



FY'19 Budget Hearing

March 14, 2018

Considerations in Preparing Budget Options

Choices: Concerns Over Affordability

- Reducing Student Services
 - Level Funded - Loss of staff (high school)
 - Assessment Decrease of \$39,455 (-0.4%)
- Maintaining Student Services
 - Level Service - Keep existing services
 - Assessment Increase of \$150,660 (1.6%)
- Enhancing Student Services
 - Improvement Budget
 - Assessment Increase of \$231,274 (2.5%)
 - If we fund Pupil Services, Literacy Improvement and replacing secretarial staff

Reductions Needed for Level Funded Budget (page 1)

❖ HS Science position

- Loss of AP science offerings (Chemistry, Physics I & II)
 - Most recent enrollments: 11, 14, & 12 respectively
- Loss of upper level science elective(s)
- Potential need to combine of Honors and College Prep sections in Science & Math
- Decrease in sections offered
 - fewer students getting their requested courses
 - increased class sizes (especially in lab classes)
 - loss of schedule flexibility

❖ HS Special Education position

- Decrease in inclusive supports by certified teacher
- Loss of schedule flexibility for Sped students (Academic Support vs. electives)
- Loss of HS Art offerings (dual certified Art teacher to cover required IEP services)
- Broadening of content focus for Sped teachers (some 6-12) impedes targeted interventions

❖ HS Spanish Teacher

- Loss of Honors Spanish II-IV
 - Current enrollments: 27, 24, & 14 respectively
- Students will need to take online language courses to meet college recommended 2 year minimum
 - Inability to equitably offer more than 2 years of a language
- Loss of mentor availability for online language programs
- Potential loss of HS Choral program (dual certified teacher remains)
 - Current HS enrollment: 28

Reductions Needed for Level Service Budget (page 2)

❖ **.4 HS Health Teacher**

- Loss of all Health Courses (currently required for graduation)
- P.E. to transition to comprehensive wellness curriculum
- P.E. class sizes; classes more likely to contain students age 14-18

❖ **MS Guidance Counselor**

- Minimal transitional support for students moving from 5th to 6th grade
- Minimal support for prospective new students = negative school choice impact
- Remaining 2 counselors' caseload will increase by more than 100 students each and span 7 grade levels
- Substantial limitation on tiered supports (Student Assistance Team and 504's) and interventions for academic (including college and scholarship application process) and socio-emotional needs
- Would increase the caseload for the MS/HS adjustment counselor creating a serious concern with meeting increasing student needs

❖ **District Library Media Specialist (K-12)**

- Loss of curricular and instructional support classes using library/media resources
- Potential loss of AP English courses (bumping)
- Loss of support for online learning/mentorship
- Will be a negative aspect of NEASC Report

❖ **NEASC Accreditation**

- Potentially substantial impact on students lost to school choice
- Negative impact on college acceptance a real possibility

Level Service Budget

A level service budget would simply move the current opportunities for students from the 2017-2018 school year to the 2018-2019 school year.

1. No increase in services

- a. In fact a decrease as a secretary retired mid-year and is not included in the level service scenario

2. Increase in costs due to increases in:

- a. Utilities
- b. Contracted changes in salaries
- c. Health Insurance

Improvement Budget

The highest rated critical items to include in an “Improvement Budget”:

1. Increase Special Education Director Days

- a. Needed to continue implementation of new programs (that save significant dollars) and initiatives around socio-emotional learning and inclusive practice
- b. Needed to ensure compliance with special education laws and regulations
- c. Needed to consider expanding early childhood programs

2. Literacy Contracted Services and Professional Development

- a. Needed to identify and implement effective tiered supports for literacy
- b. Continues prior expenditure of funds to develop long range literacy program
- c. Impacts all grade levels in the district
- d. Allows us to address standardized test performance

3. Shared School-Year Secretary

(Position lost mid-year with retirement of Guidance Secretary)

- a. Needed to support increase in students/grade levels handled by Littleville and the MS/HS office due to K-5, 6-12 alignment
- b. Increases security due to access control at elementary level
- c. Maintains accessibility to parents/community for various reasons, including student registration & student records, student attendance/dismissals, etc.

