

# Maranacook Area Schools

Manchester • Mt. Vernon • Readfield • Wayne

A caring school community dedicated to excellence.

www.maranacook.org

## Epic Struggle: Going too far or not far enough, how will the odyssey end?

David Greenham, RSU 38 Board Chair

In Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey*, Odysseus and his crew have an impossible path to travel. On one side they face the jagged rocks where Sylla sits and yelps luring in all who come near. On the other side is Charybdis, the whirlpool that three times a day sucks in all who are in her vicinity. "Not even Neptune can save you," Odysseus is told. Many think this tale is the origin of the phrase "between a rock and a hard place."

Now, as we present this 2014/2015 school budget, we find ourselves between a rock and a hard place. The state once again is not living up to its promise to provide 55% of the cost of general purpose aid to education. Our community leaders and property owners regularly point out that they must carry the brunt of the difference

through increased property taxes. And, of course, costs of nearly everything involved in educating children are increasing.

Last year the district's budget passed by a slim margin. Our Board of Directors entered this budget season with a goal of presenting a flat budget while at the same time improving educational quality for our students. To some in our district that decision was too drastic. Others complained that we didn't go far enough. Many people doubted it was possible to do both.

I find that when you get stuck in a no-win situation, you go back to your core values. Our district's values can be found in our vision statement: "Maranacook Schools will be safe, dynamic learning communities where people of all ages will think, aspire, and participate as responsible citizens in an ever-changing global society."

We approached the budget process

with this vision in mind and encouraged our Administrative Team to think of new ways to address the challenges of declining enrollment while maintaining, or even increasing the scope and depth of program offerings. We are fortunate to have a group of leaders in our schools – administrators, teachers, and staff – who are willing to look at innovative ways to improve the quality of education in our district.

This year, new ideas were presented and fit within our goal of saving funds while increasing educational opportunities. In the end, some in the community let us know that they weren't ready for these changes, and that's fine. That's what the process is about. We are still able to present a budget that includes a zero-percent increase. But are we responding to our "ever-changing global society?" I'm not so sure.

Like Odysseus, we remain stuck in a

somewhat impossible position.

There seems to be a strong desire for our schools to maintain a status-quo and yet, by nickel and diming our way through the budget, I don't feel we're doing that. At the same time we face increased fixed-costs and reduced income from nearly every source. One thing is clear: we can't continue to do it this way. Like so many other parts of our life, we will either make changes or have them caused by external forces. It will be interesting to see how this odyssey ends.



## A Year of Many Student Accomplishments & Staff Work on Strategic Plan

Superintendent Donna Wolfrom

This year we have experienced soccer and ski state championships, an amazing musical, *The Sound of Music*, the selection of one of our students as one of five national representatives to the National Youth Advisory Council for the School-Based Health Alliance, the Health Center Student Advisory Committee winning the Maine Youth Action Network and the Partnership for a Tobacco Free Maine Impact Award, a terrific performance of the play, *Tom Jones*, hosting the grade 6 Instrumental Music Festival, and the list goes on and on. It has been an exciting year and the accomplishments of our students prove just how amazing they are!

Administrators and teachers have been working equally as hard this year as we work to address the four goal areas described in the Strategic Plan.

### Goal 1: Success for all Students

By state law, students graduating in 2018 must demonstrate proficiency on Maine's standards to receive a diploma. Teachers in all grade levels have been examining practices and having conversations about meeting standards. Questions that have been considered are: How do we know when students have met the standards? How will we determine proficiency? How will we track student progress toward meeting the standards?

### Goal 2: Rigorous Instructional Program

Teachers in all grades have been working

with our curriculum coaches and coordinator to realign curriculum to Maine's Learning Standards. They have been identifying priority and supporting standards, designing units around those standards, and developing assessments to measure student proficiency.

At present the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) measures proficiency for Maine students in grades 3-8. The SAT measures proficiency for grade 11. On April 16 Nancy Harriman, the director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, presented the most recent NECAP and NWEA scores to the RSU 38 Board. While this is just one measure of student performance, district goals have been set to strive for increased achievement. Fall 2013 NECAP scores indicate that in all grades (3-8) students scored at or above state average in reading, math and writing, and that the percentages of students meeting proficiency increased significantly in reading in grades 6-8, and in grade 5 writing. We are confident that creating a consistent curriculum aligned with standards and improving instructional strategies will result in improved test scores.

### Goal 3: Schools as Welcoming Community Centers

This goal is a challenge as we increase safety measures while at the same time strive to make our schools warm and inviting places for all who enter. Buzzer/camera systems have been installed to monitor entrances to our schools and feedback on the new

safety measure has been positive.

Another step toward this goal is increased use of social media. Our use of Facebook to communicate with our community has resulted in full houses at many school functions and increased community awareness of school events.

### Goal 4: Accountability for all

The Teacher Evaluation Committee has been working this year to develop the accountability system for teachers that will comply with state law. The RSU 38 School Board, upon recommendation of the Teacher Evaluation Committee, adopted the Marzano Standards for Teaching and Learning. Working with these teaching standards will help educators fine-tune their use of instructional strategies as we work to address the needs of all students.

The ultimate measure of our effectiveness becomes evident as students leave our learning community and embark on their post secondary experiences. As we examine the list of colleges, universities, military branches and workplaces that have accepted our students, the citizens of our four towns should feel confident that RSU 38 is "a caring school community dedicated to excellence."



**RSU#38  
Maranacook Area Schools  
Annual Report  
May 2014**

### Annual Meeting

7 p.m., Wednesday, May 14  
High School gymnasium  
Please bring this report to the meeting.

Free child care will be provided by National Honor Society students in High School room 130 during the annual meeting from 7-9 p.m. Anyone interested should RSVP to Kristen Levesque at kristen\_levesque@maranacook.org or 685-4923 x1040.

### Budget Validation Referendum

Tuesday, June 10, 2014  
Town polling locations

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## Student enrollment up at Manchester, Mt. Vernon Schools; Principal & Veteran Teachers to Retire

Pia Holmes, Principal, Manchester & Mt. Vernon Elementary Schools

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as principal of Mt. Vernon (MTV) and Manchester (MES) Elementary Schools. Our teachers and students have worked diligently on new standards to improve teaching and learning throughout the year. I have appreciated the support of Lead Teachers Pat Godin (MTV), and

As this year draws to a close, we will be saying good-bye to several veteran MTV teachers through retirement: Leslie Grenier,



*We will be saying good-bye to several veteran MTV teachers through retirement. After 26 years in the District, I will be retiring as well. I have grown personally and professionally while teaching, learning and leading.*

Jennifer Galletta and Rachael Boucher (MES). They have supported the teachers and students with their leadership and expertise. Serving as an integral part of each team are custodians Curt Williams and Paul Olsen (MES) and Craig Dunn (MTV), secretaries Joyce Norwood (MES) and Brenda Fleury (MTV); and school nurses Sharon Chaplin and Angela Palmer. Their collective knowledge has been important to the safety and well being of our school community.

