

# Maranacook Area Schools

Manchester • Mt. Vernon • Readfield • Wayne

A caring school community dedicated to excellence.

www.maranacook.org

## Maranacook Schools change, grow stronger in response to challenges

Samantha Horn Olsen  
RSU 38 Board Chair

The Maranacook school system is a living, vibrant organization that is facing unprecedented change and rising to the challenge. The pace of change in educational and professional standards, technology, and dramatic revenue decreases mean that after years of budget cuts and changing federal and state mandates, our schools are adapting - fast- and using the opportunity to improve education delivery to students.

Our new superintendent, Dr. Donna Wolfrom, has made positive changes in almost every facet of the organization. Administrators and staff have taken the initiative to make bold improvements and put in countless extra hours to research and implement research-based learning techniques. We have an updated Vision, Mission and Goals document, and the implementation of those has begun. Key staff members are dedicated to overhauling

the curriculum and improving the delivery of instruction, particularly in literacy and numeracy (math). This effort began at the elementary level and is extending throughout the district. All of our schools have a renewed focus on teaching our children to be respectful and responsible in school and in the community. It is an exciting time to be involved with Maranacook schools.

We are already seeing the results from the last few years of hard work in these areas. Scores have been rising, and the schools have strong, specific goals for achievement. Our middle school is in the final stages of obtaining accreditation, which is above and beyond what most middle schools accomplish, and the high school is working hard on its accreditation renewal. There are signs of dedication and progress all around. This sense of purpose and commitment is also evident in the board. It has been particularly rewarding to see the collaborative spirit that board members from all four towns brought to the board's deliberations this year. All were

*Scores have been rising and we have strong, specific goals for achievement.*

concerned, first and foremost, that the children of our district have a chance to succeed in whatever endeavor is the best path for them personally. "Moving forward with academic progress" was the bottom line. They were also all concerned with responsibility to the taxpayers of the district.

Next year's state revenue is expected to be down dramatically and costs for essentials are rising. The shift from the state budget to the towns is unfortunate and will impact all of us who pay property taxes. The board has cut popular and important programs and services in the past and raised fees that students and their parents pay. We have asked for more and more cuts to supplies and professional development. In this budget year we have largely balanced additional educational resources in key areas with cuts in others. Now, more cuts would be too deep to sustain a quality education that our students deserve. Lo-

cal taxpayers are being asked to pay more, largely driven by changes in funding at the state level and health care and technology costs.

Our cost per pupil is at the state median. Our performance is better than many other districts. I have never been more optimistic about the potential of our district to innovate and provide students with the education they need and deserve, and to do it at a reasonable cost to the citizens. We have a district that we can be proud of, and that is improving every day. I am proud to be a part of the Maranacook community, and greatly appreciate all the support and involvement from community members. Thank you for all you do for our schools and our children.



Samantha Horn Olsen  
School Board Chair

## Teaching standards, vision and goals among the year's initiatives

Superintendent Donna Wolfrom

In December, the national real estate website Trulia identified RSU 38 as one of the most attractive communities in central Maine in which to live. Even before I moved to the area in July, I began discovering why this is true.

At graduation last year, a senior spoke about the strong sense of community in RSU 38. This was substantiated throughout the summer, when community members and staff stopped in to talk about the district, and throughout the year as I met many of you in meetings and activities. This year I have experienced the tremendous support that parents and community members give the school district through fundraising, attendance at events, participation in the Sidewalk Celebration Walk, volunteer efforts, interest in budget preparation, and the list goes on and on. On behalf of the entire staff I would like to thank you for this support and let you know how much it is appreciated.

Early in the year, the School Board and Administrative Team met to review and carry forward the work of the Futures Search Committee. The capstone statement, "a caring school community dedicated to excellence" was renamed as the mission statement and the vision crafted in 2010 was reworded into a 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." In addition, the combined team developed Guiding Principles that we use to guide our work.

The School Board and Administrative Team reviewed and agreed to continue with four goals adopted by the Futures Search Committee. The Administrative Team has developed outcomes based on the goals and is identifying action steps to reach the goals. These documents will be presented to the School Board for adoption and shared with the community.

We have adopted the Marzano Teaching Standards as the basis for the state mandated teacher evaluation system. The Teacher Evaluation Committee has worked all year on this initiative and is developing procedures that will be included in the RSU 38 Teacher Evaluation System.

Safety was a renewed focus of the school district this year. We want our schools to be welcoming places for the community, but the safety of children is our first responsibility. Kennebec County Emergency Management Agency is training school crisis team representatives and crisis teams and staff will be trained as we establish consistent protocols and procedures districtwide. FY14 budgets include funds to install buzzer and camera systems at front doors to increase school safety.

Also this year we have developed the RSU 38 Volunteer Handbook, which out-

lines the various volunteer opportunities available and the application process. The process now includes a free background check to ensure the safety of students. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our volunteers and urge community members to contact the schools or visit our website to find out more about the volunteer program.

As we approach the end of the year, it is time to send our graduating seniors into the world. While it marks the end of their K-12 experience, we are confident it will not be the end of the RSU 38 experience, as the quest for learning and relationships established create lifelong ties. I would like to thank the teachers, staff, parents and community members who supported our graduates along their learning path. The list of colleges to which our students have been accepted is impressive and reflects the many wonderful academic, cocurricular and extracurricular opportunities, along with the supportive adult relationships that they have experienced during their years in this district. The combined effort truly makes this a caring school community dedicated to excellence!



Dr. Donna Wolfrom  
Supt. of Schools

**RSU#38  
Maranacook Area Schools  
Annual Report  
May 2013**

### Annual Meeting

7 p.m., Wednesday, May 29  
High School gymnasium  
Please bring this report to the meeting.

### Budget Validation Referendum

Tuesday, June 11, 2013  
Town polling locations

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## High School begins reaccreditation process, professional development aids student achievement

Dr. Carol Fritz, High School Principal

**M**aranacook Community High School is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) assuring that our graduates may be admitted to a wide range of colleges. A full accreditation cycle is ten years, during which there are several reporting requirements to maintain full accreditation status.

The most significant work for the school is the self-study, which begins three years prior to hosting a visiting team appointed by NEASC. A steering committee is selected that includes teacher leaders and the principal. The group invites seven additional teacher leaders to each chair a standard committee. The self-study is the school's opportunity to formally reflect on its adherence to the standards: Core Values, Beliefs and Learning Expectations; Curriculum; Instruction; Assessment; School Culture and Leadership; School Resources; and Community Resources.

