

RSU 73 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING @ SPRUCE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
APRIL 4, 2019

~MINUTES~

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Webster, Interim Superintendent called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Welcomed everyone to the Regional School Unit No. 73 District Budget Meeting.

Proceeded to read the following:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify the voters of each of the municipalities within Regional School Unit, namely, the Towns of Jay, Livermore and Livermore Falls that a Regional School Unit Budget Meeting will be held at the Spruce Mountain Middle School, 23 Community Drive, Jay, Maine at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 4th, 2019 for the purpose of determining the Budget Meeting Articles set for the 2019-2020 fiscal year set forth below

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all those present.

3. ATTENDANCE –

1. Doug DiPasquale	PRESENT	
2. Tammy Frost	PRESENT	
3. Sara Hughes	PRESENT	
4. Scott Jackson, Student Representative	PRESENT	
5. Steven Langlin	PRESENT	
6. Dale LeBlanc	PRESENT	
7. Shannon McDaniel	PRESENT	
8. Michael Morrell, Board Vice Chair	PRESENT	
9. Shari Ouellette	PRESENT	
10. Joel Pike		EXCUSED
11. Phoebe Pike	PRESENT	
12. Denise Rodzen	PRESENT, Arrived 6:09 PM	
13. Ann Schwab	PRESENT	
14. Orion Schwab, Student Representative		EXCUSED
15. Robert Staples, Board Chair	PRESENT	

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4. ARTICLE 1A – To elect a moderator to preside at the budget meeting.

MOTION MADE BY TJ PLOURDE, TO ELECT RONALD ASELTINE AS MODERATOR TO PRESIDE AT THE MEETING.

Written ballot was cast in favor to elect R. Aseltine as moderator for the meeting.

Motion was carried.

Mr. Webster administered the Moderators Oath to Ronald Aseltine

RONALD ASELTINE ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF TOWN CLERK TO AMANDA ALLEN, LORI SHINK, KRISTA WHITE.

Mr. Aseltine stated to members of the audience where the exits, and restrooms were.

Mr. Aseltine welcomed people to the District Budget Meeting and asked for consent of the people present to accept ROBERT WEBSTER, KEVIN HARRINGTON, ROBYN RAYMOND, SCOTT ALBERT, AMANDA HERSEY, KEN VINING, CHRIS HOLLINGSWORTH AND TINA COLLINS (ADMINISTRATORS) who may be asked to speak and / or answer questions, but who are not registered voters of one of the three towns of Regional School Unit No. 73

Unanimous consent was given by the registered voters.

ARTICLE 1: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

School Board Recommends \$7,623,555.74

MOTION MADE BY Tammy Frost, and seconded by Sara Hughes

Judy Diaz, registered voter asked what the increase of this budget line. Kristal Flagg, RSU 73 Business Mgr. reported the increase was \$65.88 – No further discussion

Vote on Article 1 was APPROVED AS READ

Motion was carried to accept Article 1 as read.

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ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

School Board Recommends \$3,358,252.27

MOTION MADE BY Phoebe Pike, and seconded by Doug DiPasquale

Judy Diaz, registered voter asked what the increase was to this budget line. Tina Collins, Special Services Director referred Ms. Diaz to the Budget Booklet handout which contained a worksheet outlining this information for each article within the warrant. No further discussion

Vote on Article 2 was APPROVED AS READ
Motion was carried to accept Article 2 as read.

ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.

School Board Recommends: \$465,290.00

MOTION MADE BY Phoebe Pike, and seconded by Ann Schwab

No discussion on Article 3

Vote on Article 3 was APPROVED AS READ.
Motion was carried to accept Article 3 as read.

ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.

School Board Recommends \$1,740,393.61

MOTION MADE BY Phoebe Pike, and seconded by Shannon McDaniel

No discussion on Article 4

Vote on Article 4 was APPROVED AS READ.
Motion was carried to accept Article 4 as read.

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ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration.

School Board Recommends \$683,147.63

MOTION MADE BY Doug DiPasquale, and seconded by Phoebe Pike

Judy Diaz, registered voter asked what the major components of the increase to this article were. Mr. Webster stated that the contract buyout for Mr. LeRoy, our previous Superintendent, and the contractual obligations were the components of the increase to this line of the budget. No further discussion

Vote on Article 5 was APPROVED AS READ.

