

RSU 56 ANNUAL BUDGET INFORMATIONAL & VALIDATION MEETING
CANTON-CARTHAGE-DIXFIELD-PERU
MAY 23, 2023 6:30 PM
DIRIGO HIGH SCHOOL SCC

6:15 - 6:30 (Music by Mr. Hamalainen on the newly donated piano.)

School Board Members Present: Barbara Chow, Elizabeth Kelly, Larry Whittington, Bruce Ross,
Deanna Dolloff, Don Whittemore, Tim Kelly, Marianne Young (6:42)

School Board Members Absent: Natalie Sneller, Carl Lueders, Angela Cushman, Peru (Vacancy)

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE OF THE VALIDATION MEETING

Barbara Chow, Board Chair, opened the meeting at 6:30pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Isaiah Lovelace

The National Anthem was performed by James Hamalainen and Isaiah Lovelace

Pam Doyen, Superintendent, presented a slideshow presentation with an overview of the proposed Bus Garage.

Pam Doyen, Superintendent, presented a slideshow presentation with an overview of the proposed 2023-24 RSU 56 Budget.

Article 1A: To elect a moderator to preside at the meeting.

Terri Cox made a motion to elect David Duguay to moderate by write in vote.

Motion: Terri Cox

Seconded: Charlie Swan

Terri Cox submitted a written ballot to vote David Duguay in as moderator. No other nominations were made. Nominations ceased.

Motion Carried

Pam Doyen swore in David Duguay as Moderator

David Duguay swore in Julie Couture and Earl Couture as Ballot Clerks

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11
AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

Article 1: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. **School Board Recommends \$4,032,027**

Motion & Seconded- No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

Article 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education. **School Board Recommends \$2,916,515**

Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

Article 3: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education. **School Board Recommends \$85,552**
Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

Article 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction. **School Board Recommends \$473,494**
Bethany Meehan-Poulin made a motion to increase the amount to **\$492,294** for the purpose of reinstating the soccer programs to the high school.
Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

Article 5: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support. **School Board Recommends \$1,427,678**
Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

Article 6: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration. **School Board Recommends \$458,564**
Motion & Seconded - No Discussion- Vote - Motion Carried

Article 7: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration. **School Board Recommends \$601,292**
Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

Article 8: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses. **School Board Recommends \$1,080,807**
Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

Article 9: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance. **School Board Recommends \$1,528,643**
Motion & Seconded- No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

Article 10: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments. **School Board Recommends \$767,947**
Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

Article 11: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures. **School Board Recommends \$173,000**

ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 14 **RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

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

Town of Canton \$1,720,585.81
Town of Carthage \$951,077.59
Town of Dixfield \$5,091,507.39
Town of Peru \$3,044,529.04

Total Appropriated
(sum of above) \$10,807,699.83

Total Raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):

Town of Canton \$757,522.83
Town of Carthage \$571,888.50
Town of Dixfield \$1,132,508.83
Town of Peru \$1,034,928.83

Total Raised
(sum of above) \$3,496,848.99

Explanation: The Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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 Regional School Unit must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

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 kindergarten through grade 12.

School Board Recommends \$8,812.39

Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the Regional School Unit's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the Regional School Unit voters.

Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Voters - Motion Carried

Article 14: (Written ballot required) To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommended \$2,385,342.52**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$2,212,342.52**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends **\$2,385,342.52**, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$2,212,342.52**. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model. This model does not fully cover the costs of regular classroom instruction, special education instruction, extracurricular and co-curricular student activities, district administration and leadership, student transportation, and school technology.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funded over and above the Regional School Unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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 Regional School Unit budget for educational programs.

Bethany Meehan-Poulin made a motion to increase Recommended Local funds to **\$2,404,142.52** which would also increase the Allocated model by **\$2,231,142.52** for the purpose of reinstating the soccer programs.

Written Ballot Votes: YES- 34; NO- 2

Motion Carried

ARTICLE 15 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

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 kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Service Funding Act, local funds for non-state-funded school construction debt service, 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 \$13,545,519

Bethany Meehan-Poulin made a motion to increase the total cost of funding public education to **\$13,564,319** for the purpose of reinstating the soccer programs.

Motion & Seconded- No Discussion- Vote- Motion Carried

ARTICLE 16 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

Article 16: 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?

Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

ARTICLE 17 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET FOR THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL REGION AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

Article 17: Shall the Region 9 School of Applied Technology approve a budget for adult education in the amount of **\$429,880.91** for the year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of its adult education program, and shall Regional School Unit No. 56 raise **\$111,700.61** as its share of the adult education budget for Region 9 School of Applied Technology?

L. Whittington spoke as a private citizen, Dixfield taxpayer. He went to the budget meeting at Region 9. The transparency or lack thereof was blatant. During the April meeting there was a motion on the floor and seconded to not increase the \$90k that they were asking for. It was never discussed and then never voted on. Right after the illegal vote, they voted in the \$90k. I'm suggesting now as a citizen to reject this tonight and send it back to the board for their review.

Pam Doyen responded and clarified that the \$90k was for the Region 9 budget that is separate from the Adult Ed budget. She asked Bruce Ross to clarify that, as he is on the Region 9 School Board. Bruce Ross responded that that was correct. It is separate from the Region 9 budget. The Adult Education did go up a little bit due to hiring a new director. A taxpayer asked if the Adult Ed was for the adults and different from the Region 9 programs. Another taxpayer asked which districts were part of Region 9 and which amount was the increase for RSU 56? Pam responded that the amount of increase for Region 9 budget was \$19,387. Another person asked how many students from Dirigo go to Region 9? Pam replied that she believed it was about 27 students that participate in Region 9. Pam was unsure how many community members go to Adult Ed. She said there are 4 people from our four towns graduating from Adult Ed. Motion & Seconded- There was Discussion- Vote YES: 15 NO: 13 Motion Carried

ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO THE BUS GARAGE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Article 18: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$565,000** from available fund balances at the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year to the Bus Garage Capital Reserve Fund?

Note: Approval of Article 18 will not increase the RSU's operating budget or increase the amounts to be raised by each RSU town.

Motion & Seconded- No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

ARTICLE 19 AUTHORIZES THE DISPOSITION OF ANY ADDITIONAL STATE SUBSIDY RECEIVED

Article 19: In the event that the Regional School Unit receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Board be authorized to use 25% of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the School Board; to use 25% of the additional state subsidy to transfer to the Capital Reserve Fund for maintenance of plant and minor remodeling; and to use 50% of the additional state subsidy to decrease the local cost share expectation, as defined in Title 20-A, section 15671-A (1)(B), for local property taxpayers for funding public education as approved by the School Board?

Motion & Seconded- No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

ARTICLE 20 AUTHORIZES TRANSFERS AMONG COST CENTERS

Article 20: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

Motion & Seconded- No Discussion - Vote - Motion Carried

ARTICLE 21 AUTHORIZES ISSUANCE OF A BOND OR NOTE TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF A SCHOOL BUS

Article 21: Shall the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 56 be authorized to issue a bond or note in the name of the RSU for purposes of purchasing one school bus in an amount not to exceed **\$132,750** to be paid in not more than three annual installments and appropriate the same?

Motion & Seconded - No Discussion - Vote- Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

Motion & Seconded- Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41pm