

Oxford Township School District Regionalization & Send/Receive

January 31, 2018

Oxford Central School Library

Regionalization

- ▶ Late 1990's studies are completed to discuss choice
- ▶ 2000 in NJ a five year pilot is developed
- ▶ 1 district in each county
- ▶ Belvidere High School
- ▶ Most Oxford students were attending Warren Hills
- ▶ Program ended in 2005-2006 school year, a few students remained at Belvidere and graduated. Percentage sets up a permanent send/receive with Warren Hills.

Regionalization

- ▶ Since 1969, numerous NJ studies
- ▶ All cite strengths and weaknesses
 - ▶ Tax base is spread out to other districts
 - ▶ Savings in some non-instructional and administrative costs
 - ▶ There is transition aide to the regional districts for 5 years
- ▶ The common weakness cited was “disincentives”
- ▶ Other weaknesses
 - ▶ Local control and accountability
 - ▶ Does not automatically reap cost savings or improve quality of education
 - ▶ Expenses related to salaries and transportation have a negative impact

Regionalization Weaknesses continued...

- ▶ Disproportionate distribution of costs
- ▶ Cost inequities based on development trends
- ▶ Debt-service and assets
- ▶ Personnel retention policies
- ▶ Withdrawal from a regional is difficult
- ▶ Entering into a regional is difficult
- ▶ Feasibility study costs

Regionalization: Realities in NJ

- ▶ Since 1982, only 5 regional districts have been created
- ▶ The end result does unify curriculum, exposes new students to greater opportunities
- ▶ Population decreases across the state may lead to a more optimum time for regionalization
- ▶ Each town impacted has to approve: Mansfield, Twp., Boro, Franklin, Oxford
- ▶ The Feasibility study:
 - ▶ Economic inequities
 - ▶ Racial impact
 - ▶ Population impact
 - ▶ \$50,000 is a typical cost

Our Survey Results

- ▶ 151 Surveys were distributed
- ▶ 41 were returned
- ▶ 60% would like to stay with Warren Hills
- ▶ 60% answered we should regionalize
- ▶ 85% felt improving the Send/Receive would be better
- ▶ 97% were happy with the current grade configuration
- ▶ 12% felt Belvidere was a better option

Send/ Receive

- ▶ 151 Send-Receive agreements in NJ
- ▶ Allows for students to have access to facilities
- ▶ Advanced curriculum
- ▶ Typically high schools receive and elementary/ middle send
- ▶ Tuition rates are set by the receiving districts based on state financial software
- ▶ Special education costs, clubs, textbooks, staff, etc... all go into the formula that creates the \$ amount.
- ▶ It has to be certified by the Department of Education before published annually

Send/ Receive

- ▶ Student counts are exchanged and verified
- ▶ Tuition adjustments two years after the annual contract is set up
- ▶ Receiving district can charge a sending district an adjustment for under-paying
- ▶ Both districts could decide on a set payment in this case

- ▶ If Sending district adjustment shows overpayment, then Receiving district must pay back everything owed
- ▶ We are trying to rectify and balance the potential tuition adjustment

Send/ Receive

- ▶ Working on a fixed five year agreement
- ▶ Written
- ▶ Attorney-reviewed
- ▶ Fixed annual tuition
- ▶ New policies and guidelines from the NJSBA
- ▶ We have written a resolution we are hoping the NJSBA agrees to implement