It is good news for our communities that this year has seen growth in student enrollment, and projections indicate this growth will continue. Last year at this time MES had 166 students, and we now have 189. This is partially due to our expanded pre-K program with morning and afternoon sessions. MTV currently has 130 students and is predicted to grow to 138 for next year. We are expecting a large incoming kindergarten class.

Teachers have been working with their grade-level colleagues on professional development in Common Core standards across the curriculum. Teachers share, examine student data, and bring back to their classes lessons and assessments. Teachers are also working on committees, attending workshops, and observing each other teach. Our specialist teachers in art, music, and physical education have enhanced students' skills and creativity. Their talent and work has been displayed in the schools, communities, and showcased in music and play productions.

As resources are becoming scarcer teachers have looked for opportunities to enrich their classrooms and students. Many teachers have submitted projects to Donor's Choose for funding and received thousands of dollars worth of materials for science, technology, special programs, and classroom equipment. In addition, both schools benefited from enrichment opportunities sponsored by their Parent, Teacher and Community groups.

Linking the school and communities is essential. Attendance of parents and guardians at school conferences has been high. We have Toddler Programs meeting weekly in each school introducing our tiniest prospective students to school and their parents to each other. Officers from the State Police and Sheriff's Department visit our schools regularly, giving us solid advice on security. Our Fire Departments train our students in fire safety each year. We appreciate how this community support strengthens our schools.

reading; Dona Seegers, art; Janet Dunham, music; and Kathy Brown, library ed tech. They will be missed. After 26 years in the District, I will be retiring as well. I have grown personally and professionally while teaching, learning and leading. I will miss my colleagues and will carry with me the warm smiles of our students.

Thank you for your past and continued support of our schools.

## Readfield, Wayne Teachers Work on Common Core Standards; Dedicated Parents Support Enrichment

Jeffrey Boston, Principal, Readfield & Wayne Elementary Schools

It is an honor and privilege to be the new principal of Readfield and Wayne Elementary Schools. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, staff, parents, district, school board and communities for their support.

Our teachers continue to work on the Common Core Standards and improving their instruction through monthly grade level meetings. In addition, teachers have had other professional development opportunities such as:

### Mathematics

A dozen or so elementary staff participated in a UMF graduate level math course taught in the district that focused on Common Core standards, Number & Operations-Fractions domain in grades 3-5 and the Ratios & Proportional Relationships domain in grades 6-8. The course ran through December. The course gave teachers a deeper understanding of math concepts, which will greatly improve their teaching and student learning.

### Lucy Calkins Curricular Units Writing Program

All elementary teachers have received initial professional development on a new writing curriculum facilitated by Nancy Harriman, our new curriculum coordinator, and Barbara Bourgoine, our literacy coach. We have consulted with Kellie Smith, who has provided professional development several times during the course of the year for our teachers. Teachers received a pacing guide for implementation purposes and a focus on four genres of writing: narrative, persuasive, informational and other (poetry, fiction and fairy tales). In addition, students are expected to write four times a week for a minimum of 45 minutes, which will assist in skill devel-

## Middle School Receives Accreditation, Staff Works to Accomplish Recommended Goals

Cathy Jacobs, Middle School Principal

We are pleased to report that, after three years of in-depth reflection and study of our Middle School practices, we have been awarded accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. We were commended by the visiting committee for our mission statement, commitment to multi age grouping, use of student portfolios, advisee system, engaging students in developing learning opportunities, integrated, project based learning, co-curricular learning opportunities, instructional practices that ensure the development of higher order thinking skills and problem solving, communication to parents, open decision making process, the fifth grade transition activities, our Wellness Center and the air of pride and respect within the school that creates a positive learning environment.

The committee made recommendations around which we have developed our school goals. These include consistent teaching of math units across the school, celebration of student effort and success, all

teams requiring independent reading, focus on Common Core requirements, establishing priority and supporting standards for reading, math and writing, each team will explicitly teach informational, narrative and argumentative writing, developing a protocol for examining the data, and creating a systematic professional development plan for teaching reading, math and writing. We spent most of the year working on these goals and anticipate an increase in student performance as a result of all of this work.

Our student Civil Rights Team, under the guidance of Gwen Mohlar and Sarah Caban, has been working diligently on our school climate. They have sponsored many awareness activities this year for students and were recently featured in the Maine Civil Rights Team monthly newsletter *The Torch*. We are proud of the work these students have done to make our school a safe learning environment for all.

The middle school staff continues to work to align our curriculum with state learning standards. We have worked closely this year with our instructional coaches and curriculum coordinator to develop math, reading and writing units that are taught consistently across all teams. Grade level groups have met monthly to develop, pilot and implement these units and have rigorous lessons ready to go in the fall. We saw an increase in our NECAP scores in both reading and math and hope to continue to see these scores improve as we move to the Smarter Balanced assessment next year.

I am honored to work in a school with folks who are so dedicated to young adolescents and in a district that values education. Thank you for your continued support.



opment.

We are looking at the data from our assessments (DRA2, Dibels, NWEA, NECAP and writing) to improve instruction and keep our school board and parents informed on student progress by putting the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standards in our weekly newsletters and school board reports. We firmly believe in developing an educational partnership with parents, which will benefit our students.

We would like to thank Readfield Elementary Parent Association and Home and School, the Wayne Elementary parent organization for their support and fundraising efforts to bring enrichment opportunities to our students. Due to their help, both schools have had financial resources to attend field trips and cultural events. As an old proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child." We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of parents!

At the end of the school year, Eileen Lynch, RES resource room teacher, Janet Dunham, WES and MTV music teacher and Dona Seegers, WES and MTV art teacher, will retire after many years of service to the district. We wish them well in their future endeavors. They will be missed by students, staff and parents.

Finally, I thank you for your continued support from each school community. Truly, the best part of my job is interacting with the students in the classroom, working collaboratively with teachers on improving our instruction and the enthusiasm of our staff. Readfield and Wayne Elementary Schools, you ROCK!