Affordability

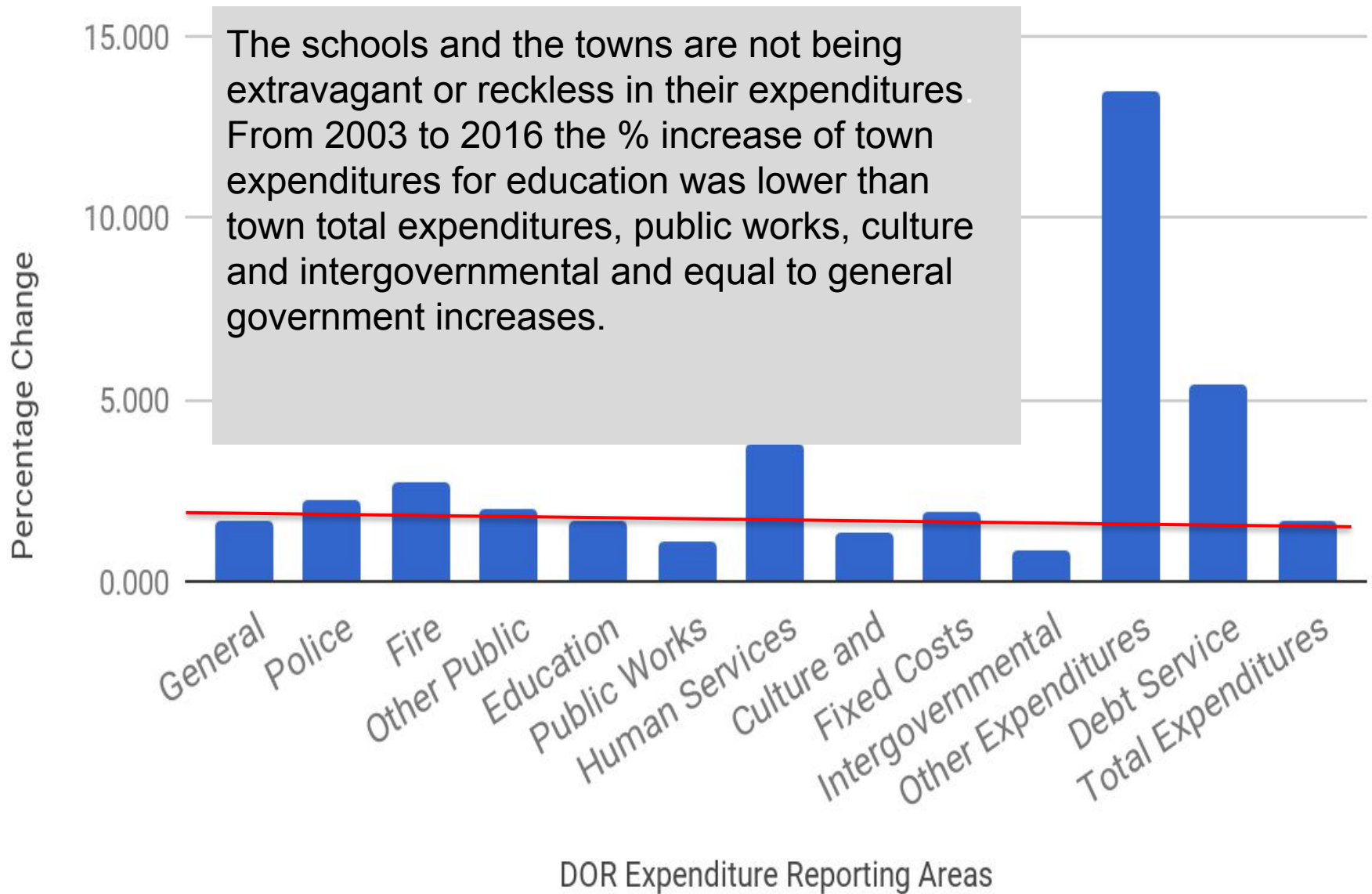
BUDGET:

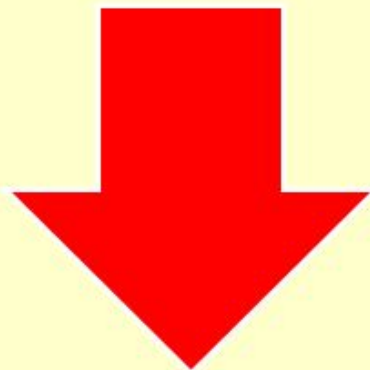
Since 2003 the % of town budgets spent on education (including vocational) has stayed stable and overall town and school budgets have increased at the same rate.

