

**WARRANT TO CALL
REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 3 BUDGET MEETING
(20-A M.R.S. § 1485)**

TO: Charity Vines, a resident of Regional School Unit No. 3 (the “Regional School Unit”) composed of the Towns of Brooks, Freedom, Jackson, Knox, Liberty, Monroe, Montville, Thorndike, Troy, Unity, and Waldo, State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify the voters of each of the municipalities within the Regional School Unit, namely, the Towns of Brooks, Freedom, Jackson, Knox, Liberty, Monroe, Montville, Thorndike, Troy, Unity, and Waldo, that a Regional School Unit Budget Meeting will be held at Mount View Middle School, 577 Mount View Road, Thorndike, Maine at 6:00 p.m. on May 26, 2021 for the purpose of determining the Budget Meeting Articles set forth below.

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

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11
AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

ARTICLE 1: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.
School Board Recommends \$6,698,700.00

ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education.
School Board Recommends \$3,317,300.00

ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.
School Board Recommends \$0.00

ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.
School Board Recommends \$537,300.00

ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.
School Board Recommends \$1,615,100.00

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration.
School Board Recommends \$759,050.00

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration.
School Board Recommends \$1,137,300.00

ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

School Board Recommends \$1,527,300.00

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

School Board Recommends \$2,245,349.00

ARTICLE 10: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

School Board Recommends \$2,439,501.00

ARTICLE 11: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.

School Board Recommends \$0.00

ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 14
RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

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):	
Town of Brooks	\$ 1,764,377.71	Town of Brooks	\$ 586,970.00
Town of Freedom	\$ 1,000,788.83	Town of Freedom	\$ 475,316.67
Town of Jackson	\$ 1,051,153.20	Town of Jackson	\$ 298,488.33
Town of Knox	\$ 1,530,427.08	Town of Knox	\$ 434,631.67
Town of Liberty	\$ 1,382,583.26	Town of Liberty	\$ 1,114,558.33
Town of Monroe	\$ 1,286,728.49	Town of Monroe	\$ 657,148.33
Town of Montville	\$ 1,580,791.45	Town of Montville	\$ 639,241.67
Town of Thorndike	\$ 1,382,583.26	Town of Thorndike	\$ 410,536.67
Town of Troy	\$ 1,757,879.08	Town of Troy	\$ 539,570.00
Town of Unity	\$ 2,633,569.31	Town of Unity	\$ 1,050,041.67
Town of Waldo	\$ 875,690.24	Town of Waldo	\$ 493,091.67
Total Appropriated (sum of above)	\$ 16,246,571.91	Total Raised (sum of above)	\$ 6,699,595.01

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: 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 \$0.00

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.

ARTICLE 14: **(Written ballot required.)** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$2,499,328.09**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$2,499,328.09**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends \$2,499,328.09, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$2,499,328.09.

The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: (1) the EPS formula does not meet the essential needs of rural school districts with numerous small schools regarding the funding for staff which is based on student count, funding of system administration which is based on student count, funding for building operations which is based on student count, funding of transportation which is based primarily on student density per mile; (2) the EPS allocation for special education underestimates the needs and subsequent cost of providing for students' special needs; (3) the EPS funding underestimates the market and delivery costs for fuel; (4) the EPS funding allocation assumes that districts will cover the major portion of the costs for co-curricular and athletic student activities; (5) the EPS formula does not provide sufficient funds for equitable education of students in rural communities that do not have the enrollment population to receive adequate funding; (6) the EPS formula does not provide sufficient funds to offer innovative educational opportunities for the students in rural communities.

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.

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, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 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.
School Board Recommends \$20,276,900.00

ARTICLE 16 RAISES AND APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate **\$60,000.00** for the school nutrition program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the school nutrition program.
School Board Recommends \$60,000.00

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

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Regional School Unit will appropriate **\$141,000.00** for adult education and raise **\$85,000.00** 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.

ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 18: 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 school and other program purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?
School Board Recommends a "YES" vote.

ARTICLE 19 AUTHORIZES THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUDGET

ARTICLE 19: Shall the regional career and technical education operating budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 be approved in the amount of **\$1,991,461.00**?

ARTICLE 20 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET FOR THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL REGION AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

ARTICLE 20: Shall the career and technical education region approve a budget for adult education in the amount of **\$51,525.00** for the year beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its adult education program?
School Board Recommends a “YES” vote.

ARTICLE 21 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 21: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$500,000.00** from unexpended balances at the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year to the Capital Reserve Fund for repairs and improvements at the District’s schools and buildings?
School Board Recommends a “YES” vote.

ARTICLE 22 AUTHORIZES A REDUCTION IN LOCAL TAX ASSESSMENTS IN THE EVENT OF AN INCREASE IN STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Regional School Unit will reduce the amount raised and assessed 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 15690 to the extent of any unanticipated increase in the adjusted state contribution under the Essential Programs and Services funding model.
School Board Recommends a “YES” vote.