

RSU Decision Criteria – QUESTIONS - _____ RESPONSES

1. What are class size policies and realities?
2. What is teacher pay policy and reality?
3. What are the self-identified subject levels that have the strongest following and where are the struggles?
4. What are graduation rates?
5. What are test scores at all levels?
6. How many kids go on to college ?
7. What language programs are offered and at what starting point?
8. What programs outside of the standard offerings do we offer?
9. What sports are offered?
10. In the elementary levels what reading programs, if any are used?

RSU Decision Criteria – QUESTIONS - _____ RESPONSES

11. What accomplishments is each district most proud of and what has been the biggest disappointment?
12. If one exists what is the official ranking of priorities?
13. Are there any key staffing or union concerns?
14. What is the per student cost for each district?
15. How have budgets been voted on in the past in each community?
16. How many times have budgets been voted down in the past 10 years?

If any, why?

17. What percentage of the current town budget is education?
18. What other looming town issues do each community face that may need to come before educational concerns in allocating scarce resources?
19. **Educational Philosophies** What are the current K-5 educational philosophies of our potential partner schools? What similarities and differences exist?
20. **Academic Achievement** What are the academic achievement goals for each school? What measurement tools are used? What have the results been over the last four school years (2002-03 thru 2005-06)? What student and staff support services exist? What is the scope of extracurricular activities? Other significant factors?

RSU Decision Criteria – QUESTIONS - _____ RESPONSES

21. **Enrollment** What were the 2006-07 class sizes for each K-5 grade in each school? What are the School Board target sizes for each school and grade? What are the projected enrollments for each town in the next 5 to 10 years? What are the current school building student-capacities, student-capacity utilization, building ages and maintenance status? What is the likelihood of having to construct and/or close schools in the new RSU in the next 5 to 10 years?

22. **Transportation** After regionalization what are the primary transportation issues associated with each RSU alternative? (Consider both school and parent/child transportation.) Impact on extracurricular activities?

23. **Cost Considerations** The present alternatives include significantly differing town valuations and populations, relative student population sizes, existing school cost structures, Middle School contractual obligations (Arundel), and High School Choice (Arundel). Cost sensitive towns with relatively low valuations will have difficulty approving significant cost increases in January, 2008. How best can we develop an equitable RSU financial template that not only results in approval by each town's voters (1/15/08) but also results in State Board of Education approval? How can state-mandated cost reductions best be met – both 1st year (2008/09) and beyond?

24. **Staffing** What are the existing contractual obligations as of 7/1/08 and beyond? At this point, what are the short and long term requirements projections based on student population?

25. **Community Impact** If schools are eventually closed after consolidation due to state and/or community taxpayer pressure, what are the potential community impacts? How can they best be ameliorated? Assuming the RSU recommends closure, what are the estimated incremental costs to Arundel of keeping M L Day open in 2009/10 and beyond?

26. **RSU School Board Composition** What is the current thinking of each town regarding the state-suggested alternatives? What, if any, role does each town see for a local advisory board?