### The Regional School Unit No. 38 Annual Report is published by RSU No. 38.

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Regional School Unit No. 38 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, status as a disabled veteran, or veteran of the Vietnam era in its employment practices or in the administration of its educational policies and programs.

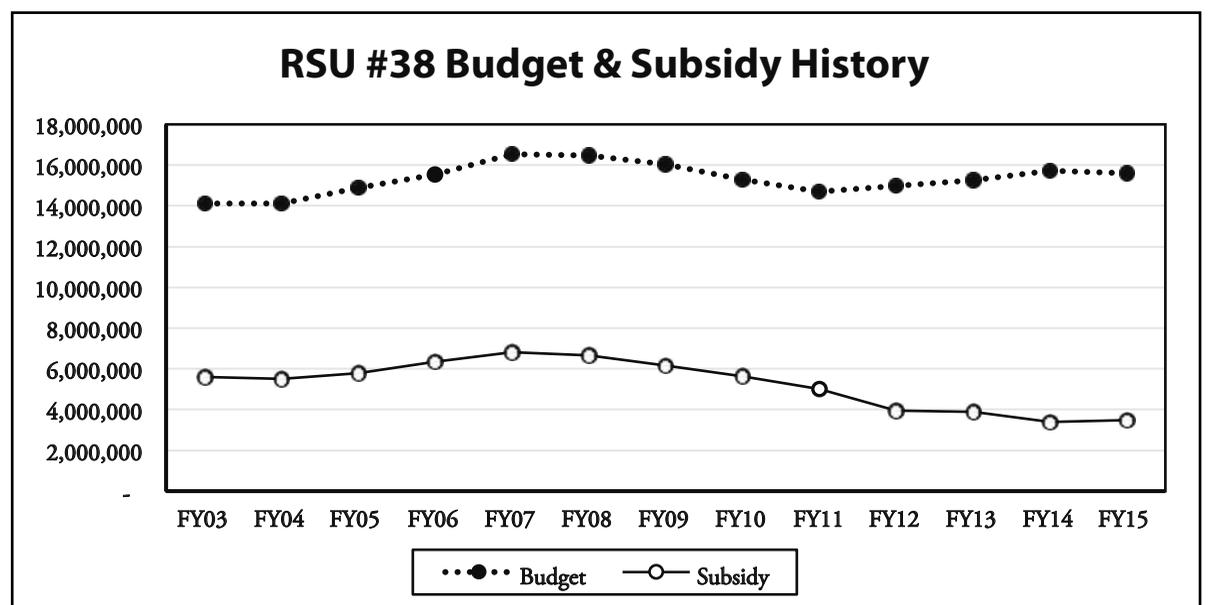
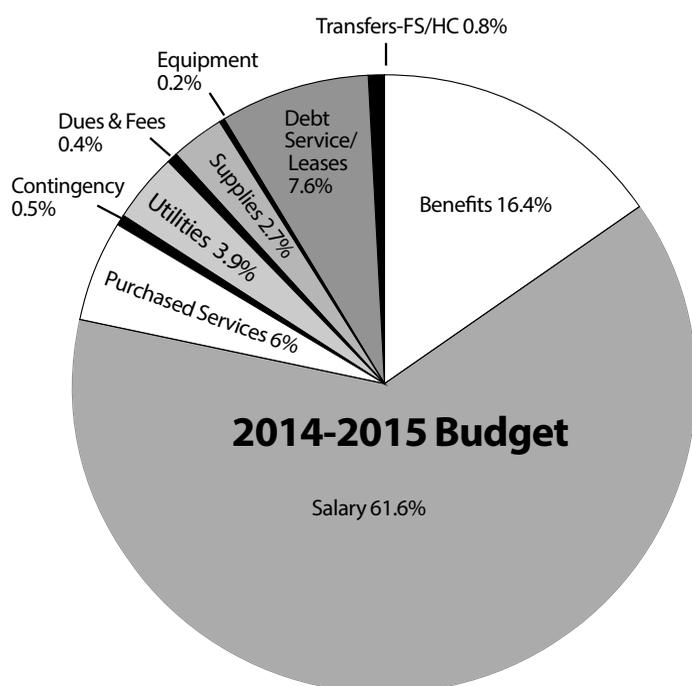
The audit for Regional School Unit No. 38 was conducted in September 2013 by R.H.R. Smith and Company and is available on the District's web site (see above).

# 2014-2015 District Budget

Description	Current Budget 2013-2014	Proposed Budget 2014-2015	Percent Change
<b>General Fund – School Level Budget</b>			
<b>Manchester Elementary School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	95,425.00	73,893.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	102,566.00	106,928.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	207,441.00	214,033.00	
Regular Education Instruction	949,087.00	1,023,386.00	
Co-Curricular	700.00	-	
<b>Manchester School Level</b>	<b>1,355,219.00</b>	<b>1,418,240.00</b>	<b>4.65%</b>
<b>Mt. Vernon Elementary School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	54,460.00	50,471.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	82,036.00	89,507.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	123,794.00	121,071.00	
Regular Education Instruction	603,646.00	605,647.00	
Co-Curricular	500.00	-	
<b>Mt. Vernon School Level</b>	<b>864,436.00</b>	<b>866,696.00</b>	<b>0.26%</b>
<b>Readfield Elementary School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	93,938.00	77,457.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	113,311.00	125,260.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	195,933.00	199,883.00	
Regular Education Instruction	771,676.00	836,812.00	
Co-Curricular	1,000.00	-	
<b>Readfield School Level</b>	<b>1,175,858.00</b>	<b>1,239,412.00</b>	<b>5.40%</b>
<b>Wayne Elementary School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	34,179.00	37,646.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	65,616.00	67,526.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	145,408.00	192,889.00	
Regular Education Instruction	356,544.00	331,995.00	
Co-Curricular	750.00	-	
<b>Wayne School Level</b>	<b>602,497.00</b>	<b>630,056.00</b>	<b>4.57%</b>
<b>Maranacook Middle School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	221,450.00	205,654.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	152,850.00	165,139.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	393,053.00	415,323.00	
Regular & Alternative Educ Inst	1,575,736.00	1,452,523.00	
Co & Extra Curricular	107,239.00	104,873.00	
<b>Middle School-School Level</b>	<b>2,450,328.00</b>	<b>2,343,512.00</b>	<b>-4.36%</b>
<b>Maranacook High School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	396,853.00	317,541.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	324,101.00	334,728.00	