The Steering Committee ensures deadlines are met so the school is ready for the visiting team. The standard committees are in place and release time and staff meetings were used to gather evidence and write the standard reports. The past school year required intense evidence gathering for the written reports. The full staff reviewed and discussed three of the reports during spring meeting times. Each report is rated for compliance with the standard and then must be approved by the staff. Teachers have worked hard to complete this work; the reports are thorough and provide specific information about teaching and learning opportunities provided for students. Meeting accreditation standards ensures that our students meet 21st century learning expectations that will lead them to success in whatever postsecondary

plan they follow.

Another MEL-MAC Corporation grant allowed us to continue our aspirations work. The \$42,000 award will support a range of activities over four years including a three-college visit tour for sophomores; a Boston-area college tour for juniors; administration of college placement exams; and a dozen other activities, all intended to help graduates be college and career ready.

High School teachers have met in Professional Learning Community groups for the past five years to discuss instructional practice and develop ways to increase student achievement. This ongoing professional development has been extremely valuable. Last spring and again this spring a team of teachers requested additional delayed starts to complete curriculum work, meet as departments to discuss common assessments and plan activities for the advisor/advisee program. The additional time greatly benefited development of curriculum documents. The regular department meetings helped us coordinate programs and plan course offerings for next year. Meeting time is essential and greatly appreciated by the staff.

Maranacook Community High School continues to be a busy place with activities throughout the day and evening. Our students join athletic teams, participate in student government, community service events and co-curricular activities. There is always an event or project underway, often led by students. We, the staff and students, would like to thank the community for its continued support of our school.



Dr. Carol Fritz

## Manchester, Mt. Vernon parent-teacher groups broaden student opportunities

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

**A**s principal of Mt. Vernon and Manchester Elementary Schools for the second year, I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to serve both schools, the district and the communities. With almost three hundred students between the two schools, splitting time between them continues to be a challenge, however I am especially grateful for the two wonderful staffs and for the support from the lead teachers Faye Trafton, Jennifer Galletta and Deb Dubord.

Administrative assistants Joyce Norwood and Brenda Fleury are at the forefront each day with a wealth of information that keeps the schools running smoothly. Due to our increased focus on security and safety, our custodians, Curt Williams, Paul Olson and Craig Dunn and I have been working to ensure that our facilities are as secure as possible. Our doors remain locked and our Crisis Teams are working on updated emergency preparedness. In addition to security, our custodians take pride in their schools and keep them in very good shape.

Teachers are working on the Common Core Standards and improving their planning and teaching strategies based on what students should be able to know and do. Students are learning to question and discuss complex problems and be more responsible for learning.

We want to thank the Manchester PTCO and Mt. Vernon PTC for their fundraising efforts with auctions, fairs, carnivals and sales to bring enrichment activities to the students! Because of their help, both schools have had financial and other resources to attend field trips and cultural events. Below are some of the year's highlights from each school.

### Mt. Vernon Elementary (130 students)

Art teacher Dona Seegers and math coach Sarah Caban completed an integrated art and math unit related to Fibonacci's numbers and the spiral.

As part of their work with water quality, grade 2 went ice fishing on Flying Pond. Students had a lesson about fish habitats and underwater structure from biologist Ashley Malinowski of Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Students participated in a Read-a-Thon engaging students in a literacy challenge and raising money for books. The PTC sponsored an evening celebration and Dr. Seuss books were given to each student.

Thanks to Brett and Amy Trefethen for instructing 20 students in cross country skiing.

The PTC's Silent Auction and Talent Show was a big success with standing room only.

Kindergarten teacher Christy Owens was funded by online charity DonorsChoose for an iPad Mini.

### Manchester Elementary School (165 Students)

The third annual Read-a-Thon, led by kindergarten teacher Jessica Gurney, featured an assembly with author Lynn

Plourde and a jungle-themed week filled with spirit.

A toddler play group, led by Kristie Sniffin and sponsored by the PTCO, began in March. The program is designed for ages birth to 4 years and has been a great success.

Barbara Galouch, ed tech and school recycling advisor, received Ecomaine's eco-Excellence Community Award for the town of Manchester. Her eco-friendly efforts have set a positive and practical example.

Ecomaine granted \$500 for supplies to paint one of its recycling containers with a design by first grader Emma Wadsworth.

Teacher Mary O'Brien received a Maranacook Foundation grant for an iPad students will use for oral tradition stories about community life.

Literacy specialist Rachael Boucher was funded by online charity DonorsChoose for a Samsung Galaxy tablet to use with students receiving reading support.

Kindergarten teacher Robin Terrell was funded \$543 by online charity DonorsChoose for pocket microscopes and binoculars for a nature project.

Community members Nicole Stein and Wendy Brotherlin-Dunlap brought out student creativity in the grade 3-5 spring Talent Show.

I am sorry to note that Faye Trafton and Ginger Ishkanian are retiring after many years at Manchester Elementary School. They will be missed by staff, students and parents.

In conclusion, I thank you for the continued support from each school community. Truly, the best part is seeing the smiling faces of the students and the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff.



Pia Holmes

## Goals follow reading, writing, math data at Readfield & Wayne Elementary Schools

Cheryl Hasenfus, Principal, Readfield & Wayne Elementary Schools

**T**his year all teachers participated in data analysis sessions for the purpose of setting school goals based on their student data outcomes in reading, writing and math.

Our broad school goals are to increase the number of students who are meeting and exceeding the state standards. Based on current developmental reading assessment data, 88% of our students in grades K-5 meet or exceed grade level standards. This data reflects significant increases in student skill in the last four years. Teachers are working hard to ensure that all students are being challenged by teaching to specific learning goals.

In our first year of implementing a Common Core Mathematics program our new math specialists have been invaluable. The Common Core focuses on developing a deeper understanding of number sense and requires a totally different approach to teaching math; we call it a math workshop model. There is much less focus on solving problems on paper and more emphasis

on mental math, class discussion of problem solving, establishing number sense routines and discussion of and solving real everyday math problems. In addition to teaching an entirely different curriculum, all teachers have taken or are planning to take coursework to facilitate the transformation of math instruction. I am proud that the teachers at Readfield and Wayne have embraced this new program with enthusiasm.

