

PAUL AUSTIN, Ph. D.
Superintendent of Schools

HEATHER ROCKWELL, Ed. D.
Director of Curriculum



Regional School Unit No. 67
Office of the Superintendent

Chester, Lincoln, Mattawamkeag

June 12, 2023

Greetings staff, students, families, and RSU No. 67 communities,

It has been a great year in RSU No. 67 and much has been accomplished. To name just a few things, we updated our safety and security plans, fully reviewed building safety, established a School Resource Officer program, completed a full revision of the scope and sequence of our curriculum, completed a 5-year strategic plan, and began significant facilities heating and ventilation upgrades. It has been a busy year and I am incredibly proud of how hard our students, staff, faculty, and administration have worked to move the district forward. We have amazing students, an engaged community, and outstanding support staff, faculty, and administrators. I am immensely proud to be part of this district and the work we are doing to provide every student with the very best education possible.

Despite all that has been accomplished this year, we know there is still a lot of work ahead of us. To implement our newly developed strategic plan, we have set lofty goals and we have high expectations. As we look to the 2023-2024 school year, we will continue to highlight the importance of safe and secure schools, and we are committed to improving student academic outcomes through a rigorous and relevant curriculum. We have expanded our full-day/full-year Pre-K program to ensure that all 4-year-olds who reside in Chester, Lincoln, or Mattawamkeag have access to high-quality Pre-K programming, and we will offer "Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG)" program to students at Mattanawcook Academy. Through the use of federal funds, the district hopes to complete a new multi-purpose court at Mattanawcook Academy, and we will continue substantial upgrades of the heating and ventilation systems at all three schools in the district.

We are excited about the year ahead, but we recognize that none of this is possible without your support. Tomorrow, Tuesday, June 13th, is the scheduled ***District Budget Validation Vote***. Polls are open at Mattanawcook Academy from 8 am to 8 pm and at the Chester and Mattawamkeag town offices from 8 am to 6 pm. If you reside in one of these three towns and are able, I ask that you please vote tomorrow. In order to meet our contractual obligations and to provide services to our students, the 2023-2024 RSU No. 67 budget will increase by 3.7% this year. However, with increased state support and by using a portion of our undesignated fund balance, the district is requesting less funding from each of the towns of Chester, Lincoln, and Mattawamkeag. This means that we are asking for fewer local tax dollars from taxpayers.

In addition to voting on the proposed 2023-2024 budget tomorrow, voters will also be asked if they wish to continue the budget validation referendum for the next three years. A yes vote means that the current process of having a budget meeting in May to approve the budget, followed by a validation referendum vote in June will continue. A no vote will mean that the budget will be approved and set at the annual budget meeting in May each year, with no budget validation referendum needed in June.

I know people are busy, but voting takes just a few minutes and I ask that you please come out to vote tomorrow. Your voice matters and everyone here at RSU No. 67 sincerely appreciates your support!

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Paul Austin, written in a cursive style.

Paul Austin
Superintendent of Schools