Motion was carried to accept Article 5 as read.

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration.

School Board Recommends \$930,770.06

MOTION MADE BY Phoebe Pike, and seconded by Ann Schwab

Registered voter questioned why this article was different than that of the line item total on the spreadsheet also in the budget booklet. Kristal Flagg clarified that \$50,000 of this line was a separate article for the School Resource Office, it was asked that the SRO be broken out into its own article. No further discussion.

Vote on Article 6 was APPROVED AS READ.

Motion was carried to accept Article 6 as read.

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

School Board Recommends \$1,330,672.52

MOTION MADE BY Phoebe Pike, and seconded by Shannon McDaniel

No discussion on Article 7

Vote on Article 7 was APPROVED AS READ.

Motion was carried to accept Article 7 as read.

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ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

School Board Recommends \$2,548,561.05

MOTION MADE BY Dale LeBlanc, and seconded by Ann Schwab

Judy Diaz, registered voter questioned if all staff were bus drivers and custodians. Ken Vining, Maintenance and Transportation Director stated that yes, all but 2 of his employees were in fact both bus drivers and custodians. No further discussion.

Vote on Article 8 was APPROVED AS READ.
Motion was carried to accept Article 8 as read.

ARTICLE 9: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service.

School Board Recommends \$641,754.50

MOTION MADE BY Phoebe Pike, and seconded by Doug DiPasquale

A question from the audience was asked if this article was for the work done at the elementary school. Mr. Webster stated that this article is for debt service throughout the district and encompasses not only the elementary school project, but other projects as well. No further discussion.

Vote on Article 9 was APPROVED AS READ.
Motion was carried to accept Article 9 as read.

ARTICLE 10: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.

School Board Recommends \$195,000.00

MOTION MADE BY Shari Ouellette, and seconded by Phoebe Pike

Judy Diaz, registered voter asked why a "contingency fund" is needed for our district?

Phoebe Pike stated that as a school district we are federally regulated to educate all students, and that in the past we have struggled with being able to meet the needs of new students, especially when they are special needs students. Whether it be because additional staff is needed, or other unforeseen costs arise that weren't planned for due to these new students.

Shari Ouellette stated that another addition to the budget was the construction project that had to be done at the elementary school, there just always seem to something that wasn't planned for, and this fund will ensure we are more prepared to meet those costs and needs.

Judy Diaz further stated that the school district "needs to get a better control on their spending" and that the taxpayers have seen an increase in the school budget over the past several years.

Denise Rodzen further explained that unforeseen expenditures can freeze a budget early regardless of the reason, and she doesn't want to see this continue as it makes education our students difficult when you can't get the resources needed to do so.

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Mr. Webster wanted to clarify that in fact Ms. Diaz's opinion was a misstatement. In fact the school district has asked for less local taxpayer money over the past several years.

For FY 17 the tax assessment was \$11,266,823 which was less than the 15/16 year by \$1,054,585

For FY 18 the tax assessment was \$10,732,793 which again was less than 16/17 year by \$634,030 and

For FY 19 the tax assessment was \$9,406,278 which again was less than 17/18 year by \$1,326,515 these past three years have shown a savings to the taxpayers, not an increase.

Mr. Webster continued to state that he applauds the school board for their continued efforts in saving taxpayer money, unfortunately this year does show an increase

Dale LeBlanc also questioned why a contingency fund was added to the budget, it appeared it hadn't been done the last couple of years and didn't understand the need for such a large fund this year when the budget was already seeing an increase.

Bob Staples gave an analogy of your home budget. If you have \$1500 in monthly expenses and that is all that you budget for each month, what happens when the unexpected occurs. An appliance needs to be replaced, or your car breaks down, where does that money come from? This fund will help ensure that we can operate consistently and provide our students what they need to learn.

Mr. Webster also stated that if these funds do not get used, the money will return for the following years budget.

No further discussion

Vote on Article 10 was APPROVED AS READ.

Motion was carried to accept Article 10 as read.

Shall the RSU be authorized to expend \$50,000 for a School Resource Officer for the middle and high school?

