

**Bolton School District; Huntington School District; Jericho School District;
Richmond School District; Underhill Town School District; Underhill ID School District;
Mount Mansfield Union School District #17
Regional Education District (RED)
Planning Committee Report**

The Plan

February 2011

Authorization to engage in this RED Planning Committee process was voted in the affirmative by the following boards of directors on the following dates:

Bolton Board of Directors, on June 2, 2010;
Huntington Board of Directors, on June 8, 2010;
Jericho Board of Directors, on June 9, 2010;
Richmond Board of Directors, on May 19, 2010;
Underhill Town Board of Directors, on June 1, 2010;
Underhill ID Board of Directors, on May 24, 2010;
Mt. Mansfield Union Board of Directors, on May 27, 2010

The Commissioner of Education was advised of the formation of this RED Study Committee, pursuant to Title 16 V.S.A. § 706b, by letter dated July 13, 2010, and in that letter, Dr. Robert Letovsky was identified as chairperson of the RED Planning Committee.

Recommended Articles of Agreement, pursuant to the requirements of Title 16, Chapter 11, Subchapter 3, as are set forth herein below, were agreed upon by the Planning Committee at its duly wamed meeting of January 6, 2011.

Planning Committee Membership

Robert Letovsky, Ph.D. Chairperson, Board Member UID
Jon Milazzo, Board Member Richmond
Andrew Rosacker, Board Member Underhill Center
Wayne Segear, Board Member Jericho
Ken Remsen, Clerk, Board Member MMUSD
Phil Graf, Community Member Bolton
David Thomas, Community Member Richmond
Paula Gervia, Board Member Bolton
Breck Knauft, Board Member Huntington
Edye Graning, Community Member Jericho
Joe O'Brien, Underhill ID Community Member
Carol Shallow, Community Member Richmond MMUSD
David Clark, Community Member Huntington
Susan Belton, Community Member Underhill Town
John Alberghini, Superintendent of Schools, Chittenden East SU

Articles of Agreement

The Planning Committee recommends that the following Articles of Agreement be approved by the electorates of each of the named school districts in order to create a RED to be named Chittenden East Regional Education District.

Article 1

The School Districts of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill Town, Underhill ID and Mt. Mansfield Union, (hereinafter referred to as the “forming districts”) are necessary to the establishment of the Chittenden East RED.

Article 2

The member school districts of the Chittenden East RED have worked increasingly over the past several years to consolidate management and educational services, master employee contracts and to otherwise bring about effective and efficient operating procedures and practices. Through this process, both formal and informal agreements, management systems and operating procedures have evolved between and among these member school districts, laying a foundation for the creation of the Chittenden East Regional School District.

Article 3

The Chittenden East RED will offer education to students in Kindergarten through Grade 12, and will offer Pre-K education as determined by the Chittenden East RED Board.

Article 4

Beginning July 1, 2012, the RED will be responsible for providing, or contracting for, any transportation which is to be provided to publicly-funded students attending public schools within the boundaries of the RED, in accordance with transportation policies to be adopted by the RED Board.

Article 5

The RED will honor all pre-existing master and individual contracts that are in place for the forming school districts on July 1, 2012. These master and individual agreements will continue until their respective specified termination dates.

Article 6

The forming districts of the RED recognize their obligations, pursuant to Act 153 of 2010, Section 9, to standardize curricula, and to otherwise standardize their operations within existing Supervisory Unions boundaries, on or before July 1, 2012.

Article 7

Any and all operating deficits and/or surpluses of any of the combining/forming districts shall become the property, and/or the obligation, of the RED effective on the date of the creation of the RED.

Article 8

The forming districts will convey to the RED all of their school-related real and personal property, for One Dollar, and the RED will assume all capital debt associated therewith, effective on the date of the creation of the RED.

In the event that, and at such subsequent time as, the RED determines that any of the real property, including land and buildings, conveyed to it by one or more of the following forming districts: Bolton – Smilie Memorial Elementary School, Huntington – Brewster Pierce Elementary School, Jericho – Jericho Elementary School, Richmond – Richmond Elementary, Underhill – Underhill Central School; is or are unnecessary to the continued operation of the RED, and its educational programs, the RED shall convey such real property, for the sum of One Dollar, and subject to all encumbrances of record, to the town in which it is located. The conveyance of any of the above school properties shall be conditioned upon the town owning and utilizing the real property for community and public purposes for a minimum of five years. In the event a town elects to sell the real property prior to five years of ownership, the town shall compensate the RED for all capital improvements and renovations completed after the formation of the RED and before the sale to the town. In the event a town elects not to acquire ownership of such real property, the RED shall, pursuant to Vermont statutes, sell the property upon such terms and conditions as established by the RED Board of School Directors.

In the event that, and at such subsequent time as, the RED determines that any of the real property, including land and building, conveyed to it by the Underhill Incorporated School District, is or are unnecessary to the continued operation of the RED, and its educational programs, the RED shall sell the real property. The net proceeds (sale price less expenses, discharge of all associated debt, etc.) from the sale of such property, shall be placed in a reserve fund for the sole purpose of reducing the school tax rate in the former Underhill Incorporated School District for a period of up to three years.

