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TO: Framingham Charter Commission
FROM: Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management
DATE: August 26, 2016
RE: School Committee Models and Considerations

At the charter commission's 8/15 meeting, you asked us to come up with several school committee models within the parameters that the commission found important. Our understanding of those parameters is:

- Must include district members;
- Must include at-large members;
- The Mayor should be on the school committee (but not the chair); and
- A size range of 9 to 13.

Attached is a spreadsheet illustrating several options. Please note that we have included several scenarios (1-3) that envision 6 districts, which would mean that the commission would need to combine three precincts into each district. Scenario 3 is envisioned as "district committee members voted for at-large." In other words, each candidate would run based upon which district they reside in, but would be voted on by all voters in a given election. Scenario 4 envisions the same districts as the council. This case does not include any at-large members.

The charter commission also has the option of allowing the mayor to have a vote on the school committee (essentially making the mayor a full member) or putting the mayor on the school committee in an ex-officio capacity without the right to vote. This could help if the number of members of the school committee is an issue.

Also note that the scenarios document contains Framingham population data estimates for years corresponding to future censuses. The Town would likely have to redistrict (drawing additional precincts) in future years, therefore necessitating a change in both school committee and council make-up.

Additionally, when considering the school committee article, please note that virtually all modern charters contain the same powers and duties for the school committee as given in M.G.L. Ch 71. Anything that deviated from these basic provisions would likely be subject to scrutiny by the Attorney General.