Description	Current Budget 2013-2014	Proposed Budget 2014-2015	Percent Change
Maintenance/Building/Repair	592,935.00	626,471.00	
Regular & Alternative Educ Inst	2,100,119.00	2,001,495.00	
CATC Tuition & Coop Education	-	-	
Co & Extra Curricular	293,195.00	294,916.00	
<b>High School - School Level</b>	<b>3,707,203.00</b>	<b>3,575,151.00</b>	<b>-3.56%</b>
<b>RSU #38 School Level</b>	<b>10,155,541.00</b>	<b>10,073,067.00</b>	<b>-0.81%</b>
<b>Phoenix House</b>			
<b>RSU #38 Phoenix House</b>	<b>150,201.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-100.00%</b>
<b>Grade Level pre-K-8 Budget</b>			
Improvement Of Instruction	26,529.00	23,392.00	
Special Education	1,405,058.00	1,515,809.00	
ESL/ELLS	38,455.00	30,611.00	
Summer Reading	9,201.00	8,927.00	
Gifted & Talented	106,404.00	108,214.00	
<b>RSU #38 Grade pre-K-8 Budget</b>	<b>1,585,647.00</b>	<b>1,686,953.00</b>	<b>6.39%</b>
<b>Grade Level 9-12 Budget</b>			
Improvement Of Instruction	8,845.00	7,798.00	
Special Education	397,733.00	448,762.00	
ESL/ELLS	-	4,516.00	
Gifted & Talented	30,365.00	29,593.00	
<b>RSU #38 Grade 9 - 12 Budget</b>	<b>436,943.00</b>	<b>490,669.00</b>	<b>12.30%</b>
<b>District Level Budget</b>			
Health Services	296,299.00	290,926.00	
Curriculum	201,062.00	178,291.00	
Instructional Technology	149,099.00	169,798.00	
Assessment	13,500.00	52,748.00	
School Board & Supt Office	496,364.00	507,565.00	
District Maintenance	280,995.00	278,384.00	
District Transportation	956,127.00	916,530.00	
Reimbursable Transportation	5,737.00	5,885.00	
Local Support/Food Service	100,000.00	100,000.00	
Debt Service	758,854.00	728,937.00	
Special Educ Admin	138,418.00	134,827.00	
Local/Subsidy/Adult Ed	-	0.00	
<b>RSU #38 District Budget</b>	<b>3,396,455.00</b>	<b>3,363,891.00</b>	<b>-0.96%</b>
<b>RSU #38 Total Gen Fund Budget</b>			
<b>RSU #38 Total Gen Fund Budget</b>	<b>15,724,787.00</b>	<b>15,614,580.00</b>	<b>-0.70%</b>

A detailed budget is available upon request from the Superintendent's Office.



# Warrant for the Annual Meeting

**May 14, 2014, 7:00 p.m.**

TO: Constable of the Towns of the Regional School Unit No. 38 in the County of Kennebec and State of Maine.

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Towns of the School Unit qualified by law to vote, in Manchester, Mount Vernon, Readfield and Wayne (Regional School Unit No. 38), to meet at the Maranacook Community High School in Readfield, Maine on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following articles, to wit:

**Article 1:** To choose a moderator to preside at the said meeting.

**Article 2:** Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$36,000 from the Maranacook School Based Health Center Reserve Fund to the general fund, and to use that sum as a general fund revenue for the 2014-2015 operating budget?

**School Board Recommends:** \$36,000.00

*This article would authorize funds approved by voters at the Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Meeting for the Maranacook Student Health Center to be used toward the Fiscal Year 2015 budget.*

**Article 3:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Education, Alternative Education, ELLs (English Language Learners) Instruction, and Gifted & Talented Education.

**School Board Recommends:** \$6,424,792.00

*This article includes negotiated salaries and benefits for employees in the above mentioned departments, supplies, professional development, contracted services, copier maintenance costs.*

**Article 4:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

**School Board Recommends:** \$2,099,398.00

*This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for special education administration and instructional staff, special education legal costs and tuition costs for out of district placements. Special Education provides services as required by law.*

**Article 5:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education, Coop/Pathways Program and Capital Area Technical Center (CATC) Tuition.

**School Board Recommends:** \$0.00

*The State of Maine has changed funding and expense for CATC, so we no longer need to budget this tuition.*

## Budget Validation Referendum Question

Voters in Manchester, Mount Vernon, Readfield and Wayne will be asked, “Do you favor approving the Regional School Unit No. 38 budget, for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the latest Regional School Unit No. 38 budget meeting?”

We have received many questions about why there is a need for this third step in the budget approval process. By law RSU 38 approves its budget as follows:

**Step 1:** The RSU No. 38 School Board approves the school budget and schedules a District Budget Meeting.

**Step 2:** An RSU No. 38 District Budget Meeting is held with a moderator and each article on the School Budget is approved, rejected or modified. Once the voting is complete (some of which is voted on by written ballot), the total budget is approved and is scheduled for a referendum in each town. This is the Budget Validation Referendum.

**Step 3:** A referendum ballot vote is taken in each community on the same day in June to “validate” the budget that was approved by those gathered at the District Budget Meeting. It is the combined vote of the four towns that decides whether the budget is approved or rejected (only two choices).

If the combined “YES” votes from our four towns are greater than the combined “NO” votes from our four towns, the 2014-15 budget is approved.

If the combined “NO” votes from our four towns are greater than the combined “YES” votes from our four towns, the 2014-15 budget is not approved and the Board and Administration will have to meet to consider changes to this budget. It will then be brought back to a District Budget Meeting and another Budget Validation Referendum. This process continues until a budget is finally approved through the Budget Validation Referendum process.

If you have questions, please contact the Superintendent’s Office for clarification and answers. Thank you.

**To be voted on at the polls in each town on June 10, 2014**

**Article 6:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction (co-curricular, extra-curricular, and regular education summer instruction).

**School Board Recommends:** \$408,716.00

*This article includes activities in the middle school and high school such as sports, plays, math team, speech and debate, student senate. The expenses in this article are for coaching salaries, officials’ services, supplies, equipment, dues & fees. This article also includes salaries and benefits for summer reading programs.*

**Article 7:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Student Support (guidance, health, technology) and Staff Support (improvement of instruction and staff training, curricular, library, assessment).

