REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38 | MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent · 45 Millard Harrison Drive, Readfield, ME 04355
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA
NOVEMBER 4, 2026 | 5:30 P.M. | MCMS CAFETERIA | ZOOM
BOARD GOALS 2026-2027

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(B) to discuss a student readmission following expulsion**
    a. Action on student readmission, if needed
4. **Citizens' Comments**
5. **Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent**
6. **Reports/Updates**
    a. Celebrations
    b. Reports
    - Student Representatives
    - Special Education Director
    - Superintendent
    - Elementary Principals*
    - Finance Director

    c. Subcommittee Upcoming Meetings/Minutes
        i. Budget- 12/9 @ 6-7:30 p.m. - Central Office
        ii. Curriculum -11/17 @ 3-4:30 p.m. - Central Office
        iii. Facilities & Transportation - 12/9 @ 6-7:30 p.m. - Central Office
        iv. Policy - 3/11 @ 4-5:30 p.m. - Central Office
        v. Awesome Bear Society - 11/11 @ 6:30 p.m. HS Media Center
7. **Presentation: Maine School Safety Center, Jack Peck & Michele Legare**
8. **Action/Discussion/Informational Items**
    a. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes October 21, 2026
    b. Acceptance of Donations
    c. MSMA Fall Conference Reports from Board attendees
9. **Executive Sessions**:
    a. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(D) to discuss the agreement between the RSU 38 Board of Directors and the RSU 38 Administrators
    b. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(D) to discuss the labor contract between the RSU 38 Board of Directors and the Maranacook Area Staff Association (Professional Staff)
    c. Actions Following Executive Sessions (if any)
10. **Adjournment**

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November Elementary Principals' Report
November 4th, 2026
Michelle Hood (MES)
Jeanette Jacobs (MVES/WES)
Jeff Boston (RES)

	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
MES	15	18	13	25	21	27	27	146
RES	15/13	11/12	14	11/11	16/16	12/13	12/12	168
MTV	6 Attending RES	8	11	13	11	13	16	72
WES	7 Attending RES	5	11	9	13	6	8	52

Curriculum Night and Title One Meeting

All four elementary schools hosted Title I meetings for families from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, followed by Curriculum Night from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. During the Title I meetings, principals and literacy and math interventionists explained the assessments used to identify eligible students and described how interventions would be provided to individual students and small groups. They also shared ways families could support their students at home, and parents had time to ask questions. The goal of the meetings was to strengthen communication between parents and interventionists in support of students.

Following the Title I meetings, all classrooms were open for **Curriculum Night** where teachers shared slideshows reviewing classroom norms and expectations, curriculum units and standards for reading, writing, math, science, social studies and BARR lessons for BARR schools. Students also had the opportunity to share their work with families. Teachers shared resources and other helpful ways families can partner with us on their child's learning journey.

Elementary Parent/Teacher Organizations

Each of the four elementary schools has a Parent/Teacher Committee that meets monthly. These committees provide a great deal of support for the schools. They fundraise to pay for field trips and enrichment events for the schools. Often they are the force behind Scholastic Book Fairs, dances, and other annual school events. As a

school community, we are grateful for their time and energy, which bring such special events to our schools. Thank you to each of these wonderful organizations!

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

An essential aspect of our district's approach to fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment is Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a proactive strategy we employ to ensure that every student feels valued, safe, and ready to learn. Positive Behavior Supports is a framework designed to promote and reinforce positive behaviors in our students. It is based on the idea that when we emphasize and reward desirable behavior, we create a more harmonious and productive school environment for everyone. We believe that PBIS not only promotes a respectful and cooperative atmosphere but also equips students with essential life skills that extend beyond the classroom.

Benchmark Assessments

Benchmark assessments wrap up in the month of October. These assessments serve as critical data collection points within the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework across all elementary schools. Our district administers Acadience Reading, Acadience Math, and NWEA MAP Reading and Mathematics assessments three times per year to systematically monitor student progress and identify those at risk of not meeting grade-level expectations.

Acadience assessments measure foundational literacy and numeracy skills, while NWEA MAP provides adaptive measures of reading comprehension and mathematical reasoning abilities. Within our MTSS framework, these benchmark results are analyzed alongside classroom data and teacher observations to create comprehensive student profiles that inform data-driven instructional decisions.