ASSESSMENTS:

Since 2003 town assessments have varied greatly but overall increase has only meet the decrease in state aid.

Percentage Change in Municipal Expenditures 2003 to 2016

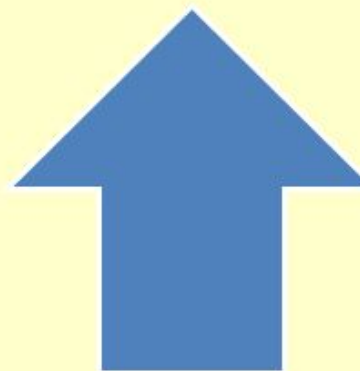




State Aid
Loss
\$1.75 million
since 2003

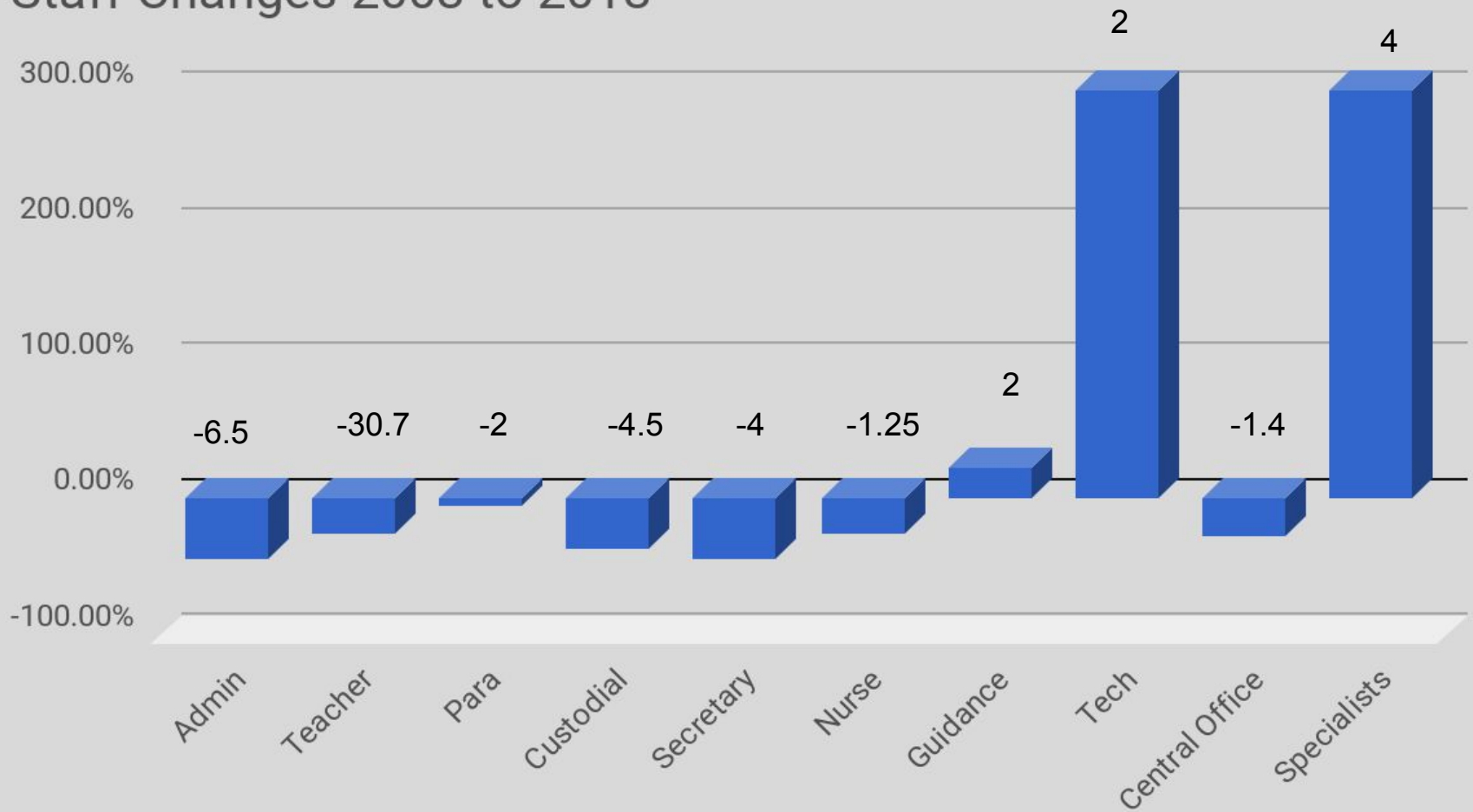


Assessment
Increase
\$1.79 million
since 2003



Staff Changes Over Time

Staff Changes 2003 to 2018



Minimum Contribution Assessments

| Town | FY '18 | FY '19 | DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FY 19 & FY18 | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | |
| Blandford | \$1,015,369 | \$970,346 | (\$45,023) | -4.43% |
| Chester | \$818,243 | \$846,686 | \$28,443 | 3.48% |
| Huntington | \$1,420,718 | \$1,424,220 | \$3,502 | 0.25% |
| Middlefield | \$314,813 | \$329,152 | \$14,339 | 4.55% |
| Montgomery | \$592,824 | \$604,450 | \$11,626 | 1.96% |
| Russell | \$1,023,275 | \$967,878 | (\$55,397) | -5.41% |
| Totals | \$5,185,242 | \$5,142,732 | (\$42,510) | -0.82% |

Assessment Comparison - Top Priorities

| | | FY'18 | FY'19 | Diff | | FY'19 | DIFF | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------|-------------|-----------|-----|
| | | | Statutory | FY 19-18 | % | AVG | FY19-18 | % |
| Blandford | 0.11699 | \$1,523,430 | \$1,481,435 | -\$ 41,995 | -2.76 | \$1,563,265 | \$39,835 | 2.6 |
| Chester | 0.18496 | \$1,492,633 | \$1,664,392 | \$171,759 | 11.5 | \$1,530,178 | \$37,545 | 2.5 |
