

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 20
SEARSPORT AND STOCKTON SPRINGS**

**PROPOSED
SCHOOL BUDGET
2020-2021**

Approved by the Board of Directors on April 14, 2020

Remote Public Budget Hearing Guide

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

6:30 pm

**Go to www.rsu20.org for meeting access and/or
to submit questions and comments**

Budget Validation Referendum Vote

July 14, 2020

Vote at your local polling place

BUDGET APPROVAL PROCESS FOR RSU 20 VOTERS

REMOTE PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET IN LIEU OF BUDGET MEETING:

Tuesday, June 23, 2020 @ 6:30 pm Virtual Meeting

Questions and comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- 1) During the meeting; go to www.rsu20.org for meeting access**
- 2) Prior to the meeting:**
 - a) Online at www.rsu20.org**
 - b) By mail: Superintendent, RSU 20, 6 Mortland Rd., Searsport, ME 04974**

BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM - July 14, 2020 at your town voting place.

The **Budget Referendum Warrant**, with budget questions, will be posted at all town polling locations.

ABSENTEE VOTING. If you would like to request an absentee ballot, please contact your individual town office.

Absentee Ballots must be received by the town no earlier than June 24, 2020, the date following the Public Budget Hearing, in order to be counted.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS July 1, 2019

Name & Address	Phone#	Email Address	Term Expires	Town
Anthony Bagley 18 Back Searsport Road Searsport, ME 04974	930-5891	anthony.bagley@rsu20.org	2021	Searsport
Kris Braga 42 Partridge Lane Stockton Springs, ME 04981	567-3380	kristina.braga@rsu20.org	2021	Stockton Springs
Denise Dakin 64 Pout Town Road Stockton Springs, ME 04981	567-4050	denise.dakin@rsu20.org	2020	Stockton Springs
Joshua McFarlin 47 Heritage Drive Searsport ME 04974	631-9333	joshua.mcfarlin@rsu20.org	2022	Searsport
Ruth Southworth 158 W. Main Street Searsport, ME 04974	548-2860	ruth.southworth@rsu20.org	2020	Searsport

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #20

Searsport · Stockton Springs

Residents of Searsport and Stockton Springs,

I would like to start by saying thank you for your support for last year's budget. It is that time of year again when the RSU #20 Board asks for your support of the 2019-2020 budget presented in this flyer.

The support you gave RSU #20 last year has resulted in greater educational opportunities for our students, and co-curricular opportunities as well.

We continue to have a great administration and dedicated staff that put students first while looking for great educational opportunities that are still within the financial means of taxpayers

We have utilized staff in many areas to either teach more students at different grade levels during the school day or by asking custodial, food service and transportation to assume more duties to be more efficient. We have looked at every area of the budget for savings while being mindful that our children deserve the same opportunities as students around us.

The 2019-20 budget we are presenting is 10,348,201.00 plus a Food Service budget of 194,000.00, bringing the total budget to 10,542,201.00. This budget will provide more educational opportunities. I am proud to say that our schools are moving forward and upward with your continued support. The education of our young children is important for their future and for the future of our communities.

As you will see in the assessment sheets there is a proposed increase of \$94,612.00 or 2.9775% for Searsport and a proposed increase of \$14,573.00 or 0.5636% for Stockton Springs. The overall increase is \$109,186.00 or 1.8944%. These increases are created by the town evaluations done by the state that set the mill rate on which our state subsidy is based. This is something we cannot control. The increases we see for our towns are not the same for surrounding towns whose budgets seem to outpace subsidy.

If you have the opportunity, visit our schools and attend some of our meetings. You will find we are not the same school system we were in the past and are looking to the future for educational opportunities.

Thank you.

Anthony Bagley
Chairperson, the RSU #20 Board of Directors

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #20

Searsport · Stockton Springs

Office of the Superintendent

6 Mortland Road

Searsport ME 04974

Telephone: (207) 548-6643

Fax: (207) 548-2310

Dear Residents of Searsport and Stockton Springs,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of RSU # 20, I would like to again thank you for your continued support. We are charged with the responsibility to educate the students entrusted to our profession and to provide pathways on the roads to success. In order to be successful, we must continue to work as a community team. The students are the ultimate winner and for that, I thank you again.

