



final report . .

TEMPORARY REGIONAL SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE

for the towns of
**BETHLEHEM
And
WOODBURY**

APRIL, 1968

BETHLEHEM-WOODBURY TEMPORARY REGIONAL SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE

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The Temporary Regional Study Committee recommends

- That the towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury join to form a regional school district to include grades kindergarten through twelve.
- That grades kindergarten through twelve be divided into elementary schools (grades K through 5), a middle school (grades 6 through 8), and a high school (grades 9 through 12).
- That grades K through 5 be housed in the elementary school buildings in Bethlehem and Woodbury.
- That grades 6 through 8 be housed in what is now Woodbury's Junior-Senior High School and the present Vo-Ag Center.
- That grades 9 through 12 be housed in new high school facilities to be built in Woodbury on land located at the intersection of Middle Road Turnpike and Minortown Road.
- That the present Vocational Agriculture program be incorporated in the regional high school program.
- That the present Vo-Ag Center in Woodbury be relocated adjacent to the new high school facilities, permitting the present building to become a part of the middle school facilities.
- That the Special Education Center recently approved for Woodbury be incorporated in the regional district.

PROPOSED REFERENDUM

Shall the town of _____ join with the following named town _____ in the establishment of a regional school district with the schools located in the towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury for the purpose of providing the necessary facilities and administering grades kindergarten through twelve of the public schools?

Yes _____

No _____

The proposal above is the question to be decided by referendum vote in both towns. The wording is shown as required by state law and as it will appear on the voting machines.

INTRODUCTION

Across the nation, the growth of regional school districts indicates increasing recognition of their advantages. Faced with new educational challenges, increasing costs, and state and federal requirements, small communities are realizing that they must pool their resources to provide adequate educational opportunities for their young people.

An added incentive to regionalizing has been provided in Connecticut by new state grants, which underwrite a larger part of the cost of building, equipping and programming regional schools. At the same time, smaller districts find it increasingly difficult to comply with new state laws calling for special services, unless they combine with other districts to underwrite needed professional aid.

Larger school facilities and enrollments make possible a more comprehensive educational program. A K through 12 region offers a correlated program of studies which will provide

Elementary Schools

- A better start in school, through early identification of possible learning difficulties or handicaps.

- Correlated primary education with special attention to the achievement of skill in reading.

- Opportunities to participate in art and music programs.

- Adequate time and facilities for physical education programs geared to the needs of the early years.

Middle School

- Proper attention to the special needs and widening interests of the pre-adolescent.

- More adequate programs of basic studies.

- Pre-high school language and math courses.

- Exploration of future educational opportunities in high school and vocational school programs.

- Enlarged physical education and sports programs.

- Opportunities for special arts programs, club activities, intramural events.

- Individualized guidance and counseling with appropriate remedial assistance.

High School

- Improved programs of studies with advanced courses for college students and wider vocational courses for terminal students.

- Additional offerings in science, language, math, art and music, business education and other vocationally oriented activities.

- Larger library, auditorium, gymnasium, science labs and industrial arts facilities; larger playing fields and recreation facilities.

Staffing

- Better use of teachers in areas of their special preparation.

- Better guidance, counseling of students and improved diagnostic and remedial services.

Administration

- Central administration, resulting in greater efficiency and operational economies.

Reduced Local Building and Operational Costs

- Greater aid through new regional grants.

- Reduced costs through centralized planning and purchasing.

Community Use

- Wider participation and use of facilities by two communities for civic, cultural, social, educational, and other activities.

BETHLEHEM'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Bethlehem's present facilities consist of 15 classrooms with auxiliary rooms as follows: Cafeteria-kitchen, storage; Auditorium-Gymnasium with stage, limited storage facilities, limited shower and locker room area, health office, small administrative and secretarial offices, teachers' room, elementary library, and a basement reading-workshop classroom.

The present plant houses grades K-8 with a full-time staff of 16 teachers, with part-time professional personnel for 2 days in Music, 2 days of library services and a Reading teacher for 4 days.

