

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18
DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MAY 20, 2021

Those Present: Directors Dawn Castner, Andrew Cook, John DeWitt, Evan Fisher, Sara Languet, Rick Stubbert, Laura Tracy and Michael Tracy. Directors Neil Farrington and Christine Marden were absent. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Carl Gartley, Kristi Farrell, Keith Morin, Melannie Keister, Megan Bacon, Bob Nutting, Gary Smith, Susan Perrino, Sharon Jolicoeur, Dan Casey, Danielle Breznyak, Wendy Nutting, Peter McLaughlin, Janice Porter, Kathleen Paradis, Patricia Bragg, Lisa Klein, Charlene Houle, Mary Vogel, Julie Morrison, Julie Finley, Scott Hallett, Cheryl Mercier, Jennifer McGee, Dillon Clark, Gwen Bacon, Adam Murray, Amy Peterson, Mike Peterson, Mark Hatch, Denice Hatch, MacGregor Stocco, Janet Preston, Lacey Studholme, Carrie Brennan, Debbie Gillcash, Dan Mitchell, Irene Belanger, Kelly Michaud, Christine Poulin, Lauralee Fegel, Dale Fegel, Alicia Forster and Andy Forster.

Laura Tracy, Chair of the Board of Directors of Regional School Unit No. 18, called the District Budget Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Messalonskee High School in Oakland. Chair Tracy welcomed everyone and noted that all are here to discuss a budget that the School Board has approved. She noted that the School Board members will answer questions as best they can and will find answers if they are not readily available this evening. Whatever the final budget figure is, it is hoped that the citizens will support that figure when voting takes place on June 8. She thanked everyone for participating and attending this evening.

ARTICLE 1A: To elect a moderator to preside at the meeting. (secret ballot)

It was moved by M. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT that Robert W. Nutting be nominated to serve as moderator to preside at the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Laura Tracy, Chair of the Regional School Unit No. 18 Board of Directors, administered the moderator's oath for Mr. Nutting and filed the Moderator's Record Oath and Certificate.

Mr. Nutting welcomed everyone to the RSU 18 budget meeting.

Robert W. Nutting administered the Oath of Municipal Clerk to the individuals listed below.

Charlene Houle, Town of Belgrade
Mary Vogel, Town of Belgrade
Julie Finley, Town of China
Kathleen Paradis, Town of Oakland
Janice E. Porter, Town of Oakland
Julie Morrison, Town of Rome
Patricia Bragg, Town of Sidney
Lisa Klein, Town of Sidney

Mr. Nutting reviewed the rules. This meeting will use the Maine Moderator's manual, and he will follow those rules. The job of moderator is to keep the meeting flowing, making sure everyone has

an opportunity to speak. He asked that those who wish to speak raise their hands, stand, state their name and state the community in which they reside. Mr. Nutting will read the Articles one at a time, a motion will be made and seconded, or amended, then there will be time for questions/comments. The duty of the

moderator is not to answer questions. He will repeat the questions, and someone from the Board or administration will answer those questions. Then there will be a vote on the Articles. Mr. Nutting will call upon the voters to hold up their cards during the vote. If obvious, he will declare a vote; if not obvious, ballot clerks will count votes.

The first 11 Articles allow the School Board to expend funds, followed by four Articles which allow the Board to raise funds, an Article authorizing the expenditure of grants and other receipts, an Article authorizing the Adult Education Program and an Article authorizing the formation of a regional service center.

Budget Articles are as listed below.

● Article 1: Regular Instruction	\$17,824,818.52
● Article 2: Special Education	\$5,767,025.51
● Article 3: Career and Technical Education	\$5,000.00
● Article 4: Other Instruction	\$812,730.30
● Article 5: Student and Staff Support	\$4,086,085.49
● Article 6: System Administration	\$984,753.92
● Article 7: School Administration	\$2,101,468.26
● Article 8: Transportation and Buses	\$2,515,739.23
● Article 9: Facilities Maintenance	\$5,367,517.54
● Article 10: Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$848,161.12
● Article 11: All Other Expenditures	\$178,819.11

Moderator Robert W. Nutting began the process of review of the warrant Articles.

ARTICLE 1: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

School Board Recommends **\$17,824,818.52**

The Regular Instruction Article includes costs directly related to the interaction between teachers and students in a learning environment for the purposes of the delivery of instruction.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$17,824,818.52 for Regular Instruction.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

School Board Recommends **\$5,767,025.51**

The Special Education Article includes costs directly related to the interaction between teachers and students in a learning environment for the purposes of the delivery of instruction.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$5,767,025.51 for Special Education.

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 **\$5,000.00**

The Career and Technical Education Article includes costs directly related to the interaction between teachers and students in a learning environment for the purposes of the delivery of instruction.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$5,000.00 for Career and Technical Education.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.

School Board Recommends **\$812,730.30**

The Other Instruction Article includes costs directly related to the interaction between teachers and students in a learning environment for the purposes of the delivery of instruction (e.g., Summer School, co-curricular activities, athletics).

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$812,730.30 for Other Instruction.