**School Board Recommends:** \$1,485,615.00

*This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for staff and directors in the above mentioned departments, district wide professional development, NWEA and other assessment testing, and supplies.*

**Article 8:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration (School Board and Superintendent’s Office).

**School Board Recommends:** \$507,565.00

*This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for central office staff, school board stipends, contracted services for legal and audit, legal liability insurance, supplies for school board and central office.*

**Article 9:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration (principals’ offices).

**School Board Recommends:** \$889,088.00

*This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for principals and secretaries, principal professional development, NEASC costs, supplies, dues, and fees.*

**Article 10:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

**School Board Recommends:** \$916,530.00

*This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for transportation administration, mechanic and bus drivers, mandated physicals and drug testing, repairs, vehicle insurance, fuel, supplies, and lease purchase payments.*

**Article 11:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

**School Board Recommends:** \$2,048,054.00

*This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for maintenance administration and custodians, utilities (electricity, oil/propane, telephone), contracted services for snowplowing, heating systems and roof monitoring, building repairs and projects, painting, and lease purchase payments of energy retrofit projects.*

**Article 12:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

**School Board Recommends:** \$728,937.00

*This article includes bond payments on the middle school construction, high school renovations, and additional athletic fields that were approved by referendum.*

**Article 13:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures (Food Services, Reimbursable Transportation).

**School Board Recommends:** \$105,885.00

*This article includes local dollar support of the food service program and reimbursable transportation provided for RSU #38 towns and recreation programs.*

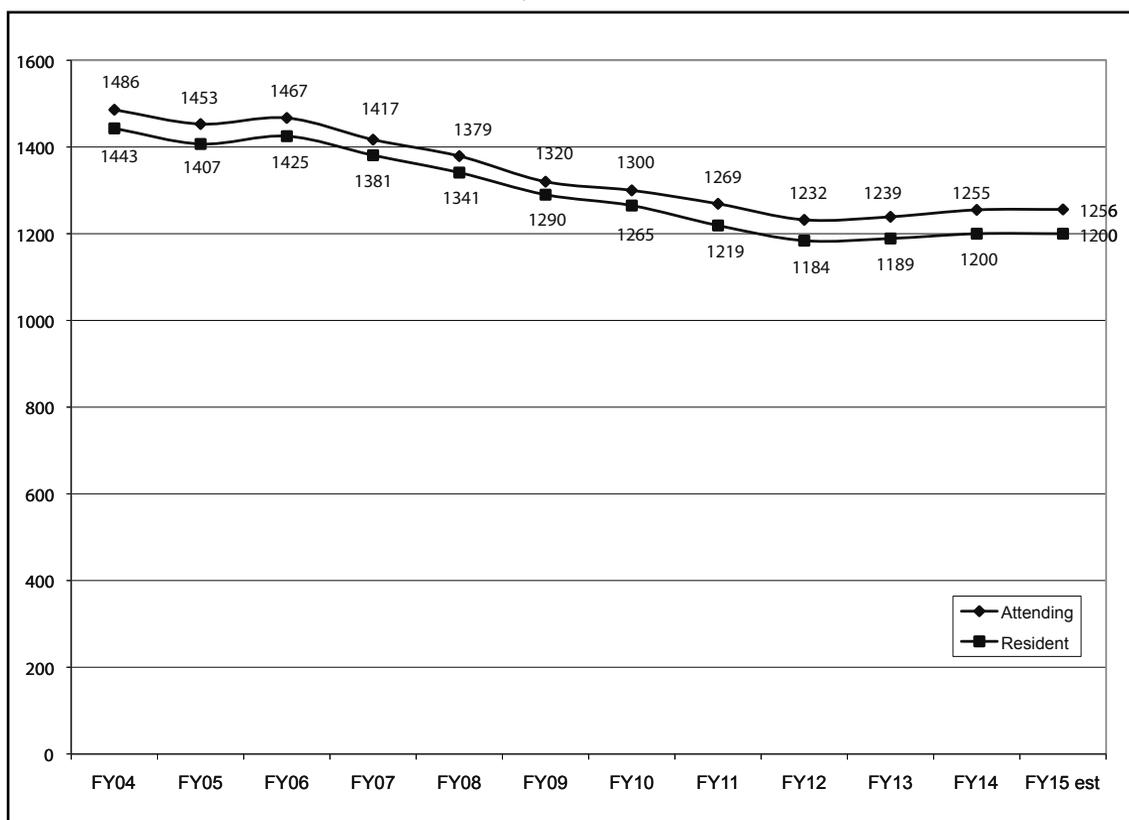
**Article 14:** To see what sum the School Unit will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the School Unit will raise and assess as each municipality’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-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.

**School Board Recommends:** amounts set forth below



2014-2015 Revenue Areas				Voted by School Board 4/16/2014
Revenue Area	2013-2014	Inc/(Dec)	2014-2015	Description
<b>State EPS Allocation</b>	3,191,465	344,487	3,535,952	<b>This is the preliminary subsidy projection for FY15. This subsidy has NOT been enacted by the State Legislature. This subsidy still contains State funding for the shift to local school districts for the 2.65% MePERS match.</b>
State National Teacher Funding	-	12,500	12,500	State of Maine provides additional funds for nationally certified teachers. The amount funded per teacher changes each year.
State Phoenix House Funding	150,202	(150,202)	-	Phoenix House will no longer be part of RSU #38
<b>Other Revenues</b>				
Tuition Revenue	575,000	(100,000)	475,000	Tuition revenue from the Town of Fayette for students in grades 6-12 and for special education students in the Wayne Regional Autism Program (WRAP).
Transportation Revenue	140,000	(100,000)	40,000	Revenue for field trips paid by outside sources and bus repairs on Winthrop & Fayette buses. The large reduction in revenue is due to no longer needing to transport a State Agency Client student to an out of district placement.
MeCare Reimbursement	350,000	(250,000)	100,000	Revenue from the State of Maine for MeCare reimbursement for students attending our Day Treatment Programs. The number of students we can bill for has decreased.
Fiscal Services/Admin Fees	25,000	(15,000)	10,000	Fees for services provided to other school districts with RSU #38 personnel.
Curricular Participation Fees & Gate Receipts	70,000	-	70,000	Co & extra curricular participation fees paid by students and gate receipts from basketball games and play productions.
Miscellaneous	75,000	25,000	100,000	The majority of these revenues are in State Agency reimbursement for foster children within our district that need special ed educational programming. Also included are interest income, rental income (Wayne Town Office), e-rate reimbursement, insurance proceeds, sale of equipment, and other miscellaneous revenues.
<b>Release of Designated Reserve</b>	-	36,000	36,000	Releasing Health Center designated reserve for general fund use.
<b>Balance Forward</b>	300,000	(95,863)	204,137	CASH BALANCE anticipated at 6/30/14. The audit is done on a full accrual basis and the auditors make entries for summer salaries for the professional staff. Because of this, the auditors feel a Cash Balance should not be listed and the district should be working toward having the entire summer salaries set aside in a reserve. The FY15 balance is the additional unanticipated subsidy received in FY14.
<b>Property Tax Revenue</b>				
Required Local Match	7,858,738	21,961	7,880,699	Amount required to be raised by each town based on valuation within each town and required mills for education (these amounts change each year).
Local Only Debt	242,171	(8,708)	233,463	Local debt for construction projects approved at referendum in each town (14% of Middle School, High School renovations, new athletic fields).
Additional Local Dollars	2,747,211	169,618	2,916,829	Additional local funds needed to fund the expenditure budget once all other revenue areas have been taken into consideration.
<b>Sub-Total Property Tax Revenue</b>	<b>10,848,120</b>	<b>182,871</b>	<b>11,030,991</b>	Total local funds to be raised by our four towns based on the proposed budget. See additional chart for breakout by town.
		<b>1.69%</b>		
<b>Total Revenue Budget</b>	<b>15,724,787</b>	<b>(110,207)</b>	<b>15,614,580</b>	Total revenue budget, which matches total expenditure budget
		<b>-0.70%</b>		

