

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #2
SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGIONAL BUDGET MEETING**

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023
PLACE: HALL-DALE HIGH SCHOOL
TIME: 6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Donna Seppy; Vice-Chair Leanne Burnham, Directors Chris Asch, Jeff Bickford, Aimee Campbell O'Connor, Jim Grandahl, Deb Large and Kathryn Marseglia

MEMBERS ABSENT: Directors Jon Lambert, Russ Hughes, Kiana Knight and Amanda McDaniel

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Rick Amero and Asst. Superintendent Kristie Clark; Business Manager Stephanie Saltzman; Principals Melissa Burnham Barter, Ted Finn, Mark Tinkham, Sara Derosby; Special Ed Director Deb Murphy and Asst. Special Ed Director Antoine Morin; Director of Buildings and Grounds Glen Reynolds; Director of Transportation Katie Spear; IT Director Mariah Kelley; and approximately 60 voting residents

Ballot Clerks: Daniel Swain, Dresden; Natalie Jackson, Farmingdale; Lisa Gilliam, Hallowell; Kimberly Brooks, Monmouth

I. Board Chair and Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Richard Amero welcomed the attendees and led the Pledge of Allegiance then proceeded to Article 1A.

II. Moderator

ARTICLE 1A

To Choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting

Superintendent Richard Amero called for nominations for Moderator. Director Jim Grandahl **nominated** Richard Spencer. Chair Donna Seppy **seconded** the motion. Nominations ceased and Richard Spencer was elected. The Oath of Office was administered.

Superintendent Amero gave a brief presentation, outlining the Board's process in creating the 2023-2024 budget and reviewed the increases and decreases.

The Moderator outlined the voting procedures for the meeting and announced, after acceptance from the audience, that the Maine Moderator's Manual would serve as a reference for rules and procedures.

The Moderator gave a brief overview of the voting process and asked for a vote on the reading of each article. A **motion** was called, **seconded** and the motion was **approved**.

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 1.

ARTICLE 1

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. **School Board Recommends \$9,631,741.80.**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 1. Vice-Chair Leanne Burnham **seconded** the motion. **Discussion on Article 1 followed.**

Peter Walsh **motioned** to amend Article 1 to increase the amount by \$90,000. Erica Atkinson **seconded** the motion, **voted 33 in favor, 26 opposed. The amendment passed.**

Article 1 amount of \$9,721,741.80 passed.

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 2.

ARTICLE 2

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education. **School Board Recommends \$4,803,377.72.**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 2. Jon Hamann **seconded** the motion. **Article 2 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 3.

ARTICLE 3

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

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 3. Director Jeff Bickford **seconded** the motion. **Article 3 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 4.

ARTICLE 4

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction. **School Board Recommends \$813,894.13.**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 4. Jon Hamann **seconded** the motion. **Article 4 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 5.

ARTICLE 5

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support. **School Board Recommends \$2,530,808.01.**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 5. Vice-Chair Leanne Burnham **seconded** the motion.

Peter Walsh **motioned** to amend Article 5 to increase the amount by \$52,000. Amanda Musica **seconded** the motion, **voted 37 in favor, 24 opposed. The amendment passed.**

Article 5 is approved for the amount of \$2,582,808.01.

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 6.

ARTICLE 6

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration. **School Board Recommends \$965,467.52.**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 6. Director Jeff Bickford **seconded** the motion. **Article 6 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 7.

ARTICLE 7

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 7. Vice-Chair Leanne Burnham **seconded** the motion. **Article 7 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 8.

ARTICLE 8

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses. **School Board Recommends \$1,645,578.19.**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 8. Director Jeff Bickford **seconded** the motion. **Article 8 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 9.

ARTICLE 9

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance. **School Board Recommends \$3,456,426.06.**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 9. Jon Hamann **seconded** the motion. **Article 9 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 10.

ARTICLE 10

To see what sum the Regional School District will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments. **School Board Recommends \$2,575,817.78.**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 10. Director Jeff Bickford **seconded** the motion. **Article 10 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 11.

ARTICLE 11

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures. **School Board Recommends \$115,938.36.**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 11. Director Jeff Bickford **seconded** the motion. **Article 11 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 12.

ARTICLE 12

To see what sum the Regional 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 Regional School District 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. **Recommended amounts set forth below:**

Total Appropriated (by municipality):	Total raised (and Regional School District assessments by municipality):
Town of Dresden: \$2,131,590.60	Town of Dresden: \$1,132,973.50
Town of Farmingdale: \$6,213,563.68	Town of Farmingdale: \$1,773,400.33
City of Hallowell: \$3,597,272.61	City of Hallowell: \$1,944,746.17
Town of Monmouth: \$7,823,534.44	Town of Monmouth: \$3,223,044.17
School Regional School District Total Appropriated (Sum of above): \$19,765,961.33	School Regional School District Total Raised (Sum of above): \$8,074,164.17

George LaPointe **motioned** to waive the reading of Article 12. Director Deb Large **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor.**

Chair Donna Seppy **motioned** to approve Article 12. Vice-Chair Leanne Burnham **seconded** the motion. **Article 12 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 13.

ARTICLE 13

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the Regional School Unit voters for non-state-funded school construction projects or non-state-funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Regional School Unit’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12. **School Board Recommends \$34,581.05.**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 13. George LaPointe **seconded** the motion. **Article 13 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 14.

ARTICLE 14

(Written ballot required.) To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$7,274,496.89**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$7,224,496.89**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

Director Jeff Bickford **motioned** to change the recommended amount to \$7,274,496.89. George LaPointe **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

The School Board recommends \$7,274,496.89, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$7,274,496.89. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: These funds are needed to pay costs of maintaining teacher-student ratios, maintaining co- and extra-curricular programs, and transportation.

Vice-Chair Leanne Burnham **motioned** to approve Article 14 as amended. Deb Murphy **seconded** the motion. **Article 14 was approved: YES = 48, NO = 13.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 15.

ARTICLE 15

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 from the Regional 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 \$28,014,143.87.**

A **motion** was made to amend Article 15 to include the increases approved in Article 1 and Article 5. The motion was **seconded and approved. School Board Recommends \$28,156,143.87**

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 15. Jon Hamann **seconded** the motion. **Article 15 was approved as amended.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 16.

ARTICLE 16

To see if Regional School Unit will appropriate **\$35,000** for adult education and raise **\$35,000** 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.

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 16. Director Jeff Bickford **seconded** the motion. **Article 16 was approved.**

Moderator Spencer proceeded to Article 17.

ARTICLE 17

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

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to approve Article 17. Director Kathryn Marseglia **seconded** the motion. **Article 17 was approved.**

III. ADJOURNMENT

George LaPointe **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Director Jeff Bickford **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Amero, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

KC/src