There is a dire need of specialists in Art, Physical Education, Home Economics, Industrial Arts, Guidance and Foreign Languages. To provide educational and exploratory experiences in these areas additional teachers and rooms would be needed if these services are to be provided under present arrangements. Consultation and testing spaces are also needed, in view of the special services *now required by law* for students identified as trainable, educable, emotionally maladjusted, perceptually handicapped or having other learning disabilities. These students will need the special help of a School Psychologist, Nurse, Doctor, and Social Worker along with specially trained professional personnel.

For over 50 years Bethlehem's students, in grades 9-12, have gone to other towns on a tuition basis. At the present time students attend high schools in Watertown, Wamogo, Woodbury, and Kaynor Tech in Waterbury, which extends transportation in many directions. With the community spread out geographically and the interests of the students being so diverse the resultant difficulties involved in transporting them are obvious. Bethlehem's present contract with Watertown expires in two years and Watertown must be advised in May as to whether or not the contract will be renewed or cancelled. Time becomes an important factor for Bethlehem.

Educational Alternatives

It would seem at this point, that there are essentially three courses of action Bethlehem could follow;

a. Continue with the present arrangement of organization

Bethlehem K-8 with tuition 9-12 for as long as a school can be found to receive these grades, with the Vocational Agriculture students attending Woodbury and Wamogo. This alternative will involve a building program for specialized subject matter areas as well as employment of special teachers. This will be expensive because of Bethlehem's small enrollment, which will continue at that level in view of the enrollment forecasts. To do otherwise would deprive the 6-7-8th grade students of what is considered a good educational program. While there have been excellent relationships with the receiving schools, Bethlehem does not have an official voice in administrative or educational policy.

b. Organize on a K-6 basis with grades 7-12 on a tuition arrangement

The difficulty here is twofold. First, a school must be found with a good educational program that is also willing and capable of absorbing these students. The Bethlehem Board of Education has explored this possibility. Watertown has been approached but has advised that because of its pressing school enrollment they cannot absorb Bethlehem's students in grades 7 and 8 until 1974 or 1975; assuming their recommended school building program is approved by their townspeople. Secondly, tuition costs continue to rise steadily. The present range, 1967-68, is between \$685 and \$750. In 1970, with rising costs, it is estimated that tuition, including instruction and amortization of school building in the receiving town, will cost from \$900 to \$1000 per pupil. No tuition arrangement would be a long-term solution.

c. Regionalize

Regionalization is taking place all around Bethlehem and while, for varied reasons Bethlehem has not joined in a region, the timing and opportunity are now present. Bethlehem has studied the concept of regionalization before and the advantages are obvious and well known. The "permanency" of this solution, along with the many educational gains for Bethlehem's children make it most worthy of serious consideration at this time.

PRESENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN WOODBURY

Woodbury is confronted with a severe and pressing educational problem. An analysis of the current educational facilities and their capacities and enrollments indicates serious overcrowding. There are deficiencies in program on both the elementary and secondary levels.

On the elementary level, these include deficiencies in programs affecting kindergarten, library, art, music and remedial reading. On the secondary level, those most apparent are a seriously deficient library, and the absence of an auditorium, a cafeteria and a gymnasium for physical education.

Woodbury has been in the process of designing a high school facility, which was approved by the voters in the approximate sum of 2 million dollars. This sum proved inadequate, and further development of the program indicated that cost to Woodbury was excessive. The town was therefore presented with the alternatives of regionalization with a neighboring town or "going it alone" with reduced educational programs.

The Alternatives

It would be possible for Woodbury to solve its educational problems by "going it alone". But as the educational process becomes increasingly more sophisticated and costly, Woodbury's willingness to pay a higher per-pupil cost (as a result of a smaller school population) would be severely tested.

There are sub-alternates in the regional alternative, depending upon which town or towns are considered. Those immediately surrounding Woodbury include Watertown, Middlebury, Southbury, Roxbury, Washington and Bethlehem.

Watertown is a larger school district and is experiencing considerable growth. It is beyond the size town which might be encouraged to regionalize in Connecticut.

Middlebury and Southbury are currently involved in a regional study, and Roxbury and Washington have joined with Bridgewater in Regional District #12.