## RSU 38 Enrollment History



## RSU 38 Enrollment by Town

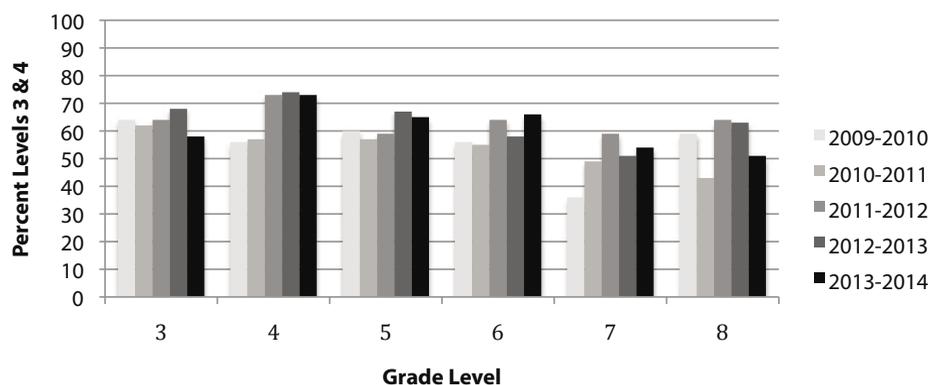
Grade	Manchester	Mt. Vernon	Readfield	Wayne	Totals
Pre-K	24	18	18	0	60
K	27	17	29	13	86
1	28	21	25	11	85
2	29	14	18	10	71
3	21	27	25	8	81
4	34	16	34	7	91
5	21	16	31	8	76
6	19	15	30	14	78
7	31	14	35	13	93
8	23	16	37	9	85
9	35	16	35	5	91
10	30	23	38	18	109
11	28	21	45	7	101
12	31	20	33	11	95
<b>Totals</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>1202</b>

October 1, 2013 (does not include tuition students)

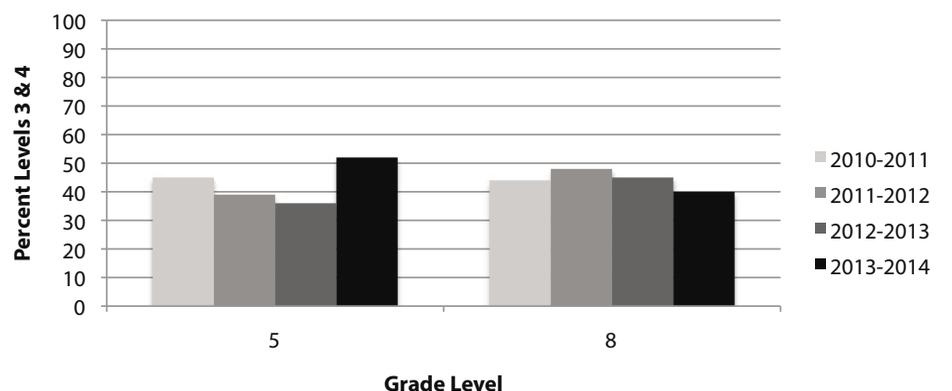
<b>2014-2015 Local Dollar Calculation</b>		<b>Voted by School Board 4/16/2014</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Manchester</b>	<b>Mt. Vernon</b>	<b>Readfield</b>	<b>Wayne</b>	
2013 State Valuation	1,007,150,000	301,200,000	243,550,000	268,550,000	193,850,000	
2012 State Valuation	1,017,400,000	301,900,000	248,550,000	266,100,000	200,850,000	
Increase/Decrease in State Valuation	(10,250,000)	(700,000)	(5,000,000)	2,450,000	(7,000,000)	
% Increase/Decrease in State Valuation	-1.01%	-0.23%	-2.01%	0.92%	-3.49%	
<b>2014-2015 Required Local Contribution</b>	<b>7,880,699</b>	<b>2,442,555</b>	<b>1,993,005</b>	<b>2,165,332</b>	<b>1,279,807</b>	
<b>2014-2015 Required Mill Expectation</b>		<b>8.10</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>6.48</b>	
2013-2014 Required Local Contribution	7,654,601	2,372,934	1,953,603	2,091,546	1,236,518	
2013-2014 Required Mill Expectation		7.86	7.86	7.86	6.16	
\$ Increase/Decrease in Required Local Contribution	226,098	69,621	39,402	73,786	43,289	
% Increase/Decrease in Required Local Contribution	2.95%	2.93%	2.02%	3.53%	3.50%	
Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Enrollment Average %	100.00%	32.73%	20.38%	35.73%	11.16%	
Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Valuation Average %	100.00%	29.78%	24.18%	26.40%	19.64%	
<b>Net Additional Local \$</b>	<b>3,150,292</b>					
<b>Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Enrollment Average %</b>		<b>515,545</b>	<b>321,015</b>	<b>562,800</b>	<b>175,786</b>	
<b>Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Valuation Average %</b>		<b>469,078</b>	<b>380,870</b>	<b>415,839</b>	<b>309,359</b>	
<b>Total Additional Local \$</b>	<b>3,150,292</b>	<b>984,624</b>	<b>701,885</b>	<b>978,638</b>	<b>485,145</b>	
<b>Local Only Adult Ed. Contribution</b>	<b>63,000</b>					
<b>Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Enrollment Average %</b>		<b>10,310</b>	<b>6,420</b>	<b>11,255</b>	<b>3,515</b>	
<b>Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Valuation Average %</b>		<b>9,381</b>	<b>7,617</b>	<b>8,316</b>	<b>6,187</b>	
<b>2014-2015 Total Local Contribution</b>	<b>11,093,991</b>	<b>3,446,869</b>	<b>2,708,926</b>	<b>3,163,541</b>	<b>1,774,654</b>	
2013-2014 Total Local Contribution	10,911,119	3,400,905	2,688,790	3,112,703	1,708,721	
<b>Local \$ Increase/Decrease – 100%</b>	<b>182,872</b>	<b>45,964</b>	<b>20,136</b>	<b>50,838</b>	<b>65,933</b>	
<b>Local % Increase/Decrease</b>	<b>1.68%</b>	<b>1.35%</b>	<b>0.75%</b>	<b>1.63%</b>	<b>3.86%</b>	
Local \$ Increase for 2013-14	1,377,498	448,515	375,036	397,460	156,487	
<b>October 1, 2013 Enrollment by Town</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>131</b>	
<b>Local \$ Contributed per Student</b>	<b>9,378</b>	<b>9,095</b>	<b>11,287</b>	<b>7,306</b>	<b>13,547</b>	