| Huntington | 0.29694 | \$2,616,658 | \$2,726,245 | \$109,587 | 4.2 | \$2,678,910 | \$62,252 | 2.4 |
| Middlefield | 0.04123 | \$ 476,645 | \$ 509,231 | \$ 32,586 | 6.8 | \$ 489,791 | \$13,146 | 2.8 |
| Montgomery | 0.07799 | \$ 907,537 | \$ 950,034 | \$ 42,497 | 4.7 | \$ 933,356 | \$25,819 | 2.4 |
| Russell | 0.28189 | \$2,219,215 | \$2,136,055 | -\$ 83,160 | -3.8 | \$2,271,892 | \$52,677 | 2.4 |
| Total | | \$9,236,118 | \$9,467,392 | \$231,274 | 2.5 | \$9,467,392 | \$231,274 | 2.5 |

Assessment Comparison - Level Services

| | | FY'18 | FY'19 | Diff | | FY'19 | DIFF | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|-------------|------------|------|-------------|-----------|-----|
| | | | Statutory | FY 19-18 | % | AVG | FY19-18 | % |
| Blandford | 0.11699 | \$1,523,430 | \$1,471,908 | -\$ 51,522 | -3.4 | \$1,549,380 | \$25,950 | 1.7 |
| Chester | 0.18496 | \$1,492,633 | \$1,649,150 | \$156,517 | 10.5 | \$1,517,091 | \$24,458 | 1.6 |
| Huntington | 0.29694 | \$2,616,658 | \$2,701,975 | \$ 85,317 | 3.3 | \$2,657,211 | \$40,553 | 1.6 |
| Middlefield | 0.04123 | \$ 476,645 | \$ 505,874 | \$ 29,229 | 6.1 | \$ 485,209 | \$ 8,564 | 1.6 |
| Montgomery | 0.07799 | \$ 907,537 | \$ 943,592 | \$ 36,055 | 4.0 | \$ 924,356 | \$16,819 | 1.9 |
| Russell | 0.28189 | \$2,219,215 | \$2,114,279 | -\$104,936 | -4.7 | \$2,253,531 | \$34,316 | 1.6 |
| Total | | \$9,236,118 | \$9,386,778 | \$150,660 | 1.6 | \$9,386,778 | \$150,660 | 1.6 |