October 9 Workshop Day

On October 9, faculty took part in their portion of the district’s strategic planning process, sharing their perspectives on district strengths, needs, and priorities]. Because teachers and staff work most closely with students every day, their insight is essential to building a plan that reflects what our students truly need. Their input will [be combined with feedback from families, students, and the community to shape the district’s priorities].

Staff also spent time completing self-assessments [using the Marshall rubrics] and

setting professional goals. Together, these steps help make sure that both our district plan and our individual practices stay focused on supporting student learning.

Fire Prevention Week & Bus Evacuation Drills

October was a busy month for safety across our district! During Fire Prevention Week, local fire departments visited our schools, and students got to meet their local firefighters while learning what to do in an emergency. Each school followed up with a combined building and bus evacuation drill: students evacuated the building, loaded the buses, and then practiced a bus evacuation led by our drivers. A big thank you to our firefighters for visiting, to our bus drivers for leading the drills, and to our staff and students for taking them seriously. Practicing these steps when things are calm helps everyone know what to do if an emergency ever happens.

Grade Level PLC Meetings

Elementary grade-level teams recently participated in productive half-day Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings focused on strengthening curriculum alignment, supporting student learning, and enhancing collaboration among teachers. These dedicated meeting times provide valuable opportunities for educators to reflect on current practices, share ideas, and work collectively toward improving instructional consistency across grade levels.

During these sessions, teams collaborated to review and revise curriculum maps, discuss instructional pacing, and identify grade-specific areas of focus or concern. Teachers shared insights about what was working well in their classrooms, discussed challenges, and considered strategies and resources to better meet the diverse academic needs of their students. These conversations help ensure that instruction remains purposeful, standards-based, and responsive to student progress.

Several grade-level teams also reviewed their report cards and revised how specific grade-level standards are communicated to families. This work is an important step toward ensuring that reporting practices are closely aligned with the curriculum and that families have a clearer understanding of the skills, concepts, and learning expectations addressed during each trimester. Clear and consistent reporting strengthens the partnership between school and home by providing families with more meaningful information about their children's academic progress.

In addition to curriculum and reporting, PLC meetings provided time for teachers to establish shared expectations, compare instructional approaches, and strengthen

vertical and horizontal alignment. This collaborative work helps create greater continuity for students as they move from one grade level to the next, while also allowing teachers to learn from one another and build on the collective expertise of their teams.

Overall, the half-day PLC meetings were a valuable investment in professional collaboration and continuous improvement. The work completed reflects our commitment to providing high-quality, standards-aligned instruction and ensuring that all students have access to consistent learning expectations and meaningful opportunities for growth. Continued PLC collaboration will help us monitor student needs, refine instructional practices, and maintain a shared focus on student achievement.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are just around the corner! Elementary secretaries have sent out Pick-A-Time information electronically to all parents. Conferences will be taking place on November 12th and November 19th. Our time slots will be from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Each faculty will be prepared to review student academic progress with parents. In the event that parents cannot attend conferences, they are asked to contact their child's teacher to arrange for another date and time that is mutually agreeable. We are looking forward to this opportunity and building an educational partnership with our parents to benefit their child.

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO 38
WARRANT ARTICLE RECONCILIATION

