

To the Voters of RSU 54/MSAD 54:

The Board of Directors has 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 as a result of COVID-19 pandemic. With this in mind, the Board proposes an overall budget of \$36,666,248 for 2020-2021, an overall decrease of (-\$101,678) or (-0.277%) less than the budget for 2019-2020.

The RSU 54/MSAD 54 Board of Directors' Local budget shows a decrease of (-\$182,073) or (-1.2786%) in overall **Local Assessments** for the 2020-2021 year, for a total of \$14,058,211.

The District-wide Local Assessment is (-\$1,101,607) or (-7.27%) lower than it was 17 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 2020-2021 assessments, not including Adult Education, will increase/decrease as follows:

Canaan.....	(-\$21,908)	Mercer.....	(-\$7,192)	Skowhegan.....	(-\$189,688)
Cornville....	\$24,931	Norridgewock...	\$21,185	Smithfield.....	(-\$9,401)

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the normal budget approval process will be a little different this year. First, instead of an in-person District Budget Meeting, we will be holding a Remote Public Hearing on **Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 7:00 pm**, where the public may provide comment/input on the proposed 2020-2021 School Budget. Directions for joining the Remote Public Hearing may be found on the District website at www.msad54.org. This Remote Public Hearing will be followed by a Referendum Vote on **Tuesday, July 14, 2020**, in each municipality, where voters will vote on Question 1, a single "yes" or "no" question on the school budget as proposed by the RSU 54/MSAD 54 School Board.

QUESTION 1: The school budget submitted in this Question 1 totals \$36,666,248.00. It includes locally raised funds in the amount of \$14,058,211.00, to be assessed in shares to member municipalities in accordance with the District's cost sharing formula and state law. The locally raised amount exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$1,085,521.30 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

Articles 1-11 requests authorization for the Board of Directors of RSU 54/MSAD 54 to spend the funds raised in Articles 12-15.

See Budget 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: \$20,933,007 Local Share: \$12,950,303

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. \$22,386.70

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: \$1,085,521.30**

Article 15 requests authorization to expend the total approved school budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. \$36,666,248

QUESTION 2 asks permission to transfer expenditures between articles in case of budget shortfalls due to any potential revenue shortfalls, and not to be permitted to increase the authorized total budget.

QUESTION 3 requests funds for Adult Education. **Total: \$356,925 Local: \$118,000**

The Board of Directors of RSU 54/MSAD 54 urges all voters to participate in the Remote District Public Hearing on **Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., and to Vote in the Budget Referendum on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, in your own municipality.** Absentee Ballots will be available in your town office starting June 12th.

2020-2021 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Remote Budget Meeting

To access the remote public hearing or to participate (provide comment/input):

Follow the instructions to access and participate in the public hearing as provided on the RSU 54/MSAD 54 website at: <http://www.msad54.org/board-committee-meeting-calendar>

School Budget Referendum Vote

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Polls Open:

- Canaan – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Cornville – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Mercer – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Norridgewock – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Skowhegan – 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Smithfield – 7:45 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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