The staff, administration, and Board have been preparing the RSU # 20 proposed budget based upon the needs of the school district and the goal to provide the best educational opportunities for our students. Community support is a vital aspect of the budget process as is the understanding of what the communities can financially support. We have made the decisions within our control to accomplish our goals and present a proposed budget for your approval.

The budget being presented and the rationale behind the recommendations were affected by:
Additions:

- Ed Tech to SES for General Education Interventions
- District Facility and Maintenance position
- Ed Tech to MS/HS V-ALT (alternative education)
- Case Manager to SES SPED Programming
- .5 PE/Health Teacher at MS/HS

Revisions:

- MS/HS DOS/AD changed to full time DOS with AD changing to stipend
- MS/HS Social Worker reduced from 4 days to 2 days per week
- MS Guidance to 5 days per week from 2.5 days per week
- OT increase from 4 days to 5 days per week
- SPED Director-from full time to 3/5ths time

Deductions:

- 2 days per week COTA position
- MS/HS Science Department position

Additions:

- RSU #20 Financial Commitment to School Resource Officer (50%)
- Assessment from Waldo County Technical Center-Regular Instruction

HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

SCHOOLS	April 2009	Oct. 2009	Oct. 2010	Oct. 2011	Oct. 2012	Oct. 2013	Oct. 2014	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2017	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2019
Frankfort Elementary School	99	94	89	80	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stockton Springs Elementary School	81	83	83	63	36	33	27	31	21	0	0	0
Searsport Elementary School	203	199	195	201	224	221	224	221	216	239	231	228
Searsport District Middle School	159	163	156	165	179	156	130	98	105	117	117	93
Searsport District High School	222	201	188	180	178	160	173	179	178	166	147	147
TOTALS	764	740	711	689	694	570	554	529	520	522	495	468

HISTORICAL TOWN ASSESSMENTS

SCHOOL YEAR	SEARSPORT	STOCKTON SPRINGS
2020-21 Proposed	3,236,803.00	2,504,778.00
2019-20	3,272,161.00	2,600,508.00
2018-19	3,177,543.76	2,585,939.57
2017-18	3,126,421.59	2,608,732.10
2016-17	3,154,087.56	2,605,004.87
2015-16	3,173,858.02	2,561,419.52
2014-15	3,007,252.29	2,389,898.35
2013-14	2,892,569.37	2,262,897.91
2012-13	2,592,852.58	2,120,890.16
2011-12	2,604,464.05	2,227,739.69
2010-11	2,581,082.80	2,221,735.01

Explanation of ARTICLES 1 thru 10

ARTICLE 1: *This article includes Pre-K through Grade 12 salaries, benefits, and supplies.*

ARTICLE 2: *This article includes costs for students receiving services other than provided by the regular program and all special education salaries, benefits, and contracted services.*

ARTICLE 3: *This article includes costs for instructional activities designed to prepare students for careers and future education beyond high school at the Waldo County Technical Center.*

ARTICLE 4: *This article includes sports and leadership wages, officials' pay, sports transportation, and athletic supplies.*

ARTICLE 5: *This article includes Guidance, School Nurse, Technology, Library, and applicable support staff.*

ARTICLE 6: *This article includes the Board of Directors' pay, legal services, and Central Office supplies, salaries, and benefits.*

ARTICLE 7: *This article includes principals, assistant principals, support staff, benefits, and supplies.*

ARTICLE 8: *This article includes transportation salaries and benefits, supplies, purchased services and leases.*

ARTICLE 9: *This article includes salaries and benefits, property insurance, general utilities for all buildings, and contracted services. Revolving renovation debt is also in this line.*

ARTICLE 10: *This article includes debt service. This amount decreases as the debt is paid down.*

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 20
SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE**

PUBLIC HEARING PART 1: PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET FOR FY 2020-2021

The School Board of the Regional School Unit has proposed a school operating budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Pursuant to Order of the Governor, the budget meeting where these articles are presented has been replaced by a remote public hearing. The budget recommended by the School Board consists of the following Articles 1 through 14. Together, these articles constitute the proposed school operating budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 to be presented to the voters as Question 1 at a budget referendum election scheduled for July 14, 2020.