Bethlehem, a smaller community than Woodbury, does not provide its own secondary program. In a Bethlehem-Woodbury regional district, the larger high school enrollment would provide a higher quality program at a reasonable cost. Anticipated growth patterns in the two towns would bring such a district to a size considered by many educators as approaching optimum efficiency, and a K through 12 region would provide greater advantages in educational facilities, programs and costs.

ENROLLMENT FORECASTS

The following represents forecasts of pupil population for the first five-year period of the proposed Regional District:

	K thru 5		6 thru 8		9 through 12			TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	B	W	B	W	B	W	Tuition ¹	B	W	
1968-69	238	638	98	314	124	340	68	460	1360	1820
1969-70	248	660	111	333	132	383	68	491	1414	1905
1970-71	246	642	114	347	138	362	70	498	1421	1919
1971-72	250	644	110	329	132	405	70	492	1448	1940
1972-73	242	635	116	320	144	412	70	502	1442	1944

¹ Vo-Ag tuition students from towns other than Bethlehem and Woodbury.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AS FORECAST FOR 1969-70

In order to provide the type and quality of educational program best suited for the students of the proposed Bethlehem-Woodbury Regional School District, and to take full advantage of the existing school facilities, the following organizational structure is offered:

Primary Schools

The Bethlehem elementary school and the Woodbury elementary school should be converted to primary schools for grades kindergarten through five. This would allow space in each school for a library, reading laboratory, art and music room. So adapted, the buildings would provide for a working capacity of 400 in Bethlehem and 575 in Woodbury.

Middle School

The present Woodbury High School should be converted to a middle school for all children of the region in grades six through eight. In addition, the current Vo-Ag Center could be incorporated in the middle school and would provide, without major renovation, additional space for normal classrooms and the following:

1 Art room	1 Typing room
1 Industrial Arts shop	1 Homemaking lab
1 Library	1 Music room
1 Physical education - Lunchroom space	4 Science labs with one greenhouse

So adapted, these middle school facilities would provide for a working capacity of 510 pupils.

Secondary School

To provide a comprehensive secondary educational program, a new senior high school with a working capacity of 792 students should be constructed. This facility would include a regional Vocational-Agriculture center, in addition to the normal business, college preparatory, and general curricula. Details of the suggested space requirements are explained under "*Educational Specifications for New Regional High School*".

RECOMMENDED SITE FOR NEW REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Sites were considered in both Bethlehem and Woodbury. The most desirable is in Woodbury at Middle Road Turnpike and known as the Curtiss Farm. It has good topography and excellent soil characteristics. It is close to the larger number of pupils and is readily accessible by good roads for both towns. It is available at reasonable cost and contains enough acreage to accommodate future growth of the region. It is unhesitatingly recommended by the committee.

EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS - SPACE REQUIREMENTS PROPOSED REGIONAL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

A. INSTRUCTION		No. of Rooms	Square Footage
1.	Art	1	1,200
2.	Audio Visual	1	240
3.	Business Education & Distributive Education	2	2,500
4.	English	5	3,750
5.	Language	3	2,250
6.	Homemaking	1	2,200
7.	Industrial Art & Mechanical Drawing	2	3,750
8.	Library	1	3,500
9.	Mathematics	5	3,000
10.	Music	1	stage
11.	Reading	1	750
12.	Science	4	4,600
13.	Social Studies	4	3,000
14.	Special Education	1	800
15.	Speech	-	---
16.	Vo-Ag	5	10,000
The above provides 1 Language Lab, and Resource Centers for English, Math, and Social Studies.			41,540
B. ADMINISTRATION AREAS			
1.	Offices	2	200
2.	General Offices	1	700
3.	Pupil Personnel	-	2,100
4.	Dept. Offices	4	480
5.	Student Government	1	220
			3,700
C. GENERAL USE AREA			
1.	Gym	2-3	14,700
2.	Cafeteria	1	6,750
3.	Stage	1	1,500
4.	Auditorium	1-3	6,000
			28,950
D. SERVICE AREAS			
1.	Faculty Room		750
2.	Other Services		8,500
E. CIRCULATION AREA			16,440
F. CONSTRUCTION			5,000

ESTIMATED TOTALS 104,880

State Pupil Capacity 990

Operational Capacity 792

Site and Land Development: Will include athletic fields (2 soccer, 1 field hockey, 1 baseball, 3 softball, 1 track, 3 tennis courts), outdoor labs (Science and Vo-Ag), and parking area with provision for basketball and volleyball.