Assessment Comparison - Level Funded

| | | FY'18 | FY'19 | Diff | | FY'19 | DIFF | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|-------------|------------|------|
| | | | Statutory | FY 19-18 | % | AVG | FY19-18 | % |
| Blandford | 0.11699 | \$1,523,430 | \$1,449,440 | -\$ 73,990 | -4.9 | \$1,516,634 | -\$ 6,796 | -0.5 |
| Chester | 0.18496 | \$1,492,633 | \$1,613,203 | \$120,570 | 8.1 | \$1,486,229 | -\$ 6,404 | -0.4 |
| Huntington | 0.29694 | \$2,616,658 | \$2,644,737 | \$ 28,079 | 1.1 | \$2,606,038 | -\$ 10,620 | -0.4 |
| Middlefield | 0.04123 | \$ 476,645 | \$ 497,958 | \$ 21,313 | 4.5 | \$ 474,402 | -\$ 2,243 | -0.5 |
| Montgomery | 0.07799 | \$ 907,537 | \$ 928,400 | \$ 20,863 | 2.3 | \$ 903,132 | -\$ 4,405 | -0.5 |
| Russell | 0.28189 | \$2,219,215 | \$2,062,925 | -\$ 156,290 | -7.0 | \$2,210,228 | -\$ 8,987 | -0.4 |
| Total | | \$9,236,118 | \$9,196,663 | -\$ 39,455 | -0.4 | \$9,196,663 | -\$ 39,455 | -0.4 |

Alternative Assessment Amendment

- a. The Alternate Assessment shall create an equalized percentage assessment to each member town.
- b. The member towns' combined operating, transportation, and capital/debt assessment shall be apportioned annually for the ensuing fiscal year by increasing each town's prior fiscal year assessment by the percentage of the total District assessment increase. The starting assessment shall be calculated using a five-year average as approved by the Regional School Committee or otherwise agreed upon by the Regional School Committee.
- c. When using the Alternate Assessment Method, each town must meet its Minimum Required Local Contribution. If the equalized percentage assessment results in a member town(s) not meeting its Minimum Required Local Contribution, then the town(s) so affected shall have their assessment increased to the Minimum Required Local Contribution amount. The remaining towns shall have their assessment reduced in an equal manner.

Alternative Assessment Info

Use an average of several years to account for differences in assessments over the recent past to provide a 'base' to initiate level increases in assessments over the next five years.

- Provides a fair base to use for the next five years
- Accounts for changes in minimum contribution (state) and changes in student population

Use the average assessment increase each year to apply to each town's base to establish new assessment

- Eliminates drastic changes in assessments each year
 - Provides a better idea of increase in assessments for town budgeting purposes
 - Eliminates the vast disparity between towns based upon items they don't control
 - Helps level out changes in assessments
 - Does require that all six towns vote in favor each year

Base Determination Options with a 1.9% avg assessment increase

| | FY'18 | FY'19 | | FY'19 - AVG | | FY'19 -AVG | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------|---------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| | | Statutory | % | Based on FY18 | % | Based on 5 Year Average | % |
| Blandford | \$1,523,430 | \$1,475,319 | -3.16 | \$1,553,041 | 1.94 | \$1,554,352 | 2.03 |
| Chester | \$1,492,633 | \$1,654,607 | 10.85 | \$1,521,645 | 1.94 | \$1,521,776 | 1.95 |
| Huntington | \$2,616,658 | \$2,710,665 | 3.59 | \$2,667,518 | 1.94 | \$2,664,980 | 1.85 |
| Middlefield | \$ 476,645 | \$ 507,076 | 6.38 | \$ 485,910 | 1.94 | \$ 486,849 | 2.14 |
| Montgomery | \$ 907,537 | \$ 945,898 | 4.23 | \$ 925,177 | 1.94 | \$ 927,579 | 2.21 |
| Russell | \$2,219,215 | \$2,122,076 | -4.38 | \$2,262,350 | 1.94 | \$2,260,105 | 1.84 |
| Total | \$9,236,118 | \$9,415,641 | 1.94 | \$9,415,641 | 1.94 | \$9,415,641 | 1.94 |