EXPENDITURES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

Proposed Expenditures by Cost Center			
ARTICLE 1:	Regular Instruction	\$	3,055,153.00
ARTICLE 2:	Special Education	\$	2,593,441.00
ARTICLE 3:	Career and Technical Education	\$	4,779.00
ARTICLE 4:	Other Instruction	\$	211,582.00
ARTICLE 5:	Student and Staff Support	\$	1,074,375.00
ARTICLE 6:	System Administration	\$	526,653.00
ARTICLE 7:	School Administration	\$	565,170.00
ARTICLE 8:	Transportation and Buses	\$	712,811.00
ARTICLE 9:	Facilities Maintenance	\$	1,411,497.00
ARTICLE 10:	Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$	193,031.00
ARTICLE 11:	All Other Expenditures	\$	0.00

**STATE SUBSIDY AND LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL
BUDGET**

ARTICLE 12: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit appropriate the amounts set forth below for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and raise and assess the amounts set forth below 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 20A, section 15688.

Recommended amounts set forth below:

State Mandated 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.

OTHER LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 13: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit raise and appropriate **\$1,905,573.09** in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$1,905,573.09** as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$1,905,573.09: The Essential Programs and Services funding model does not recognize all of the costs of the special education services, transportation services, and instructional services that the Regional School Unit provides.

State Mandated 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.

SUMMARY OF TOTAL 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 14: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit authorize the School Board to expend **\$10,348,492.00** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 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.

PUBLIC HEARING PART 2: REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

The following school budget and other questions will be submitted to referendum on July 14, 2020:

Question 1: School Budget. Shall Regional School Unit No. 20 appropriate the sum of **\$10,348,492.00** and raise the sum of **\$5,547,581.75** for the 2020-2021 school budget?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

VOTER INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 1

The Regional School Unit No. 20 school budget submitted in this Question 1 totals **\$10,348,492.00**. It includes locally raised funds in the amount of **\$5,547,581.75**, to be assessed in shares to member municipalities in accordance with the RSU’s cost sharing formula and state law. The locally raised amount exceeds the maximum state and local spending target by **\$1,905,573.09**. This budget includes these cost centers and amounts:

Cost Center	Amount Appropriated
Regular Instruction	\$ 3,055,153.00
Special Education	\$ 2,593,441.00
Career and Technical Education	\$ 4,779.00
Other Instruction	\$ 211,582.00
Student and Staff Support	\$ 1,074,375.00
System Administration	\$ 526,653.00
School Administration	\$ 565,170.00
Transportation and Buses	\$ 712,811.00
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 1,411,497.00
Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$ 193,031.00
All Other Expenditures	\$ 0.00
Summary of Total Authorized School Budget Expenditures:	\$ 10,348,492.00

Question 2: Cost Center Transfers. 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 2020-2021 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

Question 3: RSU Nutrition Program: Shall the Regional School Unit be authorized to raise and appropriate **\$194,000.00** 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.

Question 4: Capital Reserve Fund. Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$62,619.00** from available fund balances to the **Facilities Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund** and to expend up to **\$280,000.00** from said reserve

fund to continue the next phase of the roofing project and to complete the ESCO project?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

- Question 5:** **Capital Reserve Fund.** If the Governor orders a curtailment of state subsidy pursuant to Title 5, Section 1668 of the Maine Revised Statutes, shall the Board of Directors be authorized to transfer up to **\$100,000.00** from available funds in the existing Capital Reserve Fund to the Regional School Unit’s general fund undesignated fund balance to help offset the curtailment?
- Question 6:** **CTE Region Budget.** Shall the Regional 7 Waldo County Technical Center operating budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 be approved in the amount of **\$1,993,674.85**?
- Question 7:** **CTE Region Adult Ed Budget.** Shall the Regional 7 Waldo County Technical Center as approved by the Cooperative Board for adult education for the year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 be approved in the amount of **\$48,064.00**?