Note: As a result of interest shown by residents, this committee suggests that when voting on actual appropriations, an alternate be offered to include a swimming pool.

ENROLLMENT DATA

It is assumed that the high school would be ready for occupancy some time during the 1969-70 school year. Therefore, the costs prorated to each town would be budgeted upon the 1968-69 ADM forecast:

Bethlehem	469
Woodbury	1292
Total	1761

NOTE: An additional 68 non-regional Vo-Ag tuition students are anticipated.

Percentage allotment to each town -	Bethlehem	27%
	Woodbury	73%

ESTIMATED BUDGET TOTALS

Total Operational Budget for
Regional School District

1968-69	1969-70	1970-71
\$1,368,249.	\$1,611,625.	\$1,721,315

REVENUES

Total Revenues from other
than Local Property Taxes
(based on current State
Aid formulae.)

\$484,261.	\$541,265.	\$543,575.
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AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED BY LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES

Bethlehem's Share 27%
Woodbury's Share 73%

\$238,677.	\$288,997.	\$317,990.
645,311.	781,363.	859,750.
<u>\$883,988.</u>	<u>\$1,070,360.</u>	<u>\$1,177,740.</u>

EQUALIZATION OF EXISTING PLANT, EXCLUSIVE OF LAND

	Appraised Value Region	Appraised Value Bethlehem	Appraised Value Woodbury
Buildings	\$2,950,600.	\$758,100.	\$2,192,500.
Contents	295,000.	75,800.	219,200.
Total	<u>\$3,245,600.</u>	<u>\$833,900.</u>	<u>\$2,411,700.</u>
	Total Appraised Value	27% Bethlehem's Obligation	73% Woodbury's Obligation
	\$3,245,600.		
Town's Percentage Share		\$876,312.	\$2,369,288.
Town's Appraised Value		<u>833,900.</u>	<u>2,411,700.</u>
Short of Obligation		\$42,412.	
Excess of Obligation			\$42,412.

This Committee recommends that each town remain responsible for its present school debt.

Appraisal values are those of the Mutual of Hartford Insurance Company personnel.

This committee voted to use 10% of appraised building values for contents.

PROPOSED NEW REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COSTS AND COSTS OF ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING VO-AG FACILITIES

I. BUILDING COSTS

A. New High School

105,000 square feet @ 23.50	\$2,467,500.
Architect's Fee @ 6%	148,050.
Miscellaneous other fees	28,000.
Equipment	330,000.
Site and Land Development	120,000.
Purchase of Site	100,000.
	<u>\$3,193,550.</u>

For Regional Study Report Purposes \$3,200,000.

B. Alterations to Present Vo-Ag \$30,000.

II. PRORATED COSTS

	Total	State Aid	Region	Bethlehem's 27% of Region	Woodbury's 73% of Region
Site	\$ 100,000	(50%)\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 13,500	\$ 36,500
Const. & Equip.	3,100,000	(80%) 2,480,000	620,000	167,400	452,600
Alterations	<u>30,000</u>	(80%) <u>24,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>1,620</u>	<u>4,380</u>
Total	\$3,230,000	\$ 2,554,000	\$ 676,000	\$182,520	\$ 493,480

III. 5-YEAR REPAYMENT PLAN

	Total	State Aid	Region	Bethlehem's 27% of Region	Woodbury's 73% of Region
Each Yr Bond Repayment	\$646,000	510,800	135,200	36,504	98,696
1st Yr Int @ 4½%	<u>137,275</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>137,275</u>	<u>37,064</u>	<u>100,211</u>
Total 1st Year	\$783,275	510,800	272,475	73,568	198,907
Total 2nd Year	755,820	510,800	245,020	66,155	178,865
Total 3rd Year	728,365	510,800	217,565	58,742	158,823
Total 4th Year	700,910	510,800	190,110	51,329	138,781
Total 5th Year	<u>673,455</u>	<u>510,800</u>	<u>162,655</u>	<u>43,916</u>	<u>118,739</u>
5-Year Total	\$3,641,825	\$2,554,000	\$1,087,825	\$293,710	\$794,115