Average Assessment Base Calculation

Calculations for FY '19 Base

| | Statutory FY '14 | Statutory FY '15 | Statutory FY '16 | Statutory FY '17 | Statutory FY '18 | 5-year | Percentage of Total Assessments |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Blandford | \$1,462,319 | \$1,484,104 | \$1,603,019 | \$1,586,246 | \$1,523,430 | \$7,659,118 | 17.224% |
| Chester | \$1,407,966 | \$1,363,589 | \$1,462,989 | \$1,491,454 | \$1,492,633 | \$7,218,631 | 16.234% |
| Huntington | \$2,182,695 | \$2,263,458 | \$2,407,751 | \$2,498,401 | \$2,616,658 | \$11,968,963 | 26.917% |
| Middlefield | \$536,266 | \$505,980 | \$493,678 | \$515,011 | \$476,645 | \$2,527,580 | 5.684% |
| Montgomery | \$1,043,751 | \$1,067,296 | \$1,015,690 | \$930,056 | \$907,537 | \$4,964,330 | 11.164% |
| Russell | \$1,850,616 | \$1,989,661 | \$2,021,368 | \$2,047,228 | \$2,219,215 | \$10,128,088 | 22.777% |
| | \$8,483,613 | \$8,674,088 | \$9,004,495 | \$9,068,396 | \$9,236,118 | \$44,466,710 | 100.000% |

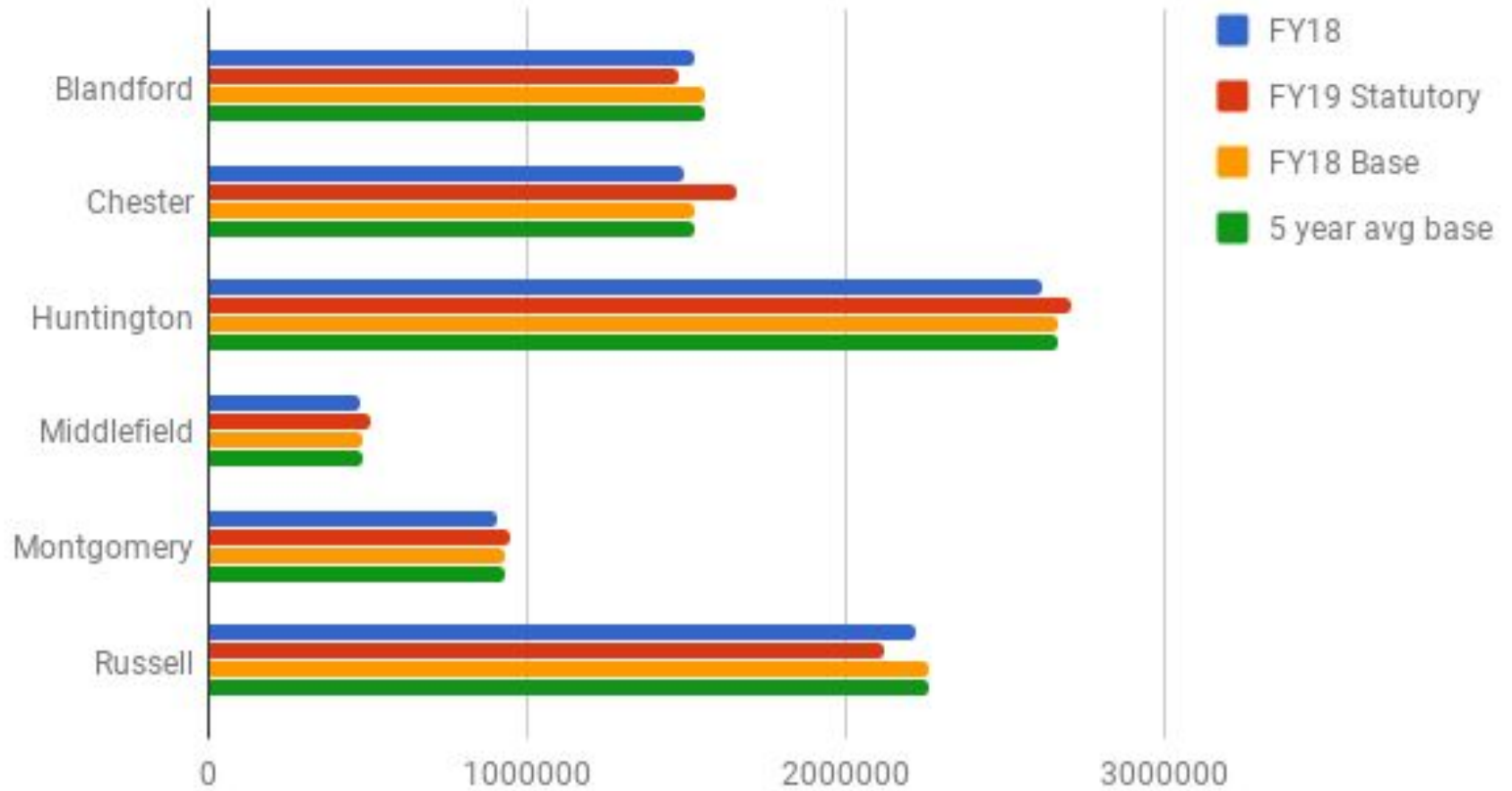
FY '19 Total Assessment Increase \$179,523