## RSU 38 Student Scores on NECAP & MSHA Exams

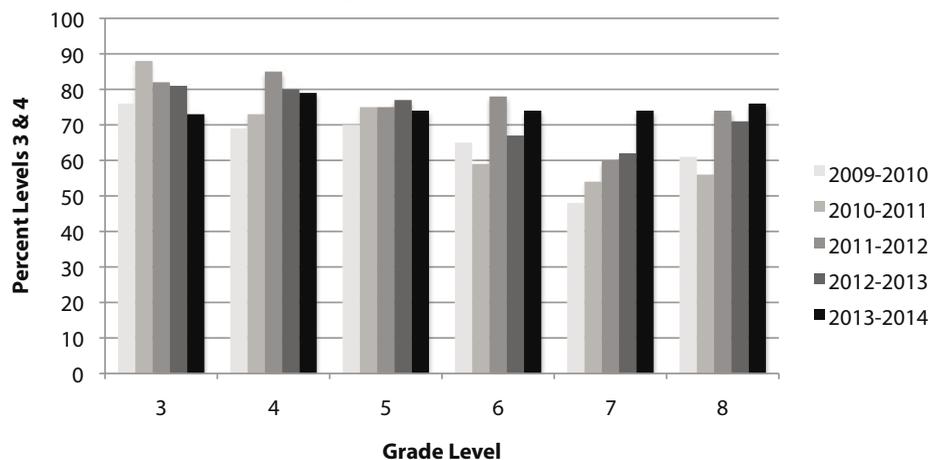
NECAP Math 2009-2014 (Proficiency Levels 3 & 4)



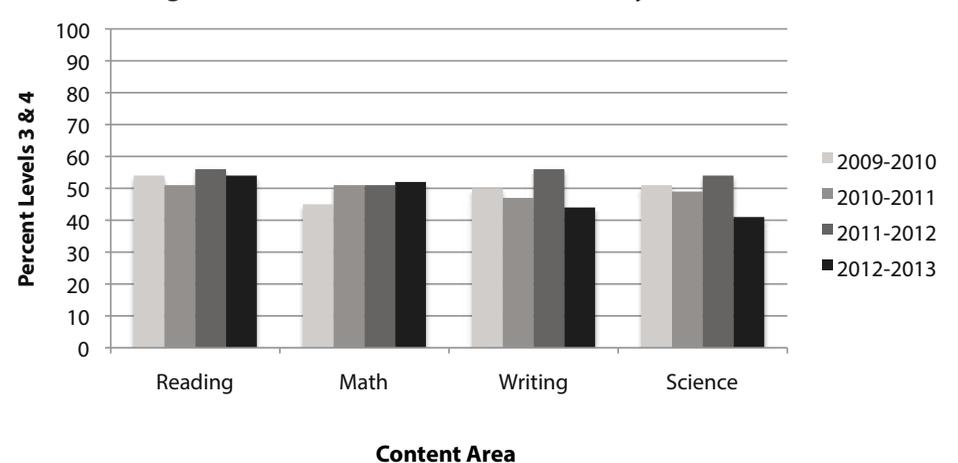
NECAP Writing 2009-2014 (Proficiency Levels 3 & 4)



NECAP Reading 2009-2014 (Proficiency Levels 3 & 4)



High School MSHA 2009-2013 (Proficiency Levels 3 & 4)



New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) is administered annually to all students in Grades 3-8. It is scored using 4 levels of proficiency. These charts show the percent of students scoring at the two highest levels of proficiency, 3 & 4. Maine High School Assessment (SAT and MEA Science) is given annually to all students in Grade 11. It is scored using 4 levels of proficiency. The chart shows the percent of students scoring at the two highest levels of proficiency, 3 & 4.

## High School pilots credit recovery, moves toward state mandated proficiency based learning

Dwayne Conway, Principal  
High School

This year, the high school piloted a new credit recovery program with the goal of letting students make up essential learning to show they gained proficiency in the subject for the first semester. The high school is moving toward proficiency based learning, as required by the state so the credit recovery program was created to support this education model. In semester 1, the program dramatically reduced high school failures from 89 to 40, with recovery work being turned in each day. This was a giant step toward meeting the needs of our students.

We also are working to create more elective options by thinking out of the box and making our school more efficient. A new service-learning course offered this semester was Teen Issues. Students in the class organized and ran our Teen Issues Parent Night April 7 and our schoolwide Teen Issues Day April 8. Teen Issues is a day of learning and awareness for the entire student body. This year's event had several well-known and respected presenters who talked to students about the many issues teens face on a daily basis.

We are also working to provide many electives that will count as dual enrollment college credit. Upperclassmen who participate in these classes will earn college credit through Kennebec Valley Community College or Thomas College. This can be hard work to initiate and requires support from our dedicated staff. For the 2014-15 school year, we have set a goal of offering 15 classes, a total of 45 college credits, to our students. Our long-term goal is to be able to have students graduate from Maranacook Community High School with not just a high school diploma, but also an associate's degree. Doing this will increase student engagement, give students more post secondary options and decrease the financial burden for students who decide to pursue a bachelor's degree.