Report # 72123

Statement Code: WarrArtRec

Account Number / Description	Approved Budget 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2027	Revised Budget 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2027	Expended 7/1/2026 - 10/31/2026	Encumbered 7/1/2026 - 10/31/2026	Amount Remaining 7/1/2026 - 10/31/2026	Percent Remaining 7/1/2026 - 10/31/2026
ARTICLE 2 REGULAR INSTRUCTION	**$9,442,964.91**	**$9,442,964.91**	**$2,698,208.67**	**$30,941.53**	**$6,713,814.71**	**71.09%**
ARTICLE 3 SPECIAL EDUCATION	**$3,802,010.57**	**$3,802,010.57**	**$868,510.30**	**$717.44**	**$2,932,782.83**	**77.13%**
ARTICLE 4 CTE INSTRUCTION	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	---
ARTICLE 5 OTHER INSTRUCTION	**$658,562.65**	**$658,562.65**	**$152,613.95**	**$117.94**	**$505,830.76**	**76.80%**
ARTICLE 6 STUDENT & STAFF SUPP	**$2,479,733.97**	**$2,479,733.97**	**$772,631.43**	**$12,489.47**	**$1,694,613.07**	**68.33%**
ARTICLE 7 SYSTEM ADMIN	**$847,365.51**	**$847,365.51**	**$305,197.27**	**$8,471.15**	**$533,697.09**	**62.98%**
ARTICLE 8 SCHOOL ADMIN	**$1,440,086.30**	**$1,440,086.30**	**$448,012.62**	**$2,510.69**	**$989,562.99**	**68.71%**
ARTICLE 9 TRANSPORTATION	**$1,340,162.15**	**$1,340,162.15**	**$336,926.21**	**$21,890.96**	**$981,344.98**	**73.22%**
ARTICLE 10 OPER/MAINT OF PLANT	**$4,031,360.60**	**$4,031,360.60**	**$1,541,180.58**	**$500,154.07**	**$1,990,025.95**	**49.36%**
ARTICLE 11 DEBT SERVICE PYMNTS	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	---
ARTICLE 12 ALL OTHER EXP	**$114,337.20**	**$114,337.20**	**$1,700.84**	**$0.00**	**$112,636.36**	**98.51%**
GRAND TOTAL	**$24,156,583.86**	**$24,156,583.86**	**$7,124,981.87**	**$577,293.25**	**$16,454,308.74**	**68.11%**

Superintendent's Office

Dr. Karen G. Smith
Superintendent of Schools

Michelle Lake
Assistant Superintendent
McKinney-Vento Liaison

Amy Therrien
Administrative Assistant

Christina Michaud
Human Resources Specialist

Finance Department

Beth Christopher
Director of Finance

Shari Ouellette
Payroll Specialist

Dawne Townsend
Accounts Payable Specialist

Special Education Office

Ryan Meserve
Special Education Director

Nicole Fyfe
Administrative Assistant

45 Millard Harrison Drive
Readifeld, ME 04355
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November Board Report

Dear RSU #38 School Board:

With this Board report I want to explain how the transfer student process works for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). By explaining this process in more detail, I think it illustrates just how much goes into when a new student with an IEP moves in. As many of you know, special education services are heavily regulated and carry with them protections for students and parents that support the child in being able to access their education through IEP supports and services. There are federal and state regulations that guide us, and one of those requirements is that anytime a new student with an IEP transfers into RSU #38 we follow a Transfer IEP process that ensures the student can receive a comparable program to what they were getting in their previous school.

From the registration of the student to the start of their classes there are many parts that come into play. Staff throughout the district support that this effort is done in a timely manner, and in a way that best supports the students. Upon registering, if special education services are indicated, the building secretaries notify the special education office and the previous school that we need records to review. Once those records are received the student's special education team reviews the file, works with the other building staff to set-up IEP supports, and then must also set up a formal IEP Team meeting to officially transfer the student's plan into RSU #38. Our internal process sets a deadline for this student transfer IEP meeting to occur within 15 school days. For some students this may be a simple process, one that doesn't require drastic shifts in current programming. However, some students require more intensive programming, have two or three files that must be reviewed, and their IEPs must be implemented promptly. This process takes time, collaboration, and flexibility for all staff involved. At times, the need to shift/increase staffing to meet the incoming IEP needs is also necessary to consider.

In addition to all these new students and families we are welcoming to RSU #38, we are also continuing to provide programming for our current students. I'm very thankful to all staff, from the building secretary, principals, classroom teachers and special education staff, who do a great job in making these student transitions so positive for the students and family.

Sincerely,

Ryan Meserve
RSU #38 Special Education Director

RSU 38 Maranacook Area Schools
Superintendent's Report
November 4, 2026

To: Members of the RSU 38 Board of Directors **From: Dr. Karen G. Smith**

🧭 Strategic Planning & Facilities Study UpdateUpdate

Our work with NESDEC continues on schedule. As a reminder, the engagement includes two scopes of work under one agreement: a new five-year Strategic Plan focused on student educational outcomes and a Best Educational Use of School Facilities Study. The district's last strategic plan concluded in 2024. This process is designed to build a shared vision for the district that guides our decisions for years to come.

