

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 73
2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE

**PUBLIC HEARING PART 1:
PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET FOR FY 2020-2021**

The School Board of Regional School Unit No. 73 has proposed a school operating budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 (the "Proposed School Budget"). Pursuant to Order of the Governor, the budget meeting where these articles are presented has been replaced by a remote public hearing.

Note: The School Board presented this same Proposed School Budget at a remote public hearing held June 23, 2020, ahead of a budget referendum previously scheduled for July 14, 2020. Thereafter, it was discovered that the ballots, warrants, and other referendum documents contained a substantial error as to the amount of taxes that the School Board intended and approved to fund the Proposed School Budget and thereby meet its FY 2020-21 obligations and commitments and provide an adequate education. To cure the error and ensure that the voters have the opportunity to vote on the Proposed School Budget as the School Board intended and approved, the School Board has rescinded the July 14 referendum, called this new remote public hearing, and called a new referendum for August 18, 2020.

The Proposed School Budget consists of the following Articles 1 through 14. Together, these articles constitute the proposed school operating budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 to be presented to the voters as Article 1 at a budget referendum scheduled for August 18, 2020.

EXPENDITURES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET
BY COST CENTER CATEGORY

ARTICLE 1:	Regular Instruction	\$	8,039,893.95
ARTICLE 2:	Special Education	\$	3,583,260.59
ARTICLE 3:	Career and Technical Education	\$	0.00
ARTICLE 4:	Other Instruction	\$	494,538.00
ARTICLE 5:	Student and Staff Support	\$	1,664,467.74
ARTICLE 6:	System Administration	\$	609,313.81
ARTICLE 7:	School Administration	\$	1,036,826.26
ARTICLE 8:	Transportation and Buses	\$	1,449,015.64
ARTICLE 9:	Facilities Maintenance	\$	2,734,772.02
ARTICLE 10:	Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$	448,754.00
ARTICLE 11:	All Other Expenditures	\$	100,000.00

STATE SUBSIDY AND LOCAL TAX REVENUES
FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 12: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit appropriate the amounts set forth below for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and raise and assess the amounts set forth below 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 RSU assessments by municipality)	
Jay	\$ 7,530,846.49	Jay	\$ 4,423,335.00
Livermore	\$ 2,822,207.46	Livermore	\$ 1,549,973.66
Livermore Falls	\$ 6,180,088.73	Livermore Falls	\$ 1,378,602.66
Total Appropriated:	\$ 16,533,142.68	Total Raised:	\$ 7,351,911.32

State Mandated 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.

ARTICLE 13: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit raise and appropriate **\$2,865,140.40** in additional local funds, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$2,865,140.40** as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$2,865,140.40: These funds are necessary to provide for the costs that are not fully funded by the State.

State Mandated Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Regional School Unit’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 Regional School Unit budget for educational programs.

SUMMARY OF TOTAL 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 14: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit authorize the School Board to expend **\$20,160,842.01** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 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 Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

PUBLIC HEARING PART 2: REFERENDUM ARTICLES

The following school budget and other articles will be submitted to referendum on August 18, 2020:

Article 1A: To elect a moderator to preside at the meeting.

Article 1: **School Budget.** Shall Regional School Unit No. 73 appropriate the sum of **\$20,160,842.01** and raise the sum of **\$10,217,051.72** for the 2020-2021 school budget?

School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

VOTER INFORMATION FOR ARTICLE 1

The Regional School Unit No. 73 school budget submitted in this Article 1 totals \$20,160,842.01. It includes locally raised funds in the amount of \$10,217,051.72, to be assessed in shares to member municipalities in accordance with the RSU's cost sharing formula and state law. The locally raised amount exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$2,865,140.40. This budget includes these cost centers and amounts:

Cost Center	Amount Appropriated
Regular Instruction	\$ 8,039,893.95
Special Education	\$ 3,583,260.59
Career and Technical Education	\$ 0.00
Other Instruction	\$ 494,538.00
Student and Staff Support	\$ 1,664,467.74
System Administration	\$ 609,313.81
School Administration	\$ 1,036,826.26
Transportation and Buses	\$ 1,449,015.64
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 2,734,772.02
Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$ 448,754.00
All Other Expenditures	\$ 100,000.00
Summary of Total Authorized School Budget Expenditures:	\$ 20,160,842.01

Article 2: **Cost Center Transfers.** Shall the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 73 be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

Article 3: **Food Service Program.** Shall Regional School Unit No. 73 be authorized to appropriate **\$844,664.88** for the food service program and raise **\$206,964.87** (\$68,988.29 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 food service program?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

Article 4: **Adult Education Program.** Shall Regional School Unit No. 73 be authorized to appropriate **\$387,938.73** 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?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.