<p>Regional School Unit 20 does not discriminate in its education and employment programs on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry or national origin, age, genetic information, or disability and complies with Equal Employment Opportunities Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-261) amending Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000(e) et seq.), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352), Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq.), Equal Pay Act of 1963 (29 U.S.C. § 206), Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.), Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) (42 USC § 2000ff et seq.) and the Maine Human Rights Act (5 MRSA § 4551, et seq.). Inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies may be made to the Affirmative Action Officer at 6 Mortland Road, Searsport, ME 04974, telephone number 207-548-6643</p>
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2019-2020
Positive News and Happenings
AT SEARSPORT DISTRICT MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Citizens:

Those of us who serve your community by educating our youth are proud to provide you some positive happenings from the 2019-2020 school year.

The STEAM Lab: the MS/HS Makerspace, was very busy this year, both with individual and class projects. Additionally, student leaders of the "STEAM Lab crew," along with Tech.

Integrator Susan Capwell, was invited to present hands-on "MakerEd" learning at three different education conferences this year. This included at the New England League of Middle Schools annual conference, the regional middle-level education gathering, in Rhode Island and the state MLTI student conference, which launched an innovative virtual platform this year.

Guidance: Career and College Fair in October 2019 was a conference style event for 9-12th graders. Students could choose from 29 presentations to attend as well as attend a fair in the SDMHS library with over 35 representatives from colleges, military, as well as community employers. This event was planned through the High School Counseling Department as well as JMG. The JMG students helped Mrs. Hartley and Ms. Villies plan, organize, as well as host the event. High School Students went on visits to Eastern Maine Community College, Husson University as well as Job Corp for post secondary exploration in the Fall of 2019 and early spring 2020.

Ms. Waltz and Mrs. Hartley organized a virtual Mental Health Awareness Month which included informational web pages as well as videos. They plan to host Mental Health Awareness Month each year to foster awareness, reduce stigma, as well as provide information and resources to staff and students.

JMG: The Jobs for Maine Graduates program at Searsport District High school had an outstanding second year even through these hard times. JMG students started the year out on a strong note preparing for an overnight leadership conference. During this time they were able to network with different schools throughout our state as well as interact and learn from a variety of business leaders. Students were able to engage in different job tours learning about the aviation and boating industries and the multitude of career paths that are involved. Senior students were able to engage in off campus job shadows, diving deeper into their education through hands-on experience in their desired career fields. Students were also able to give back to their community by volunteering during Truck or Treat and having the honor prepare a hearty breakfast for Veterans day. Finally during this remote learning students had the opportunity to watch an assortment of career interviews explaining different professions and career paths.

MEA: The Maine Education Association has again provided books to all first graders across Maine as a way to promote a love of reading. This is the sixth year of the MEA program. According to the MEA website, "The MEA purchased the books with grants, including a Read Across America grant funded by the National Education Association." Our local association, Penobscot Bay Education Association is proud to be affiliated with the MEA and NEA.

Extra Curricular: Winter 2019-2020 - Eastern Maine Sports announced that the 2019 Searsport Baseball team was named the "Team of the Year," Makenzie Alley, was named the Eastern Maine Sports Female Player of the Week for Jan 27th - Feb 1st, Makenzie Alley - 2nd Team PVC Class C, Girls Basketball, Colby Snow - 3rd Team PVC Class C, Boys Basketball and Both Makenzie and Colby were named to the PVC all defensive teams, basketball

Fall 2019 -It was announced that John Frye had won the 2019 NFHS Maine Baseball Coach of the Year Award, Colby Snow and Abby Stemp - PVC All-First Team, Soccer, Gabe Kneeland, Daegan Moody, Isaias Therio and Makenzie Alley - PVC All-Second Team, Soccer. Colby Snow, Makenzie Alley, and Abby Stemp named as Class D South All-Stars. Colby also was recognized as an All State South selection. He was just one of two D players chosen for the south. 2019 Searsport Girls Soccer Team was named the Class D Sportsmanship Award Winner! Also, Searsport High School hosted the PVC Cross Country Championships

which had numerous volunteers which included students, staff and community members! Middle School - First year as a Co-Ed Soccer Team was very successful for our student athletes!