📍 **Where we have been.** The Community Planning Committee was seated in August with 17 members drawn by blind lottery from 58 interest forms, with membership from all four towns: Manchester 4, Mount Vernon 5, Readfield 4, and Wayne 4. The committee includes residents, staff, parents, grandparents, and current and former Board members. It met with Dr. David DeRuosi in August, and the District Leadership Team and the Community Planning Committee each held visioning sessions on August 19.

👥Community Planning Committee Members

- **Manchester:** Terri Watson, Erika Wing, Susan Farmer, Tuesdae Masse
- **Mount Vernon:** Dan Holman, Debbie Baeder, Melanie Hall, Cathy Jacobs, Jeanette Jacobs
- **Readfield:** Vanessa Freeman, Tom Molokie, Steven Hayes, Hannah Flannery
- **Wayne:** Amy Tucker, Cheryl Lang, Steve Saunders, Jessica Leighton

This fall, NESDEC gathered input from across our communities:

- Community forums for each member town were held at the high school cafeteria: Manchester (Sept. 24), Mount Vernon (Sept. 30), Readfield (Oct. 1), and Wayne (Oct. 8).
- All staff took part in visioning sessions on Sept. 30 and Oct. 9.
- Students in grades 6–12 completed a NESDEC survey during advisory in October.

NESDEC is now reviewing input from the community forums, staff visioning sessions, and student survey to identify common themes across our communities. Those themes will start the next phase of the work.

🏫 **Facilities study.** The Leadership Team completed NESDEC's detailed data forms for all six schools. NESDEC has conducted its building reviews and is gathering enrollment and housing data from each town for its demographic projections. This study will be completed separately from the strategic plan and will offer options for the Board's consideration.

➡️ **What comes next.** The District Leadership Team and the Community Planning Committee will meet in joint working sessions on November 9 and 16 to begin setting goals around the major themes. The timeline ahead:

- December 2026: draft strategic initiatives
- January–February 2027: draft vision, mission, and core values
- March 2027: final plan presented to the Board, timed to inform the FY28 budget

Thank you to the Community Planning Committee members for their commitment to this work, and to the residents, staff, and students who shared their thinking this fall.

💰FY28 Budget Process & Timeline

The goal for this year's budget is "to maintain fiscal responsibility while balancing the needs of all members of the RSU 38 communities." The 2026–27 total budget of $24,156,584 serves as our starting point. Salaries and benefits make up about 80% of that total, and we will build in benefit rates, the ED 279, and negotiated agreements as they are confirmed. The Leadership Team is developing initial budget requests in November. The Budget Committee reviews requests and each draft, ties spending to district goals, and makes recommendations to the Board. The committee's role is advisory, and the full Board makes all budget decisions.

The budget process moves through three phases. During the Build phase, from October through December, administration develops budget requests, and the Budget Committee sets budget parameters in December. In the Deliberate phase, from January through April, the Budget Committee makes recommendations, and the Board reviews the first, second, and third drafts. The process concludes with the Adopt phase, from April through June, which includes the Board vote, the Annual Budget Meeting, and the Town Referendum.

Key Dates (Board meetings are held in the Middle School Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m)

- January 27: First Draft
- February 24: Second Draft, with Select Boards
- March 24: Third Draft
- April 14: Final Draft and Board Vote
- May 12: Annual Budget Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- June 8: Town Referendum
- June 9: Board accepts referendum results

Budget Committee meetings are scheduled for December 9, January 6, January 20, February 10, March 3, March 17, and April 7.

All FY28 budget materials will be posted on the district website throughout the budget season: https://sites.google.com/maranacook.com/rsu38budget/home

📅 Attendance (As of October 30, 2026)

As of October 1, 2026, 76.9% of RSU 38 students had good attendance (absent less than 5% of school days), compared with 80.3% at the same point last year. The chronically absent rate rose from 9.1% to 11.1%, and the severely chronically absent rate rose from 3.7% to 4.6%, so 15.7% of students are now chronically or severely chronically absent, up from 12.8% a year ago. The at-risk group held nearly steady (7.0% to 7.3%). Because these are early-year figures, a small number of absences can shift the percentages, and building leaders will continue to monitor attendance closely as the year progresses.