Sec. 10-51 PROPORTIONATE PAYMENT OF COSTS (Digest from General Statutes)

Each town in a regional district shall pay its proportionate share of the cost of capital outlay and current expenditures in the establishment and operation of a regional school or schools. Payments of such proportionate share

shall be made during each fiscal year on dates fixed by the regional board and shall be prorated on the basis of the average daily membership from each town during the preceding school year.

COMPARATIVE STATE GRANTS

	<u>1 TOWN</u>	<u>K - 12 REGIONAL</u>
I. ADM		
	\$180 for each of the first 300 pupils; \$150 for each of the remainder; plus \$20 per pupil in ADM in excess of ADM of ninth prior year	Same as 1 Town plus 10%
II. BUILDING		
A.	Secondary: $\frac{1}{2}$ cost or \$1400 per pupil, whichever is less	Secondary: 80% of approved cost
B.	Elementary: $\frac{1}{2}$ cost or \$900 per pupil, whichever is less	Elementary: 80% of approved cost
C.	Site: $\frac{1}{2}$ approved cost	Same as 1 Town
III. TRANSPORTATION		
	$\frac{1}{2}$ cost of eligible elementary pupils or \$20 per pupil, whichever is less	50% of total cost

Sec. 10-53 STATE AID FOR REGIONALIZATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

All provisions of General Statutes including those providing state grants in aid provided transportation provided by a region shall be reimbursed one-half of amount paid (see 10-54) and a K-12 region shall receive state aid under section 10-262 plus 10% of said amount.

Sec. 10-54 TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

Any town or regional school district which transports pupils to a regional school shall be reimbursed by the state for one-half the amount paid for such transportation.

Sec. 10-286

State aid to Regional District organized on a K-12 basis is:

- (a) 50% of land
- (b) 80% of necessary project cost.

OUTLINE OF LEGAL PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE FORMATION OF A BETHLEHEM-WOODBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Reference: Sections of the General Laws of Connecticut are referred to below. The Sections are not quoted in full but have been condensed to provide information pertinent to this study)

Establish by vote in Town Meeting a Temporary Regional School Study Committee

- (a) to study the advisability of establishing a regional school district;
- (b) to estimate the cost of providing necessary land and school building facilities;
- (c) to make recommendations to the respective towns.

(Sec. 10-39)

Each town is represented on the Committee by five members nominated and appointed by the town meeting, two of whom from each town must be members of the Board of Education of their respective towns.

(Sec. 10-40)

The Committee elects from its members a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as it determines. The Secretary shall keep Minutes which shall be a public record. The Treasurer shall be bonded and shall keep detailed records and pay out monies only on order of the entire committee.

(Sec. 10-41)

The Committee may receive and use funds to pay necessary expenses. The towns pay their proportionate share computed on an ADM basis. Such expenses are limited for a two-year period to \$5 times the total number of pupils in the two towns in the school year 1966-67.

(Sec. 10-42)

The Committee shall report to the towns and the State Board of Education. It shall prepare and present to people of each town in open hearings a final report containing:

- (a) Their findings with respect to the advisability of establishing a regional district between the two towns;
- (b) The facilities recommended;
- (c) Estimates of cost of land and facilities.

The Committee shall be dissolved after the State Board of Education acts upon the referendum vote.

(Sec. 10-43)

Official records (or copies) shall be delivered to Town Clerks in each town and to the State Board of Education. If the region is formed, records are transferred to the Secretary of the Region.

(Sec. 10-44)

The Committee shall send its final report to the State Board of Education within ten (10) days of the presentation in the towns.

The State Board shall submit a report of its approval or disapproval within thirty (30) days and its reasons therefor to the Town Clerk of each town, who shall publish such report in a newspaper.

