

**WARRANT TO CALL
REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18 BUDGET MEETING
(20-A M.R.S. § 1485)**

TO: Megan Bacon, a resident of Regional School Unit No. 18 (the “Regional School Unit”) composed of the Towns of Belgrade, China, Oakland, Rome, and Sidney, State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify the voters of each of the municipalities within the Regional School Unit, namely, the Towns of Belgrade, China, Oakland, Rome, and Sidney, that a Regional School Unit Budget Meeting will be held at Messalonskee High School Performing Arts Center, 131 Messalonskee High Drive, Oakland, Maine at 6:00 P.M. on May 21, 2026 for the purpose of determining the Budget Meeting Articles set forth below.

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

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11
AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

ARTICLE 1: REGULAR INSTRUCTION

Regular programs of study for that part of the school organization which precedes approved secondary education. Elementary programs for students in 4-year old programs, as well as students in kindergarten through grade 8. Secondary programs for students in grades 9 through 12.

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

School Board Recommends \$20,848,076.69

ARTICLE 2: SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special programs include activities for elementary and secondary students receiving services outside the realm of regular programs.

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

School Board Recommends \$7,268,091.21

ARTICLE 3: CAREER AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION

Activities designed to assess and improve the wellbeing of students and supplement the teaching process.

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.

School Board Recommends \$0.00

ARTICLE 4: OTHER INSTRUCTION

Activities that add to the educational experience of students but are not related to educational activities.

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

School Board Recommends \$956,679.32

ARTICLE 5: INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Services provided such as guidance, health, school resource officer, school health coordinator, professional development, library, instructional technology and student assessment.

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.

School Board Recommends \$4,777,792.39

ARTICLE 6: SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

Services provided by the school board, business office and the office of the superintendent.

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

School Board Recommends \$1,092,217.78

ARTICLE 7: SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Activities concerned with the directing and managing the operation of a particular school.

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration.

School Board Recommends \$2,865,701.08

ARTICLE 8: TRANSPORTATION

Activities concerned with conveying students to and from school, as provided by the state and federal law. This includes trips between home and school and trips to school activities.

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

School Board Recommends \$3,162,538.97

ARTICLE 9: FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Activities concerned with keeping the physical plant open, comfortable and safe for use and keeping the grounds, building and equipment in effective working condition and state of repair. This included the activities of maintaining safety in buildings.

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

School Board Recommends \$6,186,806.75

ARTICLE 10: DEBT SERVICE

Activities related to servicing the long-term debt incurred for the construction of a new school or a new addition to an existing school. This includes bond interest, retirement of bond debt, capital lease payments and other long term note principal and interest.

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

School Board Recommends \$0.00

ARTICLE 11: ALL OTHER FUNCTIONS

Transfer to and local expenditures for food service operations.

To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.

School Board Recommends \$0.00

ARTICLES 12 AND 13

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):		Total Raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):	
Town of Belgrade	\$ 5,487,627.36	Town of Belgrade	\$ 5,487,627.36
Town of China	\$ 8,629,058.65	Town of China	\$ 3,949,242.00
Town of Oakland	\$ 11,650,983.29	Town of Oakland	\$ 5,125,283.66
Town of Rome	\$ 1,746,224.91	Town of Rome	\$ 1,746,224.91
Town of Sidney	\$ 8,279,453.32	Town of Sidney	\$ 4,032,317.59
Total Appropriated (sum of above)	\$ 35,793,347.53	Total Raised (sum of above)	\$ 20,340,695.52

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.

ARTICLE 13: (Written ballot required.) To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$9,756,607.87**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$9,756,607.87**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends \$9,756,607.87, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$9,756,607.87. 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 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.

*Please note that, of the total additional local amount raised in this article, **\$500,863.86** is to be assessed only to the Town of China to cover costs of tuition and insured value factor pursuant to the RSU 18 Reorganization Plan previously approved by the voters.*

ARTICLE 14 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 14: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 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, local funds for 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 \$47,157,904.19

ARTICLE 15 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Regional School Unit will appropriate **\$70,553.89** for adult education and raise **\$40,862.89** 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.

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?