This year, Kelly Dooling, fourth grade teacher, Deb McLaughlin, third grade teacher, Linda Patrie, guidance counselor, and I will be joining those in retirement! It has been my privilege to work with dedicated professionals and incredible young people in three of the four RSU 38 elementary schools over the last 16 years. I believe the district is in good hands with our new Superintendent, Dr. Donna Wolfrom!



Cheryl Hasenfus

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The audit for Regional School Unit No. 38 was conducted in September 2012 by R.H.R. Smith and Company. Copies are available upon request.



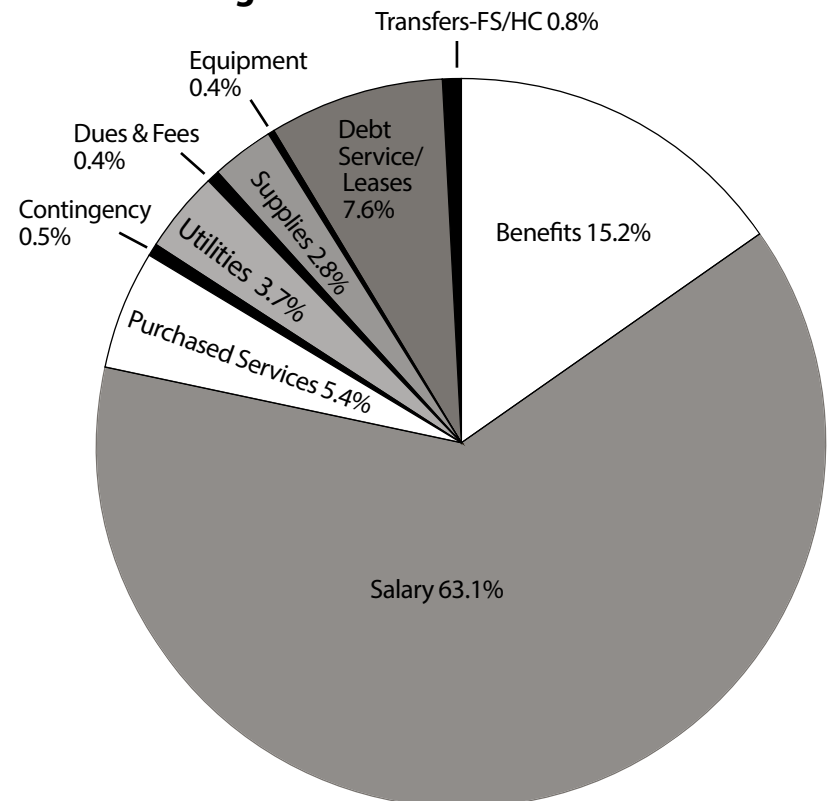
# 2013-2014 District Budget

Description	Current Budget 2012-2013	Proposed Budget 2013-2014	Percent Change
<b>General Fund – School Level Budget</b>			
<b>Manchester Elementary School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	92,666.00	95,425.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	107,297.00	102,566.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	201,822.00	207,441.00	
Regular Education Instruction	840,168.00	949,087.00	
Co-Curricular	2,250.00	700.00	
<b>Manchester School Level</b>	<b>1,244,203.00</b>	<b>1,355,219.00</b>	<b>8.92%</b>
<b>Mt. Vernon Elementary School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	53,642.00	54,460.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	85,581.00	82,036.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	115,596.00	123,794.00	
Regular Education Instruction	538,595.00	603,646.00	
Co-Curricular	1,750.00	500.00	
<b>Mt. Vernon School Level</b>	<b>795,164.00</b>	<b>864,436.00</b>	<b>8.71%</b>
<b>Readfield Elementary School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	90,107.00	93,938.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	119,973.00	113,311.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	219,275.00	195,933.00	
Regular Education Instruction	725,089.00	771,676.00	
Co-Curricular	2,250.00	1,000.00	
<b>Readfield School Level</b>	<b>1,156,694.00</b>	<b>1,175,858.00</b>	<b>1.66%</b>
<b>Wayne Elementary School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	31,727.00	34,179.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	70,031.00	65,616.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	118,506.00	145,408.00	
Regular Education Instruction	323,396.00	356,544.00	
Co-Curricular	1,500.00	750.00	
<b>Wayne School Level</b>	<b>545,160.00</b>	<b>602,497.00</b>	<b>10.52%</b>
<b>Maranacook Middle School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	198,725.00	221,450.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	164,595.00	152,850.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	361,101.00	393,053.00	
Regular & Alternative Educ Inst	1,475,496.00	1,575,736.00	
Co & Extra Curricular	118,568.00	107,239.00	
<b>Middle School-School Level</b>	<b>2,318,485.00</b>	<b>2,450,328.00</b>	<b>5.69%</b>
<b>Maranacook High School</b>			
Student & Staff Support	303,081.00	396,853.00	
School Admin/Principal's Office	303,183.00	324,101.00	
Maintenance/Building/Repair	574,392.00	592,935.00	
Regular & Alternative Educ Inst	1,984,337.00	2,100,119.00	
CATC Tuition & Coop Education	140,000.00	-	
Co & Extra Curricular	287,941.00	293,195.00	
<b>High School - School Level</b>	<b>3,592,934.00</b>	<b>3,707,203.00</b>	<b>3.18%</b>
<b>RSU #38 School Level</b>	<b>9,652,640.00</b>	<b>10,155,541.00</b>	<b>5.21%</b>
<b>Phoenix House</b>			
<b>RSU #38 Phoenix House</b>	<b>127,688.00</b>	<b>150,201.00</b>	<b>17.63%</b>
<b>Grade Level pre-K-8 Budget</b>			
Improvement Of Instruction	21,691.00	26,529.00	
Special Education	1,426,834.00	1,405,058.00	
ESL/ELLs	20,389.00	38,455.00	
Summer Reading	9,191.00	9,201.00	
Gifted & Talented	125,766.00	106,404.00	
<b>RSU #38 Grade pre-K-8 Budget</b>	<b>1,603,871.00</b>	<b>1,585,647.00</b>	<b>-1.14%</b>
<b>Grade Level 9 - 12 Budget</b>			
Improvement Of Instruction	7,231.00	8,845.00	
Special Education	404,672.00	397,733.00	
ESL/ELLs	3,768.00	-	
Gifted & Talented	28,792.00	30,365.00	
<b>RSU #38 Grade 9 - 12 Budget</b>	<b>444,463.00</b>	<b>436,943.00</b>	<b>-1.69%</b>