🎃 Central Office Spirit

Central Office celebrated Halloween as a full box of crayons, with each staff member in a different color and wearing a crayon-tip hat and star-shaped glasses. The group posed in front of a Maranacook Area Schools bus for a colorful photo. It was a lighthearted reminder that the people behind the scenes in our district office bring creativity and good humor to their work, and that every color plays a part in our school community.



📈Enrollment and Student Residency Report: October 1, 2026 Count

This report summarizes the district's October 1, 2026 enrollment, including resident students; home instruction rates by town compared with surrounding districts; and elementary students attending school outside their hometown.

- Total enrollment is **1,109**. Of these, 1,001 are residents of the four member towns and 108 (9.7%) come from outside them: 70 Fayette tuition students and 38 students on superintendent agreements from 11 school districts.
- Of the 1,147 school-age children living in the four member towns, **87.3% attend RSU 38**, 7.5% are in home instruction, and 5.2% attend another public, charter, or private school.
- Superintendent agreements bring in 38 students and send out 60, a **net difference of 22 students**.
- RSU 38's home instruction rate is **7.91%**. Rates vary by town, from 5.03% in Manchester to 10.34% in Readfield. Home instruction counts for ten neighboring districts are included for context.
- 32 elementary students attend an RSU 38 elementary school outside their hometown, most of them at Readfield Elementary.

Enrollment on October 1, 2026

Group	Students	Share
Readfield residents	338	30.5%
Manchester residents	321	28.9%
Mount Vernon residents	203	18.3%
Wayne residents	139	12.5%
Fayette tuition students (grades 6–12)	70	6.3%
Incoming superintendent agreements	38	3.4%
Total enrollment	**1,109**	**100.0%**

Incoming Superintendent Agreements

Sending district	Students	Share
Winthrop	10	26.3%
Augusta	6	15.8%
RSU 2	5	13.2%
RSU 9	4	10.5%
RSU 73	3	7.9%
RSU 4	2	5.3%
RSU 11	2	5.3%
RSU 52	2	5.3%
Fayette	2	5.3%
RSU 18	1	2.6%
Lewiston	1	2.6%
Total	**38**	**100.0%**

The 38 students attending RSU 38 on superintendent agreements come from 11 school districts. Winthrop and Augusta together account for 16 (42%).

Where Resident Students Are Educated

Resident school-age children	Students	Share
Attending RSU 38	1,001	87.3%
Home instruction	86	7.5%
Other public, charter, or private school	60	5.2%
Total residents	**1,147**	**100.0%**

Home Instruction by Town

Town	Home instruction	Rate	Share of district total
Readfield	39	10.34%	45%
Mount Vernon	18	8.14%	21%
Wayne	12	7.95%	14%
Manchester	17	5.03%	20%
District total	**86**	**7.91%**	**100%**

Rate = students in home instruction ÷ (resident students enrolled in RSU 38 + students in home instruction), using October 1, 2026 counts.

Home Instruction in Neighboring Districts

District	Students in home instruction
Augusta	167
RSU 9	161
RSU 73	160
RSU 18	154
RSU 54	152
RSU 10	144
RSU 52	134
Waterville	98
RSU 38	**86**
Winthrop	83
Winslow	76

The table shows the number of students in home instruction in RSU 38 and ten neighboring districts for 2026–27. These are counts, not rates. Districts differ considerably in size, and comparable resident enrollment figures are not available for each district, so percentages are not calculated, and the counts should not be compared directly. RSU 38's rate in Section 4 is based on the district's own October 1, 2026 resident counts.

Elementary Students Attending Outside Their Hometown

Students	Attending	Number
Mount Vernon residents	Readfield and Manchester Elementary	15
Wayne residents	Readfield Elementary	9
Manchester residents	Readfield Elementary	4
Readfield residents	Manchester Elementary	4
Total		**32**

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38 | MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent · 45 Millard Harrison Drive, Readfield, ME 04355
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2026 | 6:30 P.M. | MCMS CAFETERIA

Board Members: [Board Goals 2026-2027]

☑ Wendy Brotherlin	☑ Patricia Clark	☑ Kristin DuBois
☑ Noah Easter	☑ Andrew Gorrill	☑ Jessica Gorton
☑ David Guillemette	☑ Dan Holman	☑ Chip Jones
☑ Leslie Marco	☑ Brian Tarbuck	☑ David Twitchell
☐ Chad Wight	☐ Eva Morrill *(Student)*	☐ Connor Hebert *(Student)*

Administrators/Directors Present:

☑ Michelle Lake	☑ Diane MacGregor	☑ Ryan Meserve
☑ Steve Vose	☑ Jason Sirois	☑ Karen Smith
	☑ Beth Christopher	

1. Call to Order - 6:31 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent

4. FY28 Budget Process Overview (Superintendent Karen Smith & Finance Director Beth Christopher)

5. Action/Discussion/Informational Items

a. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes October 7, 2026

Move to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from October 7, 2026, as presented.