ARTICLE 11:

Note: This appropriation is contingent upon the Town of Jay appropriating \$50,000 as its share of the cost of the SRO officer.

School Board Recommends \$50,000.00

MOTION MADE BY Shari Ouellette, and seconded by Dale LeBlanc

Denise Rodzen reminded those present that this article would need to also be approved through the Town of Jay before this would officially be approved, and if that doesn't happen these funds would not be expended.

No further discussion

Vote on Article 11 was APPROVED AS READ.

Motion was carried to accept Article 11 as read.

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ARTICLE 12:

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

Recommended amounts set forth below:

Total Appropriated by municipality:		Total raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):	
Jay	\$7,421,285.20	Jay	\$4,477,272.00
Livermore	\$2,916,079.34	Livermore	\$1,557,054.00
Livermore Falls	\$5,746,912.02	Livermore Falls	\$1,367,994.00
Total Appropriated:	\$16,084,276.56	Total Raised:	\$7,402,320.00

Explanation: The Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Regional School Unit must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

MOTION MADE BY Dale LeBlanc, and seconded by Ann Schwab

Judy Diaz, registered voter asked if the state figures were finalized? Mr. Webster explained that until the legislature votes to approve the proposed budget those figures are not finalized, but our budget is based on the proposed figures. Those figures won't be finalized until late May – early June. No further discussion.

**Vote on Article 12 was APPROVED AS READ.
Motion was carried to accept Article 12 as read.**

ARTICLE 13:

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the Regional School unit voters for non-state-funded school construction projects or non-state-funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to grade 12.

School Board Recommends \$193,039.00

Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the Regional School Unit's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the Regional School Unit voters.

MOTION MADE BY Shari Ouellette, and seconded by Phoebe Pike

No discussion on Article 13.

**Vote on Article 13 was APPROVED AS READ.
Motion was carried to accept Article 13 as read.**

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(WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED) To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds.

ARTICLE 14:

The School Board recommends **\$2,608,108.96**, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$2,608,108.96**. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: These funds are necessary to provide for the costs that are not fully funded by the state.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the RSU's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the RSU budget for educational programs.

MOTION MADE BY **Dale LeBlanc**, and seconded by **Phoebe Pike**

Discussion on increases for the towns ensued. No further discussion.

Mr. Aseltine reminded those present that the Budget Validation Referendum would be on April 23rd in each of the three towns, polls were open 8AM to 8PM.

Vote on Article 14 was WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED.

Vote was 33 in favor and 12 opposed.

Motion was carried to accept Article 14 as read.

ARTICLE 15 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 15:

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 from the Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Service Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpected balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Board Recommends \$19,567,397.38

MOTION MADE BY **Phoebe Pike**, and seconded by **Sara Hughes**

Judy Diaz, registered voter, asked if this total included the School Resource Officer, the answer was "yes" this total does indeed include the SRO. No further discussion

Vote on Article 15 was APPROVED AS READ.

Motion was carried to accept Article 15 as read.

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ARTICLE 16: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Board be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for the school purposes, provided that such grants, program or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

MOTION MADE BY Phoebe Pike, and seconded by Ann Schwab

No discussion on Article 16

Vote on Article 16 was APPROVED AS READ.

Motion was carried to accept Article 16 as read.

ARTICLE 17 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Regional School Unit will appropriate **\$371,375.67** for adult education and raise **\$195,000.00** (\$65,000.00 for each town) as the local share, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

MOTION MADE BY Phoebe Pike, and seconded by Dale LeBlanc

Judy Diaz questioned the increase of \$20,000 to each town.

Robyn Raymond spoke that the increase is due to a 173% increase in her enrollment, the need to hire and additional teacher to teach those extra students, and that we are now federally mandated to provide a workforce initiative program for the community. No further discussion

Vote on Article 17 was APPROVED AS READ.

Motion was carried to accept Article 17 as read.

Mr. Aseltine once again reminded those present of the Budget Validation Referendum vote on April 23rd, held in each town. Polls would be open 8AM to 8PM.

Motion by Phoebe Pike and seconded by Doug DiPasquale to adjourn the RSU 73 District Budget Meeting at 7:03 PM. Motion carried by all those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Webster
Interim Superintendent