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 **\$4,086,085.49**

The Student and Staff Support Article includes costs to facilitate and enhance instruction. This sum funds student support services such as guidance, health, instructional technology services; and staff support services such as improvement of instruction, improvement of staff training, library services, and student assessment.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$4,086,085.49 for Student and Staff Support.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration

School Board Recommends **\$984,753.92**

This Article includes costs for activities concerned with establishing and administering policy and operation of the school administrative unit.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$984,753.92 for System Administration.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the Regional School Unit shall be authorized to expend for School Administration.

School Board Recommends **\$2,101,468.26**

This Article includes costs for activities concerned with the administrative responsibility of individual schools.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$2,101,468.26 for School Administration.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

School Board Recommends **\$2,515,739.23**

The Transportation Article includes costs for conveying students to and from school.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$2,515,739.23 for transportation and buses.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9: To see what sum the Regional School Unit shall be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

School Board Recommends **\$5,367,517.54**

The Facilities Maintenance Article includes costs for keeping the physical plant open, comfortable, and safe for use. It also includes keeping the grounds, buildings, and equipment in working condition. This sum funds maintenance and custodial expenditures, capital enhancement and improvement, and capital renewal and renovation.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$5,367,517.54 for Facilities Maintenance.

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 **\$848,161.12**

The Other Commitments Article includes debt service, the costs for keeping the principal and interest payments on long-term debt of the school administrative unit in payment of new school construction and would include costs for subsidizing food services.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$848,161.12 for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 11: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.
 School Board Recommends **\$178,819.11**

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$178,819.11 for all Other Commitments.

Motion carried.

This completes voting on expenditure Articles.

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.

School Board Recommends:

Total Appropriated (by municipality):		Total Raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):	
Town of Belgrade	\$ 4,844,490.95	Town of Belgrade	\$ 4,844,490.95
Town of China	\$ 7,430,059.07	Town of China	\$ 3,358,553.33
Town of Oakland	\$ 10,313,596.29	Town of Oakland	\$ 4,163,958.33
Town of Rome	\$ 1,449,233.93	Town of Rome	\$ 1,449,233.93
Town of Sidney	\$ 7,127,598.78	Town of Sidney	\$ 3,281,923.33
Total Appropriated (sum of above)	\$ 31,164,979.02	Total Raised (sum of above)	\$ 17,098,159.87

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.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$31,164,979.02 for the Regional School Unit total appropriated and \$17,098,159.87 for the Regional School Unit total raised.

For: 35
Opposed: 0

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 to grade 12.

School Board Recommends **\$49,250.10**

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.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$49,250.10 for Debt Services.

For: 45
Opposed: 0

ARTICLE 14: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate to transfer to the school nutrition program.

School Board Recommends **\$178,819.11**

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$178,819.11 to raise and appropriate to transfer to the school nutrition program.

For: 45
Opposed: 0

ARTICLE 15: (Written ballot required.) To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$7,727,292.60**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$7,727,292.60**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends **\$7,727,292.60**, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$7,727,292.60**. 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.

The additional local funds are those locally raised funds 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.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$7,727,292.60 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$7,727,292.60 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

For: 44
Opposed: 2

ARTICLE 16: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 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 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 **\$40,492,119.00**

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$40,492,119.00 to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 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 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.

Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Regional School Unit will appropriate **\$77,337.72** for adult education and raise **\$51,736.89** 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.

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to accept the School Board recommended amount of \$77,337.72 for adult education and raise \$51,736.89 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.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 18: 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?

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to approve Article 18 as presented authorizing the School Board 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 purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$250,000** from available fund balances to the existing Facilities Capital Reserve Fund and to expend said funds only upon express authorization of the Regional School Unit voters?

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to approve the transfer up to **\$250,000.00** from available fund balances to the existing Facilities Capital Reserve Fund and to expend said funds only upon express authorization of the Regional School Unit voters?

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$40,000** to the fuel cost stabilization fund from year end available fund balances?

Statutory Disclosure Statement relating to Fuel Cost Stabilization Fund: The fuel cost stabilization fund balance is currently \$60,000. If this article is approved as written, the fuel cost stabilization fund balance will be \$100,000. The amount used from the fuel cost stabilization fund in the last three years through the date this article was prepared is as follows:

Fiscal year 2020-2021: \$ 0

Fiscal year 2019-2020: \$ 0

Fiscal year 2018-2019: \$ 0

Vote: It was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT to approve the transfer up to \$40,000 to the fuel cost stabilization fund from year end available fund balances.

Motion carried.

Moderator Robert W. Nutting thanked the ballot clerks, Board, and Superintendent for their efforts in regard to the District Budget Meeting. The Regional School Unit Board of Directors signed the Notice of Amounts Adopted at the Budget Meeting, to be distributed to Town clerks to assist the voters of Regional School Unit No. 18 in voting at the budget validation referendum to be held on June 8, 2021 for the

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District Budget Meeting
May 20, 2021

purpose of determining if the Regional School Unit budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year that was adopted at the District budget meeting on May 20, 2021 should be approved.

Since there were no other warrant Articles upon which to act, it was moved by L. TRACY and seconded by DEWITT that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Gartley
Superintendent of Schools