Within 90 days of the Report of the State Board of Education, the Selectmen of each town shall call a town meeting to be held at a time agreed upon with the Committee and to be warned for the purpose of acting on the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Town of _____ submit the proposal that it join with the Town of _____ in the establishment of a regional school district with schools located in the towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury, for the purpose of providing the necessary facilities and administering grades Kindergarten through Twelve of the public schools, to a referendum vote at a town election to be held on (Date)_____.

The date of the referendum shall be the same in both towns and shall be not later than thirty (30) days after the town meeting calling for the referendum. Absentee voting shall not be permitted and eligibility to vote will be determined under Sec. 7-6.

The presentation on the voting machines used shall be as follows:

"Shall the Town of _____ join with the following named town, _____ in the establishment of a regional school district with the schools located in the towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury for the purpose of providing the necessary facilities and administering grades Kindergarten through Twelve of the public schools?

YES _____ NO _____"

The Town Clerk of each town shall certify the vote of his town to the Chairman of the Regional Study Committee. If the vote is favorable in each town, the Chairman shall submit a statement of the vote of each town to the State Board of Education. If the State Board approves, a regional school district shall be established. (Sec. 10-45)

At this point the work of the Temporary Regional Study Committee is complete and the Committee is discharged.

PROCEDURE AFTER REGION IS ESTABLISHED

After approval by the State Board of Education, the Chairman of the Temporary Regional School Study Committee calls together the two local Boards of Education to determine Membership on the Regional Board; not fewer than five nor more than nine members.

The Chairman then requests from the Selectmen Town Meetings to nominate and elect representatives to the Regional Board as previously determined.

After election the Chairman of the Temporary Regional School Study Committee calls the elected members together for Organization.

After Organization the Regional Board of Education

Appoints Administrative Officers and personnel;

The Regional Board takes over the administration of the regional school district, the date of such take-over having been decided by joint action with the local Boards of Education;

The responsibility of the Regional Board to proceed with the recommended construction of a new high school facility will require it to:

Appoint an Architect;

Secure a Site;

Proceed with preliminary plans-accepted by residents of the Community for their reaction;

Proceed with working drawings-accepted;

Seek Bids;

Select a Contractor-lowest responsible bidder;

Hold regional hearings, discuss plans for Bond Issue and Retirement;

The Board then sets a date for a referendum to vote on the Bond Issue.

Sec. 10-56 BONDS

The regional school district has power to issue bonds in the name of the district and the towns comprising the district, in an amount not to exceed the sum deemed necessary to be used in acquiring lands, preparing sites, purchasing and erecting buildings, purchasing and installing equipment for a regional school or schools.

Sec. 10-57 DEBT LIMITATION

No regional school district shall incur any indebtedness through issuance of any bonds or notes which will increase the aggregate indebtedness beyond five and three quarters times the average annual receipts from taxation during the three preceding years of the towns comprising the district less the aggregate indebtedness of the towns.

Sec. 10-59 FISCAL YEAR. BUDGET

The fiscal year of a regional board of education shall be July first to June thirtieth. Annually at least sixty days prior to the annual meeting of said board, a public budget meeting shall be held in the district, notice of which shall be published ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Copies of the proposed budget shall be made available at time of giving notice to any person eligible to vote at town meeting. Upon approval of such budget, the regional board shall estimate the amount which each town of the district shall be assessed and shall notify the treasurer of each town in the district.

Sec. 10-60 BORROWING

In addition to power to issue bonds, a regional board of education may borrow sums not to exceed \$100,000 for a period not to exceed five years.

