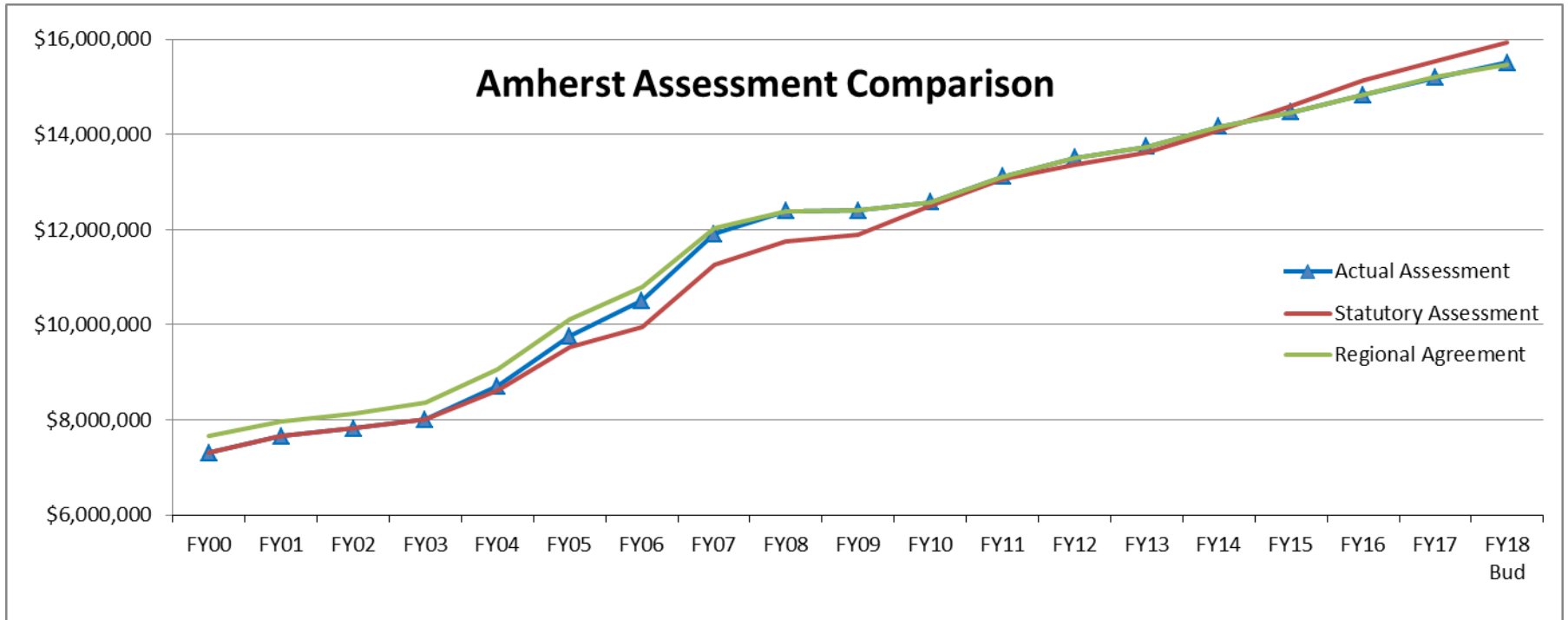
Step 2

Determine 90% of assessment by regional agreement method

	EQV	\$ 168,188	5 Yr Enroll	Remainder
	%	Capital \$\$	%	\$\$
Amherst	77.83%	\$ 130,901	78.30%	\$ 13,797,798
Pelham	5.92%	\$ 9,957	5.21%	\$ 918,091
Leverett	8.73%	\$ 14,683	7.47%	\$ 1,316,342
Shutesbury	7.52%	\$ 12,648	9.02%	\$ 1,589,478
	100.00%	\$ 168,189	100.00%	\$ 17,621,709

Article 8: Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Assessment Methodology

The chart below compares the assessment to Amherst under different methodologies.



Article 12: Community Field and Regional Schools Master Plan

The Town and Schools are exploring collaborative solutions to address aging fields and a track in need of annual repairs (below). The first step is to complete a master plan that shows a range of options/costs and allows for community input. The cost of the master plan will be shared by the Town of Amherst and the Amherst Pelham Regional School District.



Article 15 A: Wildwood Boiler

The replacement of the school boiler was initially approved in 2013 but was put on hold as Wildwood was accepted into the MSBA feasibility study/schematic design process. The boiler has limped along ever since, requiring annual repairs. It is a two boiler system but only one boiler is used as the other one leaks water when in operation.



Article 15 B: Fort River Environmental, Building and Site Analysis

School district officials initially considered a complete feasibility study but decided to scale back to an exploratory analysis. The analysis will assess the current condition of the Fort River building/site and produce baseline data for the community to have when considering future decisions on the viability of new construction on the site or renovation of the existing building.

Specific elements of the analysis include: environmental assessment of building and site, geotechnical investigations and report on site, site survey, updated wetlands and wildlife/habitat delineations, building and code analysis. In addition, an owner's project manager will be hired to help organize the process and communicate information to the public.

Articles 18 & 19: Special Education Reserve Funds

The special education reserve fund was recently created by Section 24 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016. One article establishes the fund for the Amherst Public Schools which needs Amherst Town Meeting approval. The other article establishes the fund for the Amherst Pelham Regional School District which needs approval by the majority of member towns.

The funds provide a safety net for schools against unanticipated special education costs including out of district tuition and transportation. Funds can only be used with prior approval by School Committee and the Select Board. More information can be found at the following website:
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/default.html?section=archive>

School district officials are requesting a one-time transfer of \$150,000 from free cash into the elementary school special education reserve fund. This transfer will be offset by funds returned to the Town of Amherst from the elementary school operating budget at the end of the current fiscal year.

Other: Amherst Pelham Regional School District - Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

The Amherst Pelham Regional School District contributed \$116,469 to its OPEB trust fund in fiscal year 2017 and has budgeted \$82,549 for fiscal year 2018. The OPEB board of trustees is meeting this Spring to develop a long term funding plan and an investment strategy. These meetings are posted on the school's website and the public is welcome to attend. The most recent actuarial reports can be found at:

http://www.arps.org/administration/business_office_information/reports