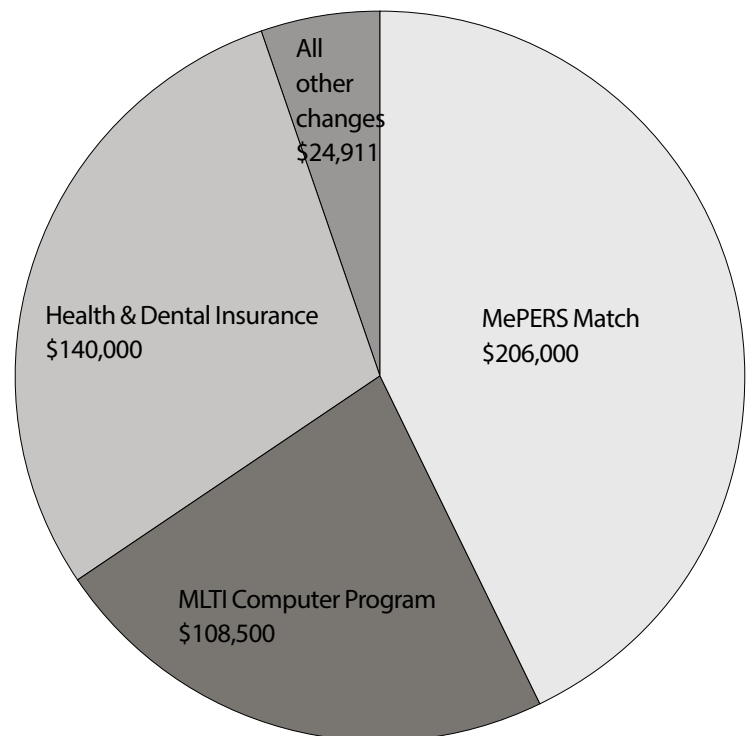
Description	Current Budget 2012-2013	Proposed Budget 2013-2014	Percent Change
<b>District Level Budget</b>			
Health Services	320,418.00	296,299.00	
Curriculum	124,253.00	201,062.00	
Instructional Technology	143,352.00	149,099.00	
Assessment	13,500.00	13,500.00	
School Board & Supt Office	499,571.00	496,364.00	
District Maintenance	271,177.00	280,995.00	
District Transportation	963,354.00	961,864.00	
Local Support/Food Service	168,000.00	100,000.00	
Debt Service	788,994.00	758,854.00	
Special Educ Admin	124,095.00	138,418.00	
Local/Subsidy/Adult Ed	-	-	
<b>RSU #38 District Budget</b>	<b>3,416,714.00</b>	<b>3,396,455.00</b>	<b>-0.59%</b>
<b>RSU #38 Total Gen Fund Budget</b>			
	<b>15,245,376.00</b>	<b>15,724,787.00</b>	<b>3.14%</b>

Note: This budget does not include the estimated amount of \$1,062,000 in employer share of teacher retirement costs that is paid directly by the state. A detailed budget is available upon request from the Central Office or on the web: [www.maranacook.org](http://www.maranacook.org)

## 2013-2014 Budget



## Major Areas of Increase



# Warrant for the Annual Meeting of Regional School Unit No. 38

May 29, 2013, 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2013, 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:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular, Alternative, ELLs (English Language Learners) Instruction, and Gifted & Talented Education.

**School Board Recommends:** \$6,678,656.00

**Article 3:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

**School Board Recommends:** \$1,953,987.00

**Article 4:** 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. (The State of Maine has changed funding and expense for CATC, so we no longer need to budget this tuition.)

**School Board Recommends:** \$0.00

**Article 5:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction (co-curricular and extra-curricular).

**School Board Recommends:** \$403,384.00

**Article 6:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Student (guidance, health, technology) and Staff Support (improvement of instruction and staff training, library, assessment).

**School Board Recommends:** \$1,591,639.00

**Article 7:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration (School Board and Superintendent's Office).

**School Board Recommends:** \$496,364.00

**Article 8:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration (principals' offices).

**School Board Recommends:** \$840,480.00

**Article 9:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

**School Board Recommends:** \$956,127.00

**Article 10:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

**School Board Recommends:** \$1,939,559.00

**Article 11:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

**School Board Recommends:** \$758,854.00

**Article 12:** To see what sum the School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures (Food Services, Reimbursable Transportation).

**School Board Recommends:** \$105,737.00

**Article 13:** 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

Total appropriated (by municipality)		Total raised (School Unit assessments by municipality)	
Manchester	\$3,644,357.00	Manchester	\$2,448,409.00
Mount Vernon	\$2,223,301.00	Mount Vernon	\$2,015,740.00
Readfield	\$3,946,027.00	Readfield	\$2,158,071.00
Wayne	\$1,236,518.00	Wayne	\$1,236,518.00
<b>School Unit Total Appropriated</b>	<b>\$11,050,203.00</b>	<b>School Unit Total Raised</b>	<b>\$7,858,738.00</b>

*The School Unit'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 is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the School Unit must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

**Article 14:** To see what sum the School Unit will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the legislative body for non-state-funded school construction projects, non-state-funded portions of school construction projects and minor capital projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.

