

Public Forum on Franklin County Rural Schools

September 30, 2025, 6 pm

Leyden Town Hall

ATTEND - BE INFORMED - ENGAGE

Purpose: To inform and discuss the challenges to our rural public schools and projections for the future in preparation for upcoming votes on School District Agreements, budgets, and regionalization.

Agenda:

Welcome and introduction of speakers – 5 minutes. Select Board Chair: Erica Jensen

Summary of the 2022 Rural School Commission's Report. – 10 minutes

Linda Dunlavy, FRCOG Executive Director

School Funding – 10 minutes

Doug Selwyn, former professor of education

Chapter 70 funding formula for public education

Franklin County Regional Technical School – 15 minutes

Richard Martin, Superintendent

Presentation of enrollment (historic, current, projected), staff retention statistics, new curriculum implemented and projected, budget, facility addition and capital plans (what, when, cost, process for approval), challenges and opportunities ahead.

Pioneer Valley Regional School District – 15 minutes

Melissa Gerry, School Committee Chair

Presentation of enrollment (historical, current, projected), staff retention statistics, new curriculum implemented and projected, budget, facility addition and capital plans (what, when, cost, process for approval), challenges and opportunities ahead.

Six-Town Education Regionalization Planning Board – 15 minutes

Greg Snedeker, Vice Chair/Secretary/Treasurer

Presentation of recommendations, analysis of six town education challenges and opportunities, differences in current academic approach: PVRSD/Montague-Gill District, next steps and timing of implementation if approved.

Clarifying questions after each presentation

Open Discussion– 30 minutes

Light Snacks and Beverages will be available