

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 71
2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE

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

The School Board of Regional School Unit No. 71 (the "Regional School Unit") has proposed a school operating budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order #56 FY 19/20, the budget meeting where these articles are typically presented has been replaced by a remote public hearing. The budget recommended by the School Board consists of the following Articles 1 through 15. 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
BY COST CENTER CATEGORY

ARTICLE 1:	Regular Instruction	\$	9,160,906.25
ARTICLE 2:	Special Education	\$	6,000,389.00
ARTICLE 3:	Career and Technical Education	\$	11,234.00
ARTICLE 4:	Other Instruction	\$	645,424.00
ARTICLE 5:	Student and Staff Support	\$	2,781,779.00
ARTICLE 6:	System Administration	\$	717,693.00
ARTICLE 7:	School Administration	\$	1,672,029.00
ARTICLE 8:	Transportation and Buses	\$	1,927,908.00
ARTICLE 9:	Facilities Maintenance	\$	3,520,477.00
ARTICLE 10:	Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$	1,830,454.42
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 20-A, section 15688.

Recommended amounts set forth below:

Total Appropriated (by municipality):		Total Raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):	
Belfast	\$ 11,071,149.49	Belfast	\$ 6,647,477.00
Belmont	\$ 1,969,176.79	Belmont	\$ 563,465.66
Morrill	\$ 1,879,668.75	f Morrill	\$ 551,877.34
Searsmont	\$ 2,444,563.91	Searsmont	\$ 1,346,837.00
Swanville	\$ 2,526,115.68	Swanville	\$ 983,099.66
Total Appropriated (sum of above)	\$ 19,890,674.62	Total Raised (sum of above)	\$ 10,092,756.66

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 **\$1,377,853.46** 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.

State Mandated 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.

ARTICLE 14: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit raise and appropriate **\$4,038,169.59** in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$4,038,169.59** 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 \$4,038,169.59: [26]

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 15: The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit authorize the School Board to expend **\$28,268,293.67** 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.

[continued on next page]

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. 71 appropriate the sum of **\$28,268,293.67** and raise the sum of **\$10,092,756.66** for the 2020-2021 school budget?

School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

VOTER INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 1:

The Regional School Unit No. 71 school budget submitted in this Question 1 totals **\$28,268,293.67**. It includes locally raised funds in the amount of **\$10,092,756.66**, 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 **\$4,038,169.59**. This budget includes these cost centers and amounts:

Cost Center	Amount Appropriated
Regular Instruction	\$ 9,160,906.25
Special Education	\$ 6,000,389.00
Career and Technical Education	\$ 11,234.00
Other Instruction	\$ 645,424.00
Student and Staff Support	\$ 2,781,779.00
System Administration	\$ 717,693.00
School Administration	\$ 1,672,029.00
Transportation and Buses	\$ 1,927,908.00
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 3,520,477.00
Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$ 1,830,454.42
All Other Expenditures	\$ 0.00
Summary of Total Authorized School Budget Expenditures:	\$ 28,268,293.67

Question 2: **School Nutrition Program.** Shall Regional School Unit No. 71 be authorized to appropriate up to **\$98,825.73** from available fund balances to transfer to 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.

VOTER INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 2:

Approval by the voters of Question 2 will not increase local assessments.

Question 3: **Adult Education Program.** Shall Regional School Unit No. 71 be authorized to appropriate **\$371,242.00** for adult education and raise **\$259,932.00** 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?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

VOTER INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 3:

Approval by the voters of Question 3 will increase local assessments as follows:
Belfast: \$171,191.22; Belmont: \$14,504.20; Morrill: \$14,218.28; Searsmont: \$34,674.93;
Swanville: \$25,343.37.

Question 4: **CTE Region Budget.** Shall the Region 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**?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

VOTER INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 4:

Approval by the voters of Question 4 will not increase local assessments.

Question 5: **CTE Region Adult Education Budget.** Shall the Region 7 Waldo County Technical Center approve a budget for adult education in the amount of **\$48,064.00** for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its adult education program?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

VOTER INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 5:

Approval by the voters of Question 5 will not increase local assessments.

Question 6: **Capital Improvement Fund.** Shall the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 71 be authorized to (i) expend up to **\$500,000.00** from the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of repairing and upgrading pool control units, operational panels and related computers, and (ii) in the event the Governor orders a curtailment of state subsidy pursuant to Title 5, Section 1668 of the Maine Revised Statutes, transfer up to **\$750,000.00** from the existing Capital Reserve Fund to the undesignated fund account to help offset the curtailment?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

VOTER INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 6:

Approval by the voters of Question 6 will not increase local assessments.