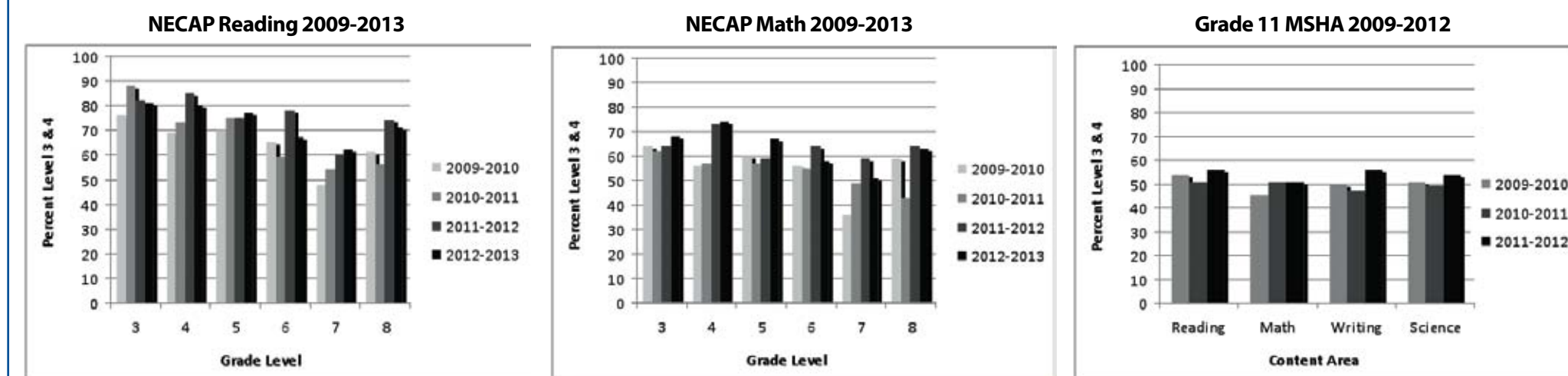
**School Board Recommends:** \$242,171.00

*Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the School Unit's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects and minor capital renovation projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters or other legislative body.*

**Article 15:** To see what sum the School Unit will raise and to appropriate the sum of (Recommend \$100,000.00) in additional local dollars in support of the food service program.

**School Board Recommends:** \$100,000.00

## Student Scores on MSHA & NECAP Exams



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.

## WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED:

**Article 16:** To see what sum the School Unit will raise and appropriate (Recommend \$2,647,211.00) in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model (Recommend \$2,381,893.00), as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board recommends \$2,647,211.00 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$2,381,893.00.

The \$2,381,893.00 that exceeds the 100% EPS funding level is needed to continue programs and services presently offered by the School Unit which are not covered, or not fully covered, by EPS such as: Contingency - \$71,000.00, co- and extra-curricular program (athletics, theater, math team, debate, etc.) - \$330,000.00, operations and maintenance - \$600,000.00, transportation - \$100,000.00, special education - \$500,000.00, system administration - \$200,000.00, regular education instruction - \$500,000.00.

*The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the School Unit's local 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 and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the School Unit budget for educational programs.*

**Article 17:** To see what sum the School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014 from the School Unit'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, 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:** \$15,724,787.00

**Article 18:** Shall the School Board be authorized to enter into a lease purchase agreement not to exceed a period of four years in the name of the School Unit for the purpose of purchasing a school bus in an amount not to exceed \$88,000.00 and appropriate the same.

**School Board Recommends:** OUGHT TO PASS

**Article 19:** Shall the School Board be authorized to enter into a lease purchase agreement not to exceed a period of four years in the name of the School Unit for the purpose of upgrading the control system of the boiler and air handling units at the Middle School in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 and appropriate the same.

**School Board Recommends:** OUGHT TO PASS

**Article 20:** Shall the School Board be authorized to establish a reserve fund for the Maranacook School Based Health Center; and shall the School Board transfer funds raised in 2012-2013 in the amount of \$36,000.00 to that reserve fund, to be expended only upon authorization of the District voters?

**School Board Recommends:** OUGHT TO PASS

**Article 21:** To see if the School Unit will appropriate (Recommend \$179,340.00) for Adult Education and raise (Recommend \$63,000.00) 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:** OUGHT TO PASS

**Article 22:** To authorize the School Board to expend other revenue from State, Federal, local and private sources for the support of the schools.

**School Board Recommends:** OUGHT TO PASS

This article allows the School Board to pursue and use funds that may be received through unexpected grants or donations, and applications that are made by members of the Regional School Unit staff or community. We do not include a specific amount due to the unpredictability of the receipt of the funds and because most are dedicated to a specific project or purpose. Examples of some of the funding we received in 2012-2013 are: Health Center \$36,000.00; Title IA \$196,000.00; Title IIA \$57,000.00; Local Entitlement \$352,000.00; Rural Low Income \$22,000, Long Term Drug Treatment \$138,000; and other miscellaneous grants \$10,000.00. The estimated income for the upcoming year is \$811,000.00.

## RSU 38 Mission Statement

"A caring school community dedicated to excellence"