In the event that, and at such subsequent time as, the RED determines that any of the real property, including land and buildings, conveyed to it by the Mount Mansfield Union School District is or are unnecessary to the continued operation of the RED, and its educational programs, the RED shall, pursuant to Vermont statutes, sell the property upon such terms and conditions as established by the RED Board of School Directors.

Article 9

A forming town/district’s representation on the RED Board will be closely proportional to the fraction that its population bears to the aggregate population of the RED. Initial RED Board composition is based upon the most recent Federal Census, and shall be recalculated promptly following the release of each subsequent decennial census. However, at no time will a combining/forming town/district have less than one board member on the RED Board. Subject to the previous sentence, each proportionality calculation shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Number of School Board Members by Town/City

Town/City	Board Members (population of town)	
Bolton	1	(1,249)
Huntington	2	(1,823)
Jericho	4	(5,015)
Richmond	4	(4,090)
Underhill	3	(3,006)
Underhill ID	1	(1,405)
Total	15	(16,588)

Article 10 RED Board Members will be elected for three-year terms, except for those initially elected at the time of the formation of the RED. In the initial RED Board Member terms of office will be as follows:

Distribution of Initial One-Year, Two-Year and Three-Year Terms

Town/City	1 Year Term	2 Year Term	3 Year Term
Bolton		1	
Huntington		1	1
Jericho	2	1	1
Richmond	2	1	1
Underhill	1	1	1
Underhill ID			1

Article 11

The proposal for forming this RED will be presented to the voters of each member school district which is designated as “necessary,” in June 2011. The new RED Board will be elected in September 2011 following the approval of the RED formation.

Article 12

Upon an affirmative vote of the electorates of the school districts which are necessary, and upon compliance with 16 V.S.A. § 706g, the RED shall have and exercise all of the authority which is necessary in order for it to prepare for full operation beginning on July 1, 2012. The RED shall, between the date of the necessary affirmative votes and June 30, 2012, develop school district policies, adopt curriculum and educational programs, prepare for contractual agreements, set the school calendar for Fiscal Year 2013, prepare and present the budget for Fiscal Year 2013, prepare for the 2012 RED Annual Meeting and transact any other lawful business that comes before the Board, provided, however, that the exercise of such authority by the RED shall not be

construed to limit or alter the authority and/or responsibilities of the Districts of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Mount Mansfield Union, Richmond, Underhill and Underhill ID.

The RED shall commence full educational operations on July 1, 2012.

Article 13

The Chittenden East RED Board shall propose annual budgets in accordance with 16 VSA Chapter 11.

The annual budget vote shall be conducted by Australian ballot as per 17 VSA Chapter 55.

Article 14

The school districts of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill Town, Underhill ID and Mt. Mansfield Union, shall remain in existence after June 30, 2012, for the purpose of completing any business not given to the Regional Education School District under these articles. Such business shall be completed as soon as practicable, but in no event any later than June 30, 2013.

Article 15

Attach Cost Benefit Analysis.(See form at Attachment A)

Note Regarding Article 15

A cost-benefit analysis must be included with your plan. How will efficiencies be gained through the creation of the RED? Address issues including, but not limited to, the following:

- Improved student opportunities;
- Improved student outcomes;
- Technology;
- Teacher staffing;
- Non-teacher staffing;
- Student data collection and reporting;
- Financial accounting and budgeting;
- Improved utilization of buildings and sports facilities;
- Centralized contracting;
- Transportation; and
- Food service.

Article 16 (See Attachment B For School Configurations)

The RED will maintain the current school and grade configurations of the Chittenden East Supervisory Union until such time as the RED Board determines reorganization is necessary to address student needs, gain operational efficiencies and/or meet budgetary objective. The RED will serve Kindergarten – Grade 12 by providing for students' education at public schools operated by the RED. Students will attend elementary schools according to their town of residency for educational purposes.

The RED Board shall determine the operation of Prekindergarten programs.

School choice options will be expanded in the RED. Within allowable space and within reasonable limits of the existing transportation system, parents may apply for their student(s) to attend any elementary and/or middle school in the RED.

No changes in the current Act 150 partnerships are planned. School choice options for grade 9-12 students at Mt. Mansfield Union will continue as part of the Regional School Choice Collaborative with Colchester School District and Champlain Valley Union High School.

There are no current discussions of closure of existing schools in the district nor is designation of other public or private schools under consideration.

Article 17

Enrollment Determinations:

The RED will serve Kindergarten – Grade 12 by providing for students' education at public schools operated by the RED. Students will attend elementary schools according to their town of residency for educational purposes.

The RED Board shall determine the operation of Prekindergarten programs.

School choice options will be expanded in the RED. Within allowable space and within reasonable limits of the existing transportation system, parents may apply for their student(s) to attend any elementary and/or middle school in the RED.

(See Appendix B for configuration and enrollment plan of each school maintained by the RED.)

Article 18

Local Input on Policy and Budget:

The RED school board shall provide opportunity for local input on policy and budget development by annually conducting at least two public hearings at each public school operated by the RED. At least one of the public hearings shall concern school budget development and shall be held prior to the school board's adoption of a fiscal year school budget. At least one other public hearing or forum each year shall concern school board policies and other matters of public concern. Other structures to support and encourage public participation in policy, curriculum, educational programming and budget within the RED will be established by the RED Board on or before June 30, 2012.

In addition, local community members shall have the opportunity to participate in the selection of the principal of the school within their town.

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