Base for FY '19

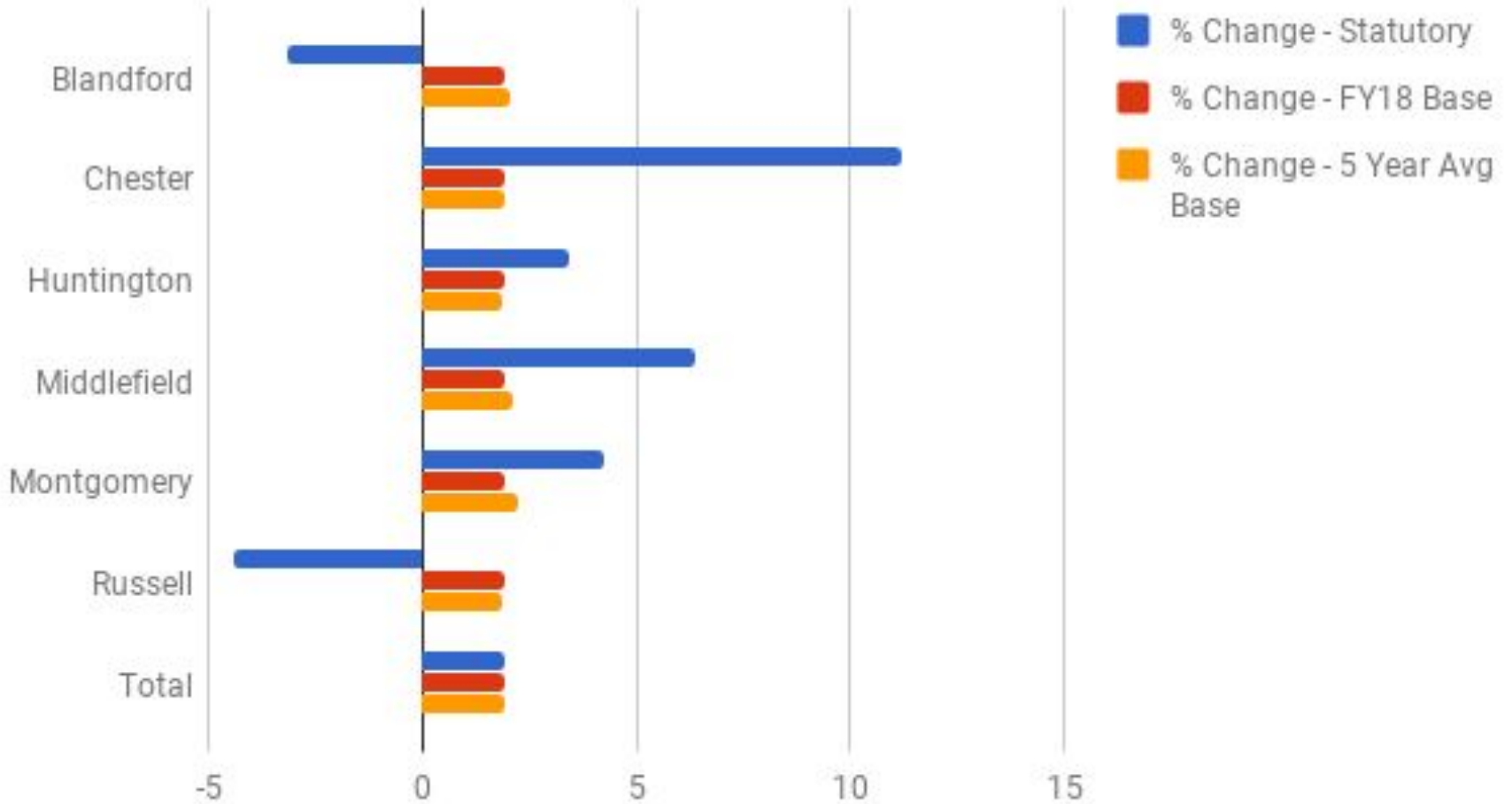
| | FY '19 Increase | FY '19 Assessment | Increase over FY '18 |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Blandford | \$ 30,922 | \$ 1,554,352 | 2.03% |
| Chester | \$ 29,143 | \$ 1,521,776 | 1.95% |
| Huntington | \$ 48,322 | \$ 2,664,980 | 1.85% |
| Middlefield | \$ 10,204 | \$ 486,849 | 2.14% |
| Montgomery | \$ 20,042 | \$ 927,579 | 2.21% |
| Russell | \$ 40,890 | \$ 2,260,105 | 1.84% |
| | \$ 179,523 | \$ 9,415,641 | 1.94% |