### 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.

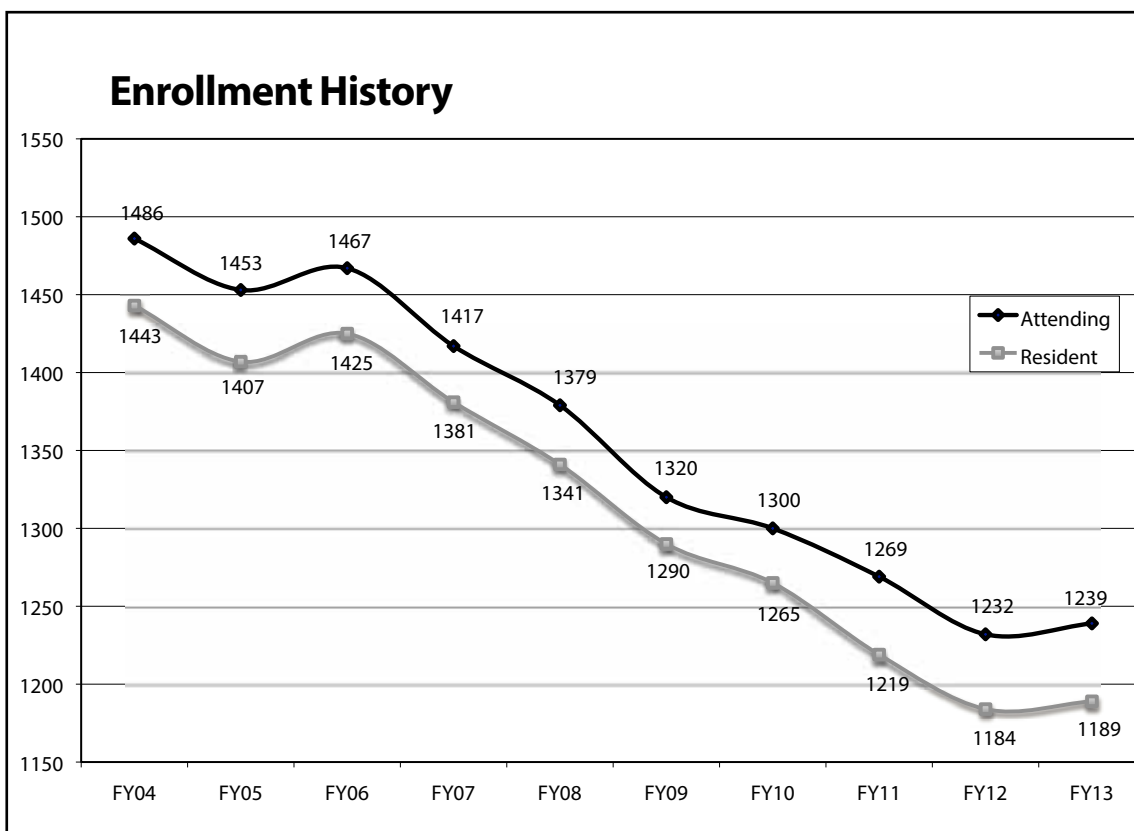
### Guiding Principles

- We Believe:
- Teachers, staff members, parents, and students are life-long learners with a dedication to excellence and an expectation of high achievement for all
  - All learners need a safe, respectful, positive environment to achieve
  - Students need an evidence based, rigorous curriculum that
    - focuses on state standards
    - promotes engagement
    - provides a challenging range of courses, experiences, and extra-curricular activities
    - recognizes the needs, interests, and abilities of all learners
    - blends the changing needs of society with the needs of individual learners
    - integrates technological advances and collaboration
  - Parents and community members are a vital part of our schools
  - The assessment process measures growth and improves the achievement of all learners
  - The supervision and evaluation process encourages and supports staff growth and development with individualized, comprehensive professional development

Approved by RSU #38 Board of Directors, December 5, 2012.



2013-2014 Projected Revenue Summary				Voted by School Board 5/1/2013
Revenue Area	2012-2013	Inc/(Dec)	2013-2014 w/Retirement	Description
<b>State EPS Allocation (FY14 28.88%)</b>	3,740,017	(548,552)	3,191,465	We have received our preliminary subsidy figures for 2013-2014. The 2012-2013 curtailment (\$90,172) was factored into next year's figures and the funding for CATC tuition is being handled differently next year. This funding level mandates we ADD an additional \$206,870 to our expenditure budget to pay for the MePERS retirement match that was previously funded at the State level.
		-14.67%		
State Phoenix House Funding	138,163	12,039	150,202	Phoenix House funding reimbursed by State at 100%
<b>Other Revenues</b>				
Tuition Revenue	715,000	(140,000)	575,000	Tuition revenue from the Town of Fayette for students in grades 6-12 and for special education students in the WRAP program.
Transportation Revenue	140,000	-	140,000	Revenue for field trips paid by outside sources, bus repairs on Winthrop & Fayette buses and State reimbursement for transportation of State Agency Client special education transportation to out of district schools.
McCare Reimbursement	350,000	-	350,000	Revenue from the State for McCare reimbursement for students attending our Day Treatment Programs.
Fiscal Services/Admin Fees	45,000	(20,000)	25,000	Fees for services provided to other school districts with RSU 38 personnel and for administrative fees that can be written into federal grants.
Curricular Participation Fees	71,575	(1,575)	70,000	Co & extra curricular participation fees paid by students and gate receipts from basketball games and play productions. (Reduced for 7th grade sports)
Miscellaneous	75,000	-	75,000	Most of these revenues are in State Agency reimbursement for foster children in our district that need special ed programming. Also included are interest income, rental income (Wayne Town Office), e-rate reimbursement, insurance proceeds, sale of equipment and other miscellaneous revenues.
<b>Balance Forward</b>	500,000	(200,000)	300,000	CASH BALANCE anticipated at 6/30/13. 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.
<b>Property Tax Revenue</b>				
Required Local Match (FY14 71.12%)	7,552,871	305,867	7,858,738	Amount required to be raised by each town based on valuation in each town and required mills for education (these amounts change each year). Next year's combined valuations will go down by \$6,250,000. The required mills are increasing from 7.69 to 8.11, resulting in a \$305,867 increase.
		4.05%		
Local Only Debt	260,081	(17,910)	242,171	Local debt for construction projects approved at referendum in each town (14% of Middle School, High School renovations, new athletic fields).
Additional Local Dollars	1,657,669	1,089,542	2,747,211	Additional local funds needed to fund the expenditure budget once all other revenues areas have been taken into consideration.
<b>Sub-Total Property Tax Revenue</b>	<b>9,470,621</b>	<b>1,377,499</b>	<b>10,848,120</b>	Total local funds to be raised by our four towns.
		14.54%		
<b>Total Revenue Budget</b>	<b>15,245,376</b>	<b>479,411</b>	<b>15,724,787</b>	Total revenue budget, which matches total expenditure budget.
		3.14%		



Enrollment by Town					
Grade	Manchester	Mt. Vernon	Readfield	Wayne	Totals
Pre-K	12	14	16	0	42
K	34	20	17	13	84
1	27	17	16	9	69
2	24	21	24	8	77
3	34	18	31	5	88
4	21	14	32	8	75
5	21	18	27	14	80
6	34	13	33	14	94
7	23	15	38	9	85
8	33	13	33	5	84
9	33	23	38	19	113
10	23	19	42	7	91
11	35	21	38	12	106
12	30	15	25	10	80
<b>Totals</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>1168</b>

October 1, 2012 (does not include tuition students)