1. Motion: David G.
2. Second: Noah E.
3. Vote: 12 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain (Passed)

b. Acceptance of Donations through October 15, 2026

Move to accept the donations through October 15, 2026, as presented.

1. Motion: Patricia C.
2. Second: Noah E.
3. Vote: 12 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain (Passed)

c. Approval of Policy – Second Readings

Move to approve Policy Second Readings: EBCF Automated External Defibrillators JLF Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting, Prevention, and Education, JLF-E Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Forms, JLF-R Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Administrative Procedure as recommended by the Policy Committee.

1. Motion: Andrew G.
2. Second: Noah E.
3. Vote: 12 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain (Passed)

6. Citizens' Comments

a. Eric Dyer, Readfield
   i. Proposal and request from Readfield Select Board*
b. Sean Keegan, Readfield
   i. Reiterated Readfield Select Board proposal and request

7. Adjournment - 7:04 PM

*Attachments

TOWN OF READFIELD
8 OLD KENTS HILL ROAD, READFIELD, MAINE 04355
Office (207) 685-4939 Fax (207) 685-3420
Website: www.readfieldmaine.gov

TO: RSU #38 Board of Directors & Superintendent
FROM: Readfield Select Board and Town Manager
DATE: September 14, 2026
SUBJECT: Support for Regional School District #38 Consolidation and Efficiency Efforts

Dear Members of the RSU #38 Board and Superintendent Smith,

The Readfield Select Board is writing to express our strong support for proactive reorganization and consolidation efforts across our regional school unit. We recognize that maintaining high educational standards alongside fiscal responsibility requires decisive action given our community's changing demographic reality.

Readfield's demographic profile has shifted significantly in recent years. Between 2011 and 2024, our population aged 65 and older doubled from 10.7% to 22.3% of total residents according to American Community Survey data. Simultaneously, home prices surged by 148% from 2015 to 2025 while household incomes rose by only 28%, as reported by the Maine State Housing Authority. High housing costs have created severe affordability barriers for young families, coupled with a declining regional birth rate, have resulted in shrinking school enrollment across all member towns in the district. These changes are not temporary and are likely to persist regionally for decades.

Declining student enrollment poses a dual threat to our public schools. Without structural changes, a shrinking student body leads to reduced program offerings and declining educational quality district wide. Furthermore, state school funding formulas penalize districts facing lower enrollment and rising property valuations, leading to a steady drop in state assistance. Left unaddressed, these factors will inevitably result in unsustainable, skyrocketing per-pupil education costs for local taxpayers. Compounding the enrollment dynamic is the increasing age of our school buildings, which directly and negatively impacts both the education environment and cost of operation.

We applaud the current Strategic Planning effort; however, non-binding visioning is only one of many concurrent actions needed to address multi-year challenges. Given the crush of the housing crisis and undeniable population trends in our RSU community immediate action is needed to position our district on the long arc toward sustainability. There is little value in opening windows through planning and community engagement efforts while leaving doors locked against substantive action.