The base for FY '19 assessment calculated used the percentage of total contributions over the past 5 years. The assessment increase of \$179,523 was then multiplied by the average percentage for each town.

Assessment Differences



% Change in Assessments



Enrollment Comparisons

| | March 1, 2017 | March 1, 2018 | Change |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| Blandford | 113 | 105 | -8 |
| Chester | 150 | 168 | +18 |
| Huntington | 266 | 267.5 | +1.5 |
| Middlefield | 36 | 37 | +1 |
| Montgomery | 70 | 71 | +1 |
| Russell | 266 | 240 | -16 |

Census Percentage Comparisons

| | March 1, 2017 | March 1, 2018 | Change |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Blandford | 12.542 | 11.818 | -.724 |
| Chester | 16.648 | 18.908 | +2.26 |
| Huntington | 29.523 | 30.107 | +584 |
| Middlefield | 3.995 | 4.164 | +169 |
| Montgomery | 7.769 | 7.991 | +222 |
| Russell | 29.523 | 27.012 | -2.511 |

Issues to Consider

1. What will be the budget for 2019?

- a. Level Budget - loss of staff and negative assessments (-0.4%)
- b. Level Service - No improvement (1.6% Assessment)
- c. Minimum Improvement I - Pupil Services and Literacy (1.94% Assessment)
- d. Improvement II - Pupil Services, Literacy, Replace Secretary (2.5% Assessment)

2. Status of Preschool

- a. Full Day Russell (Minimum Increase \$150,000 or 1.08% under Chapter 70 assuming no charge for leasing building and 15 new preschool students in the district)
- b. Full Day Pilot Program at Chester for open slots (under Chapter 70)
- c. No Action

3. Assessment Method

- a. Put forward amendment to regional agreement for change in assessment
- b. Put forward town assessment amounts based upon change
 - i. Need all six towns to agree
- c. Stick with Statutory Method
 - i. Need four towns to agree

Advocate for Change

- Support potential change to the regional school assessment methodology to create level increases in assessments across all member towns (Amendment)
- Eliminate MSBA Repayment for buildings used for municipal purposes
- Change parameters of 'School Choice'
 - Have the same 2% of foundation enrollment - maximum choice out for individual school districts. - **In fiscal year 2018 and thereafter, outgoing school choice students shall not exceed two percent of the total foundation enrollment of students attending said public school and/or regional school district.**
 - Deadline for applications for choice and charter should be April 1 (matching the vocational and special education out-of-district placement deadline) - **Applications for school choice admission must be filed by April 1 of the preceding year in which the student wishes to change schools.**
- Fully funding regional transportation reimbursement.
- Acknowledging differences and then funding Rural School Aid would put smaller/rural schools on a more equal footing with suburban schools
- Eliminating or funding mandates (and recognizing the staffing limitations of smaller schools) would help financially

Questions and Next Steps

Next Steps:

- Final adjustment of assessments based upon March 1 Census
 - School Committee adopts budget for town ratification
 - House Budget Numbers (hopefully before first town meeting - adjustments will be made in assessments if state revenue to district is expected to increase)
 - Senate Budget Numbers and Town Meetings
 - State budget adopted
 - Assessments adjusted if towns pass budget and state provides additional revenue to school district
-
- **Questions regarding FY'19 Budget**