<b>2013-2014 Local Dollar Calculation</b>		<b>Voted by School Board 5/1/2013</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Manchester</b>	<b>Mt. Vernon</b>	<b>Readfield</b>	<b>Wayne</b>	
2012 State Valuation	1,017,400,000	301,900,000	248,550,000	266,100,000	200,850,000	
2011 State Valuation	1,023,650,000	304,650,000	245,050,000	270,050,000	203,900,000	
Increase/Decrease in State Valuation	(6,250,000)	(2,750,000)	3,500,000	(3,950,000)	(3,050,000)	
% Increase/Decrease in State Valuation	-0.61%	-0.90%	1.43%	-1.46%	-1.50%	
<b>2013-2014 Required Local Contribution</b>	<b>7,858,738</b>	<b>2,448,409</b>	<b>2,015,740</b>	<b>2,158,071</b>	<b>1,236,518</b>	
<b>2013-2014 Required Mill</b>	<b>7.70</b>	<b>8.11</b>	<b>8.11</b>	<b>8.11</b>	<b>6.16</b>	
2012-2013 Required Local Contribution	7,552,871	2,342,759	1,884,434	2,076,685	1,248,993	
2012-2013 Required Mill	7.38	7.69	7.69	7.69	6.13	
\$ Increase/Decrease in Required Local Contribution	305,867	105,650	131,306	81,386	(12,475)	
% Increase/Decrease in Required Local Contribution	4.05%	4.51%	6.97%	3.92%	-1.00%	
Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Enrollment Average %	100.00%	32.81%	19.92%	36.10%	11.17%	
Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Valuation Average %	100.00%	29.60%	24.18%	26.45%	19.77%	
Additional Local \$	2,989,382					
<b>Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Enrollment Average %</b>		<b>490,408</b>	<b>297,742</b>	<b>539,583</b>	<b>166,957</b>	
<b>Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Valuation Average %</b>		<b>442,429</b>	<b>361,416</b>	<b>395,346</b>	<b>295,500</b>	
<b>Local Only Debt - Individual Town Responsibility</b>	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Additional Local \$</b>	<b>2,989,382</b>	<b>932,837</b>	<b>659,159</b>	<b>934,929</b>	<b>462,457</b>	
<b>Local Only Adult Ed. Contribution</b>	<b>63,000</b>					
<b>Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Enrollment Average %</b>		<b>10,335</b>	<b>6,275</b>	<b>11,372</b>	<b>3,519</b>	
<b>Additional Local x 50% @ 3 yr Valuation Average %</b>		<b>9,324</b>	<b>7,617</b>	<b>8,332</b>	<b>6,228</b>	
<b>2013-2014 Total Local Contribution</b>	<b>10,911,120</b>	<b>3,400,905</b>	<b>2,688,790</b>	<b>3,112,703</b>	<b>1,708,721</b>	
2012-2013 Total Local Contribution	9,533,621	2,952,390	2,313,754	2,715,243	1,552,234	
<b>Local \$ Increase/Decrease - 100%</b>	<b>1,377,499</b>	<b>448,515</b>	<b>375,036</b>	<b>397,460</b>	<b>156,487</b>	
<b>Local % Increase/Decrease</b>	<b>14.45%</b>	<b>15.19%</b>	<b>16.21%</b>	<b>14.64%</b>	<b>10.08%</b>	

## 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 comments about why there is a need for this third step in the budget approval process. 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.

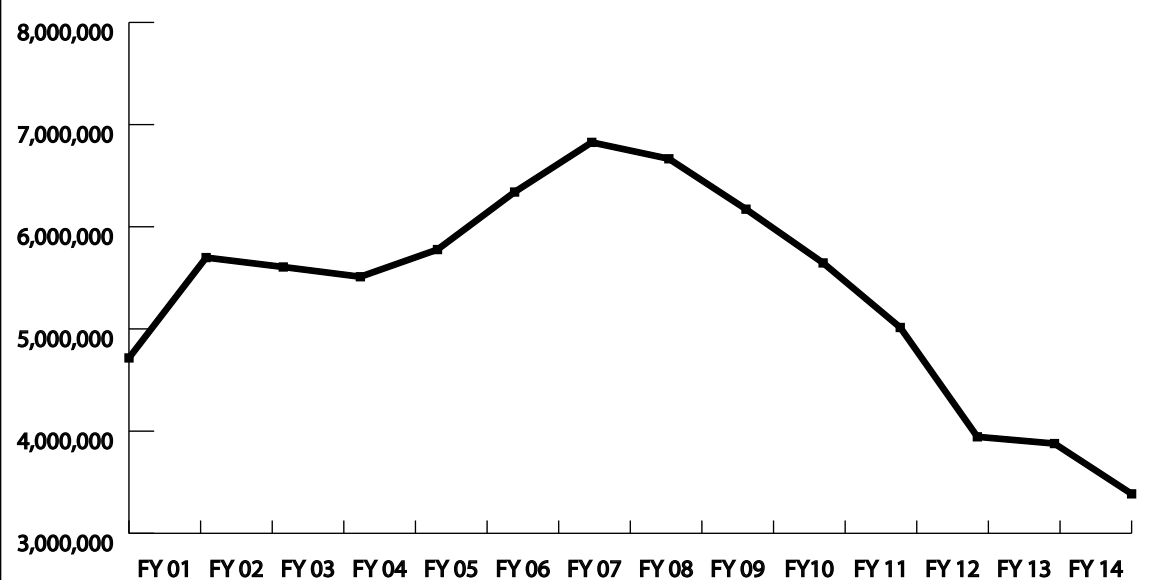
**Step 2:** An RSU No. 38 District Budget Meeting is held with a moderator and each article on the School Budget is approved, rejected or modified. Once the voting is complete (some of which is voted on by secret ballot), the total budget is approved and is scheduled for a secret ballot election in each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

**Step 3:** A secret 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 composite vote of the four towns that decides whether the budget is approved or rejected (only two choices).

If the “YES” votes from our four towns are greater than the “NO” votes from our four towns, the 2013-14 budget is approved.

If the “NO” votes from our four towns are greater than the “YES” votes from our four towns, the 2013-14 budget is not

## Subsidy History RSU 38/Union 42



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 any questions, please feel free to contact the Superintendent's Office for clarification and answers. Thank you.

**To be voted on at the polls in each town on June 11, 2013**



# Data guides Middle School to higher student achievement levels

Cathy Jacobs, Middle School Principal

Work at Maranacook Community Middle School this year continued to focus on increasing student academic achievement. We spent hours analyzing data from the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) and New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) to determine areas of weakness in mathematics and literacy. Based on the data, we have developed goals and an action plan to target the identified areas.



Cathy Jacobs

Classroom teachers developed individual plans for their students and our math and reading interven-

tionists targeted specific skills in small group settings. Overall, the percentage of our students at or above national norms on the NWEA math and reading assessments has increased, but our goal for 2013-14 is to have more than 55% of our students proficient on Maine assessments. We appreciate the value the school board and community place on helping all students achieve success by providing math and reading interventionists. These services have been invaluable to student success.

