

To The Voters of RSU 54/MSAD 54:

The Directors have worked hard over the past several months to develop a budget that balances providing quality programs and services for our students while trying to create the least impact on local taxpayers in these extremely difficult economic times. With this in mind, the Board proposes a budget of \$37,390,496 for 2021-2022, an overall increase of \$724,248 or 1.975% more than the budget for 2020-2021.

The RSU 54/MSAD 54 Board of Directors' Local budget shows an increase of \$472,532 or 3.361% in overall **Local Assessments** for the 2021-2022 year, for a total of \$14,530,743.

The District-wide Local Assessment is (-\$629,074) or (-4.15%) lower than it was 16 years ago.

Since the cost of operating the District is shared among the members of the towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) on the basis of State Valuation, the actual amount of increase/decrease for each town varies between communities.

The 2021-2022 assessments, not including Adult Education, will increase as follows:

Canaan.....	\$43,042	Mercer.....	\$12,853	Skowhegan.....	\$238,296
Cornville....	\$58,205	Norridgewock...	\$85,742	Smithfield.....	\$34,034

The Legislature, twelve years ago, passed laws that mandate a change in how local districts approve their school budgets. Consequently, the RSU 54/MSAD 54 budget process will again be in two parts. First, there will be a [District Budget Meeting held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Gymnasium](#). At this meeting, citizens will be voting on three (3) Appropriations Articles, eleven (11) Expenditure Articles, a Summary Article, and three additional articles including authorization to accept funds/donations, fund adult education, and authorization for the Directors to transfer funds between cost centers when appropriate. This meeting will be followed by a [Referendum Vote on Tuesday, June 8, 2021](#), in each municipality where voters will vote on **Article 1**, a single “yes” or “no” question, which will validate the action that took place at the May 25, 2021 meeting.

[Articles 1-11](#) requests authorization for the Board of Directors of RSU 54/MSAD 54 to spend the funds raised in Articles 12-14.

See Articles online at www.msad54.org or obtain copies at each town office, the RSU 54/MSAD 54 Superintendent's Office and/or schools.

[Article 12](#) represents the District's contribution to the total costs of funding public education for Kindergarten to Grade 12, as described in the EPS Funding Act. These amounts of money, as determined by State law, are the minimum amounts the District must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of State subsidy dollars.

State Share: \$21,205,253 Local Share: \$14,530,743

[Article 13](#) requests authorization to raise and appropriate funds to pay Debt Service payments on school construction projects that were previously approved by District Voters but receive no State Subsidy. These costs are recognized by the EPS Funding Formula. \$21,659

[Article 14](#) requests authorization to raise and appropriate additional Local Funds to pay for the total costs of RSU 54/MSAD 54 public education. Part of these funds represent the money needed to cover the State's shortfall in its share of funding the EPS model, and part is needed to cover costs of operating District schools that the State funding model does not recognize. Additional Local: \$1,592,781

[Article 15](#) requests authorization to expend the total approved school budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. \$37,390,496

[Article 16](#) requests funds for Adult Education. Total: \$333,258 Local: \$118,000

[Article 17](#) requests authorization to expend gifts or grants and other receipts that the Board might receive during the year. Although these amounts are unknown, funds are anticipated for the Title I Program and from Special Educational Local Entitlement.

[Article 18](#) requests authorization to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, providing that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget.

The Board of Directors of RSU 54/MSAD 54 urges all voters to attend the District Budget Meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at Skowhegan Area High School at 7:00 p.m. and to Vote in the Validation Referendum on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, in your own municipality. Absentee Ballots will be available in your town office starting May 26th.

2021-2022 BUDGET PROPOSAL
District Budget Meeting
Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Skowhegan Area High School
and
School Budget Validation Referendum
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
Polls Open:

Canaan – 8:00 am to 7:00 pm
Cornville – 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Mercer – 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Norridgewock – 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
Skowhegan – 7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Smithfield – 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Detailed backup for this proposal is available at www.msad54.org as well as at the Superintendent's Office and/or your town office