

Regionalization Landmarks

2005	The original Aquidneck Island School/Municipal Advisory Committee was started in 2005 following the "famous tent meeting" in Portsmouth and after Newport and Middletown had gone through some difficulties in trying to balance their budgets.
June 29, 2009	RIPEC released the Aquidneck Island Consolidation Feasibility Study. Focus was K-12 school regionalization. Study found declining enrollments and excess building capacity; it showed that "opportunities exist to generate significant savings to the three districts through consolidation, while providing enhanced educational opportunities," dependent on governmental and administrative efficiency and effectiveness.
July 6, 2009	Dr. Shoemaker commented, "One course of action is to take no action and accept the status quo, but if the RIPEC projections are correct and each school has an enlarging spending gap, the three districts will have little choice but to cut academic and extracurricular programs." He added, "As to why Newport has the highest costs/student, it would appear that Newport's OPEB obligation is the main reason."
Sept. 23, 2009	Dr. Shoe: "It seems to me that to be fair, we should include in each community's expenditure the amount we pay to retirees up to 65, but that the cost of Newport's over 65 program should be handled separately."
Nov. 17, 2009	Correspondence:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economic outlook is dismal. • The cost of operating our schools is projected to grow at a rate greater than municipalities are likely to be able (or willing) to support. • School enrollments have declined and are expected to continue to decline. • School facility excess capacity exists today and is expected grow.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal budgets are expected to be stressed by a variety of factors for the foreseeable future. • Municipal, state and federal funding of education is likely to decrease for a variety of reasons. • School committees need to find ways to save money while ensuring continuing delivery of high-quality education.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The geography of Aquidneck Island lends itself to consolidation of schools. • The RIPEC study documents, regardless of the assumptions used, that the projected funding level needed to continue to deliver high-quality education to all students will not be available. • The RIPEC study shows Aquidneck Island communities can save substantial amounts of money by entering into school collaboration and consolidation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary examination of data suggests that school consolidation would have significant educational benefit in addition to cost savings shown by the analysis contained in the RIPEC study
Dec. 7, 2009	A proposal was prepared for the formation of a Regional Planning Committee; the proposal did not receive support.
May 1, 2010	Middletown Town Council appoints Regionalization Committee - BVV, Chris Semonelli, Bill Flynn, Mike Pinto, Kellie DiPalma, Liana Fenton to review implications for Middletown.
Aug. 2, 2010	Meeting with NESDEC reps. "The primary reason for consolidating should be educational benefit. "
Dec. 21, 2010	Middletown Regionalization Committee files report, makes recommendations. TC supports recommendations to explore; rejects further action.
Mar. 15, 2011	Motion for non-binding referendum proposed to Middletown Town Council. Motion defeated.
Juy 2013	TC authorized Town Administrator to develop statistical model.
July-Dec., 2013	Outreach to all Newport County communities
Oct., 2013	TC and SC appoint members to Unified High School Exploratory Committee
Nov. , 2013	Newport City Council passes Resolution of support.
Dec., 2013	Newport City Council and School Committee appoint members to committee.

