

## **Proposed Warrant Article**

In accordance with G.L. c. 71, §§ 14B and 15, the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board (the “RSDPB”) hereby requests that the following Article be placed on the Warrant for a special town meeting of the Town of New Marlborough to be held within thirty (30) days of the Town’s receipt of this request. The vote on this warrant article must be by printed ballot.

### Article [I]

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of sections sixteen to sixteen I, inclusive, of chapter seventy-one of the General Laws providing for the establishment of an eight town regional school district, together with the towns of Alford, Egremont, Great Barrington, Monterey, Sheffield, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge, to be known as the Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District (the “New District”). The New District would be formed and governed in accordance with the proposed agreement filed by the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board with the Select Board (the “8 Town Regional Agreement”) (a copy of which is available for inspection at town hall and on the website [8towns.org](http://8towns.org)).

Formation of the New District is subject to voter approval in each of the eight towns who is a party to the 8 Town Regional Agreement. As provided in the 8 Town Regional Agreement, full operation of the New District and dissolution of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (the “SBRSD”) and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (the “BHRSD”) shall be further subject to:

- (i) voter approval, in accordance with applicable law and the terms of the 8 Town Regional Agreement, of the debt required to construct a new high school for the New District on the Great Barrington campus of the current BHRSD; and
- (ii) enactment of special legislation permitting (a) the transfer of the buildings and other assets of each of the SBRSD and the BHRSD to the New District on the date the New District becomes fully operational (at the end of the transition period specified in the 8 Town Regional Agreement); and (b) the dissolution of the SBRSD and the BHRSD on that same date without further action by any public body.

A summary of the steps that would follow an affirmative vote on this warrant article by the voters of New Marlborough and the other seven towns who are parties to the 8 Town Regional Agreement is attached for informational purposes to this Warrant.

## **Summary of steps for formation and operation of the Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District**

A new eight town regional school district, to be known as the Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District (the “New District”), would be formed after an affirmative vote by the majority of voters in each of the towns of Great Barrington, Sheffield, New Marlborough, Stockbridge, Monterey, West Stockbridge, Egremont and Alford upon approval of the proposed eight town regional agreement (the “8 Town Regional Agreement”) by the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Following such approval, the eight towns would appoint members of an appointed transition committee in accordance with the terms of the 8 Town Regional Agreement. This appointed transition committee would be replaced by a district-wide elected transition committee (with residency requirements as provided in the 8 Town Regional Agreement) at the next biennial election to be held in November 2024.

Following its formation, the New District would not become fully operational, and the existing regional districts would not dissolve, until the following additional conditions are met, all as provided in the 8 Town Regional Agreement:

1. Voter approval of the debt required to construct a new high school for the combined district on the Great Barrington campus of the current BHRSD in accordance with applicable law and the terms of the 8 Town Regional Agreement; and
2. Passage of special legislation permitting (a) the transfer of the buildings and other assets (and liabilities) of each of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD) on the date the transition period ends and the New District becomes fully operational; and (b) the dissolution of the SBRSD and the BHRSD on that same date without further action by any public body.

Should either of those conditions not be satisfied by the date specified in the 8 Town Regional Agreement, the 8 Town Regional Agreement would terminate, the New District would dissolve, and the BHRSD and the SBRSD would continue to operate separately.