Support for the Temporary Regional School Study Committee on Advisability of Regionalization

Ansonia and Derby

April 22, 2019
DMGroup will lead a coordinated effort with MMI and SPA to complete the analysis and study within 18 months.

### 18 Month Workplan

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**Phase 1.1 Project Initiation**

**Phase 1.2 Develop Understanding of Current Context**
- Data request
- Focus groups and interviews

**Phase 1.3 Begin Conducting Analysis**
- SPA – Facilities survey
- MMI – Projections of enrollment
- DMG – Analysis of:
  - Programs and services
  - Staffing needs and deployment
  - Special education
  - Transportation

**Phase 1.4 – 1.8 Create and Present Task 1 Report on Regionalization Advisability**

**Phase 2 Determine & Conduct Task 2 Analysis of Savings for Shared Services, Facilitate Workshops**

The next few months of this project will include data analysis by DMGroup, SPA, and MMI to culminate in the Task 1 Report.
DMGroup completed a series of interviews and focus groups with stakeholders from both districts and communities.

Phase 1.2: Focus Groups & Interviews

Focus Group Participants:
- Board of Education Members*
- Board of Alderman / City Council Members
- District Administrators
- School Administrators
- School Staff
- Students
- Parents & Community Members

Information from Focus Groups:
- What are some potential benefits to regionalizing Ansonia and Derby Public Schools?
- What are some potential challenges to regionalizing Ansonia and Derby Public Schools?
- What are some of the academic, financial, and political implications to regionalizing or not regionalizing Ansonia and Derby Public Schools?
- What are the strengths and challenges in each district?
- How could each district benefit from shared services?

*Note: Members of the Ansonia Board of Education have not yet been re-scheduled.
DMGroup, MMI, and SPA gathered quantitative data from both Ansonia and Derby Public Schools as well.

Phase 1.2-1.3: Quantitative Data Collection & Analysis

DMGroup Preliminary Data Request

- Historical & Projected Budget
- Capital Expenditure Projects
- District Policies
- Union Contracts
- Demographic & Enrollment Projections
- School Boundaries
- Grant Budgets
- School Site Budgets
- HR Data
- Academic Achievement Data
- Specialized Programming

Information from Quantitative Analysis

- Where are there similarities and differences across Ansonia and Derby Public Schools?
- What are the programs and services provided in each district?
- How are staff deployed within each district?
- What are the financial implications to regionalizing or not regionalizing Ansonia and Derby Public Schools, over the next 5 years?
- What are the district policies in each district that may impact the advisability of regionalizing?
MMI is analyzing data to understand enrollment and facilities in Ansonia and Derby Public Schools.

Phase 1.2 – 1.3: MMI

Over the next phases of work, MMI will...

1. Analyze demographic and housing trends in each community
2. Analyze enrollment trends from each school district
3. Prepare 10-year enrollment projections on a facility basis for each district
4. Review existing school sites to identify current issues in conditions, site circulation, parking, and recreational areas, and assess potential for future uses
SPA is evaluating the facilities in Ansonia and Derby Public Schools.

Phase 1.2 – 1.3: SPA

**Upcoming tasks for SPA:**

- Review the primary goals with both districts and educators
- Evaluate existing conditions of the buildings and program accommodations
- Create list of facility needs and deficiencies
- Evaluation of shared use space potential – flexible rooms, multi-purpose spaces, Special Ed, STEM, etc.
- Prioritize needs and developed cost estimates
Through our focus groups, DMGroup heard a number of themes that we will investigate further in the data.

Focus Groups: Themes for Further Investigation

Goals of Regionalization
Are the goals similar across the two districts?

Facilities
Are there facilities that could support regionalization?

Governance
How could a future Board of Education operate?

Unions & Contracts
How does having different unions and contracts impact regionalization?

Curricula
What would regionalization mean for curricula?

Prior experience with shared services
What have been successes and challenges to sharing services in the past?

Cost Sharing & Mill Rates
How could the two districts share costs of a regional district?

Programming & Course Offerings
What programs and courses could be offered to students?

Other Relevant Factors
What other factors or questions should be reviewed further?
In the fall, DMGroup will provide a Task 1 report, outlining the advisability of regionalizing Ansonia and Derby Public Schools.

**Phase 1.4 – 1.8: Task 1 Report**

### Task 1 Report:

- **Potential efficiencies** of a regional district & areas of potential savings with the status quo and a regional district
- **Potential academic impact** of a regional district in comparison to the status quo
- **Potential decisions for school districts** in the status quo and a regional district
- **Governance recommendations** related to a regional school district
With the full Task 1 Report, DMGroup will produce an executive summary or “Guide to Regionalization” for community members.

Task 1 Report Executive Summary

The executive summary will outline the…

- Academic Impact
- Enrollment Impact
- Financial Impact
- State of Facilities
- Cultural & Governance Impact

…of regionalizing or not regionalizing Ansonia and Derby.

This will provide a shared fact base for community members to make informed decisions about regionalization.
Q & A
If you have any comments or questions about the contents of this document, please contact District Management Group:

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