FACTS AND FIGURES OF GENERAL INTEREST TO BETHLEHEM AND WOODBURY

VITAL STATISTICS		BETHLEHEM 1967	WOODBURY 1967		
Births		25	64		
Deaths		12	58		
Marriages		13	66		
TAXABLE PROPERTY		1967	1967		
Number of Dwellings		710	1524½		
Number of Commercial Buildings		15	180		
Number of House & Building Lots		1135	1985		
Number of Property Transfers		96	275		
Motor Vehicles and Aircraft		1180	3273		
GRAND LIST	October 1, 1966	\$ 7,632,550	\$ 23,574,456		
TAX RATE	For 1967 - 1968	42 mills	41½ mills		
GRAND LIST (Oct. 1st)-	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Fiscal Year	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69
Bethlehem	6,836,921	7,079,414	7,323,072	7,632,550	7,771,509
Woodbury	18,425,164	20,857,729	22,139,543	23,574,456	24,819,640
LAND AREA		12,608 acres or 19.7 sq. miles	23,744 acres or 37.1 sq. miles		
TOWN ROADS (Improved)		34.7 miles	64.71 miles		
(Unimproved)		9.11 miles	18.38 miles		
STATE ROADS		12.5 miles	23.69 miles		
POPULATION					
	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Bethlehem	1600	1600	1700	1700	1700
Woodbury	4400	4600	4800	4900	5100
NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS					
	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Bethlehem	836	924	928	955	959
Woodbury	2184	2288	2435	2486	2590

It should be pointed out that the program and facilities discussed in this report are the recommendations of the Bethlehem-Woodbury Temporary Regional School Study Committee. Should a region be established, the Regional Board of Education would determine the exact programs and facilities for the district. The Regional Board of Education is bound only by the broad provisions outlined in the referendum proposed on page 1 of this report.

THE TEMPORARY REGIONAL SCHOOL STUDY COMMITTEE

Town meetings in Woodbury on March 26, 1968, and in Bethlehem on March 27, 1968, voted unanimously for the formation of a Temporary Regional School Study Committee to study the advisability of establishing a regional school district, and to estimate the cost of providing necessary land and school building facilities therefor and to make recommendations to the respective towns.

Five members from each town were elected to serve on the committee. This work has been completed and the report is presented here. The committee is hopeful that the recommendations stated will meet with the approval of the townspeople and the State Board of Education.

A town meeting will be called to set a referendum date.

EARLY HISTORY OF BETHLEHEM AND WOODBURY

Centered on the rolling hills between the Nonnewaug and Weekepeemee Rivers, which join to form the Pomperaug River in Woodbury, Bethlehem is directly connected to Woodbury today by state highways #61 and #132, much as it was connected by the "highways" of earlier times. Traditionally agricultural, with a history of industrial development and decline, the two towns have maintained a rural atmosphere and are developing into attractive residential communities.

Following the original purchase of a large territory from the Pagassatt Indians in 1659 by Stratford settlers reaching out in new directions, Old Woodbury grew to encompass the present towns of Woodbury, Southbury, Roxbury, Bethlehem; most of Washington, the Quassapaug district in Middlebury, and the portion of Oxford west of Eight Mile Brook. Woodbury was settled in 1672, made a town in 1674, but was not represented in the General Court until 1684.

Bethlehem, as we now know it, became part of Woodbury in 1703, with a grant from the General Assembly of a land area which also included the Washington section called "Judea". This was known as the "North Purchase," when bought from the Indians in 1710. The Bethlehem area, some

13,000 acres in all, was not surveyed until 1723 nor the land divided among Woodbury proprietors until 1734. By 1738, some fourteen families had settled there.

In 1739, permission was granted for the formation of what was called the "Bethlem Society," because of the hardship of winter travel to attend church in Woodbury. Bethlehem was incorporated as a separate town in 1787, with the spelling "Bethlem" in use for many years.

By 1800, five towns had been carved out of Old Woodbury, and its grand list and population cut in half. Nearly 180 years passed before the town regained the population it had before 1787. Between 1800 and 1940, the population hovered near the 2000 mark.

Bethlehem's population in 1790 was 1056, but it dropped to 543 in 1890 to rise again in 1940 to 1000. In the 28 years following, population increases were 110% in Bethlehem and 165% in Woodbury.

Both towns have the traditional Town Meeting type of government, with a three-man Board of Selectmen, a Board of Finance, and a Planning Commission. Each town provides the services of a volunteer fire department and maintains a public library.

Postage Paid
Woodbury, Conn.
Permit No. 21

Hearings to
discuss the
Report will
be held in

WOODBURY
on

APRIL 24, 1968,

and in

BETHLEHEM

on

APRIL 25, 1968,

at 8:00 p. m.

BOXHOLDER