Middle School staff this year learned about research-based practices that improve academic performance. Our focus has been on Robert Marzano's model for development of teacher expertise. We have concentrated on how to implement the Common Core State Standards by providing clear learning goals for students and scales to measure those goals. Teachers have done a fantastic job gaining knowledge

that illustrates the value of posting learning goals that students understand and strive to achieve. Research shows that when students know why they are studying a certain topic, their engagement and learning increase.

Unified Arts classes provide a holistic approach to education, which is crucial at this age. We provide art, music, physical education, health and foreign language for all three middle school years. Teacher Hope Lord (art) and Jen Caton (music) offered opportunities outside the classroom, including visits to museums and music competitions and performances. We are fortunate to offer students a German, French or Spanish language course. Technology has enhanced the experience, as students are immersed "virtually" in countries in which the language is spoken natively.

We are proud of the work our School

Emergency Team has done all year to ensure the safety and well being of our school community. The team met every two weeks to review procedures and plan drills. Students who practice these procedures have a greater sense of safety and more confidence in their ability to respond appropriately in an emergency.

We have completed our self-study for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges school accreditation. After three years of in-depth reflection on our practices, our report has been sent to visiting team members. We eagerly await their findings. We will be notified in the fall as to our accreditation status.

It has been a great year of learning for our staff and students. I feel honored to live and work in a district that values education. I feel honored to work with a staff that comes to school every single day ready to help students reach their full potential.

## Special Education focuses on student transitions

Ryan Meserve, Special Ed Director

The 2012-13 school year has focused on transitions. It seems that in education we are often focused on transitions: preparing students, parents, staff and the community to transition in one way or another. Whether it be the transition from pre-K to kindergarten, grade 5 to 6, grade 8 to 9 or senior year to postsecondary, transitions are always a part of our work. As my first year as director there have been many transitions but, as with other transitions in education, the key has been having a great structure of staff and practices in place. Although much has changed, our student numbers in special education were similar to last year and project to be that way next year as well.

*As with other transitions in education, the key has been having a great structure of staff and practices in place.*

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) recently began providing technical assistance and training on postsecondary transition planning, currently a subject of increased emphasis at the state and federal levels. I attended the session with Jill Watson from the high school and have been working with special education staff at the high school level to fine-tune our postsecondary planning practices for students with special needs. The helpful process affirmed that much of what we have been doing is now recommended by the DOE. Our work on transition planning is never complete, however, we are well on our way to providing a proactive and comprehensive postsecondary planning process. My thanks to the high school special educators as they have truly embraced this and are producing high-quality transition plan documents.

In August 2012, the Maine DOE took applications for a Maine Autism Leader Teams (MALT) training opportunity. RSU 38 submitted an application and was awarded a grant for an

in-depth training series. The grant's purpose is to build local and regional capacity for working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Throughout the year, MALT members Cathy Jacobs, Lisa Kinney, Ian Arsenault, Karen Laverty, Susan Holinger, Dru Johnston, Dianna Schmidt, Monica Smith, Rick Sirois and I participated in six full-day workshops presented by Dr. Cathy Pratt of Indiana University at University of Maine Orono. As part

of the team's work we are developing a resource library of evidence-based practices for students with ASD and other behavioral challenges. I appreciate the help and hard work of every team member.

As we transition to another school year, there is much to be excited about. I've been fortunate to be a part of every meeting so far that has involved transitioning students. In each of those meetings there is an air of excitement that supercedes any caution or concern. It's truly a great process to be part of, especially when you can see the excitement of the students as they prepare for the next educational milestone.

I have enjoyed my transition into this new role as RSU 38's special education director. Everyone has been supportive and welcoming, but I am especially grateful to the special education and central office staff. As I look forward to next year, I am energized about our direction as a district, and feel that we have a lot of exciting plans in place that are student-centered and will help to increase student achievement.



Ryan Meserve

## Adult Education: a practical investment

Steve Vose  
Adult Education Director

In April, I joined Maranacook Schools as director of Adult and Community Education. I am excited about this challenging new position and look forward to continuing the great work and positive direction set in place by the previous administration.

I feel fortunate to be able to join the RSU 38 staff and provide the important role of supporting our local communities with high quality educational programming and enrichment activities. In these uncertain economic times, adult education continues to be a good investment, offering practical educational experiences to assist individuals in advancing their careers or getting a better, higher paying job. To support this need, the Maranacook Adult Education Program has a small, dedicated staff of administrative support and instructors, who work tirelessly to offer our adult student population access to a wide variety of courses and workshops to broaden their knowledge, enhance skills or to just have fun and meet others. Susan Simons and Courtney Oliver are the friendly faces that greet you when you enter our adult education office and their extensive knowledge of our programs and services will ensure that you immediately get moving down the right track!

On the academic side, we offer a fond farewell to woodworking instructor Jonathan Bradley and longtime volunteer Stephanie Ward, both leaving our program after serving many years as valued staff members. Our program continues to be supported by a large number of volunteers and instructors, enthusiastic and committed to supporting our adult learners. Kristin McLaren, Christina Kennedy, Scott Harmon and Catherine Emery bring to our program extensive educational backgrounds and expertise designed to support our students in completing graduation requirements and achieving life goals. If you are looking to get your GED, prepare for college

or further your workforce education please call us to arrange an appointment to discuss your lifelong learning plan!

Given the importance of a high school diploma in expanding an individual's opportunity to secure employment, Maranacook Adult Education has worked to assist students in completing a GED or high school diploma. This continues to be a priority. It is critical to note that the GED will change in December 2013 from paper-based to an electronically delivered format. Anyone who began GED testing between 2002 and 2012 and has not successfully completed all five GED tests (reading, science, social studies, math and writing) must complete the paper tests before December 2013. If any of the five paper tests are not completed before December 2013, all five tests will have to be repeated when the new electronic GED test goes live. This has the potential to be a huge setback for students who have been working on their GED but have not yet completed all five tests. We are attempting to contact previous students to advise them of this change and assist them in completing the requirements before the deadline.

On the enrichment side of our program, we offer a menu of fitness, arts and crafts, trips, family and youth events, guaranteed to provide something new to learn for almost every interest level. If you haven't taken a class or participated in an enrichment activity, we strongly encourage you to do so! For current course offerings, please visit <http://maranacook.maineadulted.org>, email [adulted@maranacook.org](mailto:adulted@maranacook.org) or call 207-685-4923, ext. 1065. We welcome comments, feedback and suggestions as we plan for the 2013/14 school year. Thank you.



Steve Vose