2019-2020 Participation Numbers:

School	Season	Participation - M	Participation - F	Total Participation
MS	Fall	33%	32%	32%
MS	Winter	35%	32%	33%
MS	Spring	41%	57%	50%
HS	Fall	29%	35%	31%
HS	Winter	28%	21%	25%
HS	Spring	32%	40%	35%

Here are some thoughts from our students in reference to going remote:

- Like being able to create own daily schedule, not having work due “by the hour”, but more “in the ballpark”
- This format could be used during snow days, and we wouldn’t have to make them up in June.
- Work was more simplified, more streamlined.
- Liked pacing guides for what we “should” be doing daily, but ultimately, students schedule themselves.
- Liked daily email reminders from those pacing guides.
- Liked shorter work times - like a homeschooler schedule, made it possible to also do college courses, manage responsibilities at home, etc.

Positive News and Happenings **AT SEARSPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Area	2019-2020 Happenings
SES- Music- Mrs. Bailey Art- Mrs. Harris P.E.- Mr. Hart Guidance-Mrs. Eastman Library- Mrs. Stanton Technology- Mrs. Redman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Buddies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ K&3, 1 & 5, 2&4, PreK & 2nd! • Nature Science Lessons with Miss Jenni from the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition • PBIS Golden Ticket Incentive Program • Veterans Day Performances • Fabulous work by families during remote learning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SES School Store
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author Michelle Houts visited and gave three presentations. One of her books that all students read, "Sea Glass Summer," has been nominated for the 2020-21 Maine Chickadee Book Award. We also participated in the Chickadee Awards for 19-20.
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th & 5th Chorus Winter Concert • 5th Grade Beginner Band • Music Helpers
ART	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In year two of the Open Art room, our SES artists came up with their own project ideas, independently gathered tools, materials, and explored. Students collaborated and problem solved with other artists in the studio. We focused on art skills, techniques, and topics in art history. Classes ended with the sharing of ideas, which would help to spark new ideas for next class. The drawing center was the center that stood out this year.
Kindergarten: Mrs. Given Mrs. Koelbl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magic circles with Ms. Eastman • Field trip to Treworgy Farms • Fabulous work by families during remote learning
1st Mrs. Brassbridge Mrs. Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special guidance lessons with Ms. Eastman • 100 Days of School Celebration • Remote Learning in many different ways • Remote Google Lunch Bunch (1W) and Class Meetings (1B)
2nd Ms. Gatcomb Mrs. Manning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Trip to Coastal Children's Museum • Winter Workshop with 4th grade • Gingerbread Houses with the Bartlett family • Volunteers throughout the year - retired staff, parents, and grandparents • Robotics with Mrs. Redman
3rd: Mrs. Gilmore Ms. Hafford Mr. Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weatherblurr collaboration with Maine, Alabama and Mississippi Schools and MMSA on Beach Trash. Both Ms Hafford and Mrs Gilmore were MMSA Mentor teachers for WeatherBlurr. Ms. Hafford is on the Teacher Leadership Team for Weatherblurr project 2020- 2021 • Intergenerational Programming collaboration with Bay View Nursing Home bi- weekly visits to the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nursing home Made necklaces with Bay View Nursing home to send to troops in VFW packages Virtual Field Trips with National Park services (Birds, Shoreline Discoveries) Virtual Field trips to Hurricane center, National Weather service, Mt Washington Weather Station, and Catskill Animal Sanctuary in New York - Farm discovery
4th Mrs. Seamans Mrs. Stanhope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Walked 100,000 steps -The Panda Flashmob with Ms. Eastman -Winter Workshop with second grade
5th Mrs. Legere Mrs. Jagger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance with Mrs. Eastman Mentoring of Kindergarten Students Student Council Christmas Bazaar Waldo County Tech Center JMG Interviews Dancing with Mrs. Eastman

We Honor Retiring Staff Members

Bonnie Dalton

Educational Technician

1987 TO 2020

William George

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6 MORTLAND ROAD
SEARSPORT, ME 04974

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AND POSTAL PATRON

