

Management Summary of RSU #1 Budget Articles 2020-21

Question 1 on the Ballot is the total of Articles 1 through 10

Article 1: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction: Recommend: \$11,841,750

This cost center is up .71% from last year. Regular Instruction is the largest expenditure article of all of those presented and accounts for salary and benefits for regular classroom teachers as well as supplies.

Article 2: To see what sum the regional school unit will expend for Special Education: Recommend: \$6,295,027

This cost center is increasing by 6.83% this year. The budget provides for 4 ed tech positions in lieu of contracted behavioral health providers with a private firm. Salary and benefits for the special education staff, outside tuition placements, and individual treatment expenses are included in this cost center.

Article 3: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education: Recommend: \$1,546,080

This cost center is up .45% from last year. New additions to this cost center include the addition of a half time Career Exploration program and increased hours for the administrative assistant to make that position full time. Necessary costs to support the nine BRCTC programs are included in this article. The programs are Carpentry, Drafting, Electrical Repair, Commercial Art, Health Occupations, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood, Automotives, and Welding.

Article 4: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend in Other Instruction: Recommend: \$759,990

This cost center is increasing by 7.14% this year. The cost center includes funding for co-curricular programs in all of our schools and athletic programs at Bath Middle School, Woolwich Central, and Morse. Costs for coaches, officials, field trips, and admission fees are reflected throughout this category. The increase this year is due to a co-curricular musical program at Morse High School which was covered in the Instruction cost center last year. The addition of an Indoor Track Coach at MHS also contributes to the increase.

Article 5: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support: Recommend: \$2,977,413

This cost center covers funding for six areas: Guidance, Health, Technology, Improvement of Instruction, Library, and Student Assessment. This cost center is actually a decrease this year and it is because new literacy materials for a K-5 reading curriculum were purchased last year and have been removed from the budget.

Article 6: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration: Recommend: \$609,906

This cost center is increasing .19% and includes the Office of the Superintendent, Central Services Business Office, and expenses for the Board of Education such as fees for auditors, attorneys, insurance, election expenses, and a contribution to district-wide communication initiatives.

Article 7: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration: Recommend: \$1,773,557

This cost center is up 1.35% and includes funds to operate the Office of the Principal in all of our schools. Salaries and benefits for the principals and secretaries as well as amounts for staff development, postage, copier costs, telephone, supplies, and dues and fees are included.

Article 8: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for transportation: Recommend: \$1,444,925

This cost center is increasing 3.43% this year and includes the Bath Bus Service contract, repairs, maintenance, and insurance for our district maintenance vehicles. Funds are also included in this cost center to cover out-of-district transportation that may be needed throughout the year for our students.

Article 9: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance: Recommend: \$3,327,671

This cost center is decreasing by \$34,253 this year and the main reason is the portion of the local debt service for state funded projects (Woolwich and MHS/BRCTC) has been moved to the Debt Service cost center per a recommendation from the Department of Education. The non-state funded debt service remains in this cost center as well as general operating.

Article 10: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service: Recommend: \$7,290,652

There is an increase of \$3,851,907 this year and it is because of the full obligation for the new Morse/BRCTC debt. We will be receiving \$3,437,261 more in state subsidy to cover the cost of this debt service payment. The article covers principal and interest expenses for the state-supported addition to the Woolwich Central School as well.

Question 2 on the Ballot

Shall Regional School Unit No. 1 raise and appropriate \$215,000 for the school nutrition program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the school nutrition program?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

This cost center is decreasing by \$10,000 this year. This locally shared contribution to the Food Service program is to help close the gap between revenues and program expenses. We are no longer operating with a deficit in this fund and continually try to increase participation in our breakfast and lunch programs.

Question 3 on the Ballot

Shall Regional School Unit No. 1 raise and appropriate \$73,569 for the adult education program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

RSU 1 adult education has consolidated with Merrymeeting Adult Education along with Brunswick and Topsham. We will raise the \$73,569 as our local share. The remainder of the adult education budget comes from tuition, fees, subsidy, and contributions from Brunswick and Topsham.

Question 4 on the Ballot

Capital Reserve Funds – Shall the School Board be authorized to raise \$50,000 for the previously established capital reserve fund and expend the funds if necessary?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

These funds are raised separately and set aside for major facility repairs that may need to be addressed in the future. With this allocation, we will have a balance of \$140,504 after spending \$216,037 for the following upgrades during the 19-20 school year: Dike Newell steam to hot water exchanger, gas conversion project at Bath Middle School, and abatement and flooring the Phippsburg gym.

Question 5 on the Ballot

Do you favor authorizing the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 1 (the “RSU”) to issue bonds and other evidences of indebtedness in the name of the RSU in an amount not to exceed \$365,327 through the State of Maine’s zero interest rate/loan forgiveness School Revolving Renovation Fund Program for Priority 1 Health, Safety and Compliance renovations related to the conversion from steam to hot water heat and abatement at Dike Newall School in Bath (the “Project”)?

- A. Zero Interest/Loan Forgiveness Program: The Maine Department of Education has awarded the RSU a loan in the amount of \$365,327 through the State’s zero interest rate/loan forgiveness School Revolving Renovation Fund Program for the Project.
- B. Loan Principal Forgiveness: The Maine Municipal Bond Bank will forgive approximately 51.06% (up to an estimated \$188,536) of the total approved loan amount.
- C. Interest Free Loan. The RSU will be obligated to repay approximately 48.94% (up to an estimated \$178,791) of the total approved loan amount over a five-year term. The Maine Municipal Bond Bank has agreed to lend these funds and to permit repayment at zero interest.

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.