One highly visible project that the high school undertook this year is the display of all the flags of foreign exchange stu-

dents who have come to Maranacook Community High School since the school's opening in 1976. Through a donation from the local American Field Service organization, we were able to purchase the 34 flags representing 114 foreign exchange students, which are proudly displayed along with the United States flag in the front lobby. Also on display is a plaque that identifies each exchange student, the year they attended Maranacook and their home country. Many life-long relationships and connections have been made between Maranacook families and families from other countries through various exchange programs. We are happy and proud to display these flags at the high school.

Maranacook's German American Partnership Program has completed another successful cycle of two three-week expeditions in Germany and Maine. Last year was the 38th anniversary of the program. From March 28-April 18, 2013, 21 Maranacook students went to Berlin for five days and then to Bremen for 16 days to complete our 21-day excursion abroad. Additionally, in the fall over 20 students and three teachers from Germany visited MCHS. The German students attended classes with their American partners and were able to enjoy a variety of activities including a culminating trip to New York City.

Maranacook Community High School is in a process of change. We have a great high school, but like everything, we can be even better. We hope to continue to improve so that we offer every student we serve a valuable education that will help them develop into productive, caring, and responsible citizens. As a school, we are focused on our mission statement, "a caring school community dedicated to excellence."



## Moving toward Standards-Based Individual Ed Plans

Ryan Meserve, Special Ed Director

The incoming ninth grade class, the class of 2018, will be the first required to graduate with proficiency-based diploma standards. These new standards will also require special education students to have standards-based individualized education programs (IEPs). The Maine Department of Education (DOE) has been working hard to help schools with this process, and has developed a policy on standards-based IEP Goals. In fall 2013 statewide training was given regarding standards-based IEPs, as well as follow-up training in January 2014.

RSU 38 special education staff has been working to align IEPs throughout the year. They have been incorporating DOE guidance as it becomes available and have started to include standards-based IEP goals. The purpose is to have goals aligned to facilitate student achievement

toward grade-level standards.

The DOE has outlined the following timeline for school districts within their policy on standards-based IEPs:

**2014-15 school year:** Conduct a self-assessment of school district progress in writing standards-based goals.

**2015-16 school year:** Continue self-assessment and receive technical assistance as needed.

**2016-17 school year:** Maine DOE looks for standards-based goals in each IEP, as appropriate.

As you can see we are well underway with this process, though further training, self-assessment and implementation is planned.



## Working for Consistent, Rigorous Instruction and Good Teaching in Rare District That Puts Kids First

Nancy Harriman, Director,  
Instruction, Curriculum & Assessment

It has been a productive first year in RSU 38, a rare district, where staff put students first and recognize we all are learners too, continually seeking ways to improve. We want Maranacook students to be among the best!

### Curriculum

My primary goal is to work with teachers to develop a coordinated curriculum providing consistent, rigorous instruction from preK-12. As a first step we agreed on a common format for the district's curriculum documents. Then we started mapping curriculum for each grade span based on the new Common Core learning standards. Our goal is to complete mathematics and language arts first, but we have also started work on foreign language, health, and the arts. Samples guides are online ([www.maranacook.org/curriculum](http://www.maranacook.org/curriculum)) in the Common Core Column.

### Instruction & Assessment

Isn't good teaching still good teaching? Yes, it's still important to connect with students and use effective management techniques. However, teachers recognize that the new learning standards require more critical thinking and problem solving by students – and thus, some different approaches to instruction. The math and literacy coaches guide teachers in analyzing the content of the new standards, and we all work together to define student outcomes, choose lessons and materials for units that will engage students, design assessments that

match the outcomes, and write scoring rubrics for the assessments. Then after teachers try the instructional units and assessments with students, we analyze their work and make changes if needed. It becomes a continuous teaching, learning, assessing cycle in which the components overlap and are interdependent. At the center are the students, and changes are tailored to help them become independent learners who succeed in meeting the standards.

### Gifted and Talented Program

We want every student to be challenged and demonstrate growth every year, even if they meet many of the standards for their grade before they study a unit. Under state guidelines we should not identify more than 5% of students as Gifted and Talented. In our district we are currently serving about 80 students in one or more academic areas or in art or music. However, our goal is to differentiate instruction for all students regardless of achievement level. For example, approximately 20% of fourth graders scored in the Proficient with Distinction range in mathematics on the NECAP state test. This is something to be proud of, and requires tailoring instruction to help students maintain those gains as they move up through the grades.



## Adult Education adds summer courses for 2014

Steve Vose  
Adult Education Director

Spring marks my first full year serving as director of Adult and Community Education. On this one year anniversary, I am extremely pleased with all that our small staff has been able to achieve in support of our local communities and I look forward to continuing these efforts.

In an effort to continue to improve our program, throughout this past year I have met with civic groups, town managers, boards of selectmen and the chamber of commerce. During these meetings, I asked for input and feedback to better structure and inform our educational and enrichment programs. One suggestion I heard, over and over, was to add summer enrichment classes. As a result, this year we will offer three: an astronomy class, gardening workshop and a nature tour, each conducted by local experts in their respective fields. A flyer will be distributed in May to country stores, town offices, schools and libraries providing more detailed information.

This summer our dedicated educators, Kristin McLaren, Christina Kennedy, Ben Bachelder and Scott Harmon, will continue to provide educational programming and HiSET/Accuplacer testing services, as we continue to uphold our mission to provide adults in our region with the opportunities needed to succeed as workers, family and community members. If you are looking to get your High School Equivalency Diploma (HiSET), prepare for college or

further your workforce education please call us (685-4923 x1065) for an appointment to discuss your lifelong learning plan!

In addition to our educational programs, our dedicated enrichment instructors allow us to offer more than 60 classes and workshops each semester, including fitness activities, arts and crafts, trips and family and youth events. These activities provide something exciting to learn for almost every interest level and are designed to enhance skills, improve wellness and provide a fun way to meet others who share similar interests.

Susan Simons and newly hired Kathy Gibbs are the friendly faces that answer the phone and are the first to greet you when you enter the adult education office. Their extensive knowledge of our programs and services will ensure that you immediately get moving down the right track. If you haven't taken a class or participated in an enrichment activity, we strongly encourage you to do so! For a current course listing of offerings, please visit <http://maranacook.maineadulted.org>, email [adulted@maranacook.org](mailto:adulted@maranacook.org) or call 207-685-4923 x1065. We welcome comments, feedback and suggestions as we plan for the coming school year.