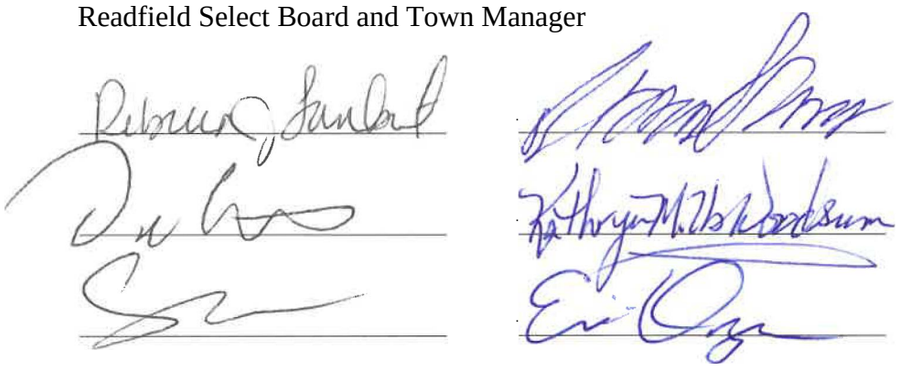
To safeguard both the quality of local education and the financial health of our residents, we strongly encourage the RSU Board to prioritize efficiency through district reorganization. This includes consolidating operations and addressing underutilized or inefficient facilities through the annual budget process where necessary.

We further respectfully request that the RSU Board vote to prepare closure plans all four elementary schools in the district pursuant to the provisions of Section 13g of the 2009 School Reorganization Plan, and budget funds for the required data collection process. This exploratory action was fully contemplated and wisely permitted when the RSU was created through the voter approved plan. It is the first and legally required step to give the RSU Board and RSU community timely access to data-informed options that will simply not exist otherwise, and must take a minimum of two years before any action can even be considered.

We appreciate your dedicated leadership and look forward to collaborating with the Board to support a sustainable, high-quality public education system for our region's children.

Sincerely,

Readfield Select Board and Town Manager



Ten Year Period Median Age Comparison

Data dericed from US Census Bureau - census.gov

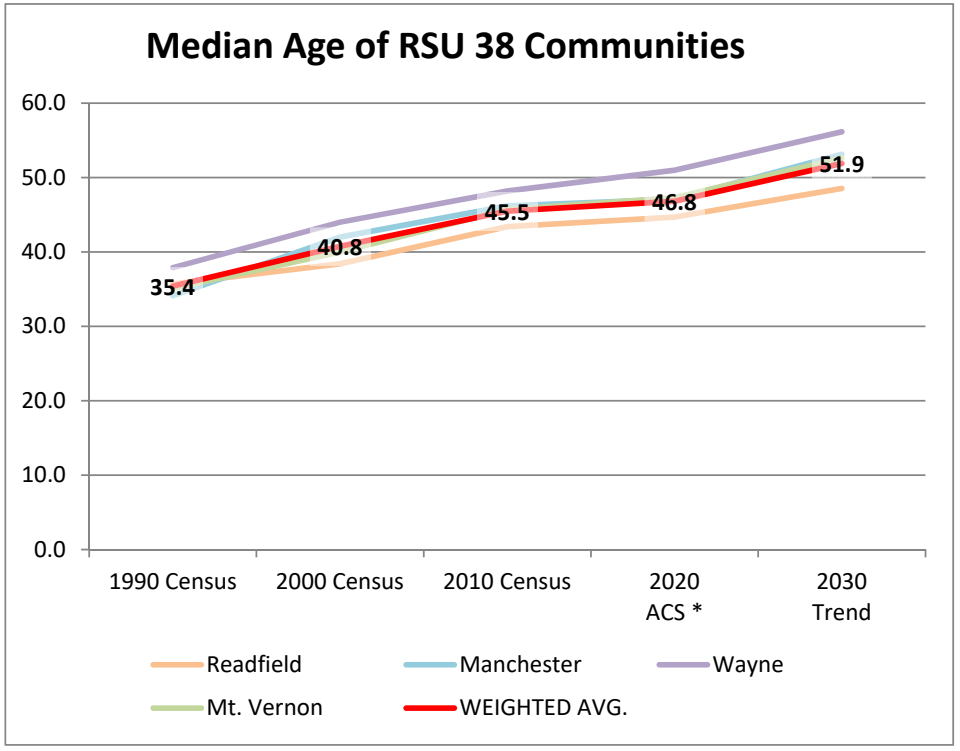
Town	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	2020 ACS *	2030 Trend
Readfield	35.7	38.4	43.4	44.7	48.6
Manchester	34.1	42.0	46.2	47.1	53.2
Wayne	37.9	44.0	48.2	51.0	56.2
Mt. Vernon	35.1	40.0	45.7	47.3	52.6
WEIGHTED AVG.	35.4	40.8	45.5	46.8	51.9

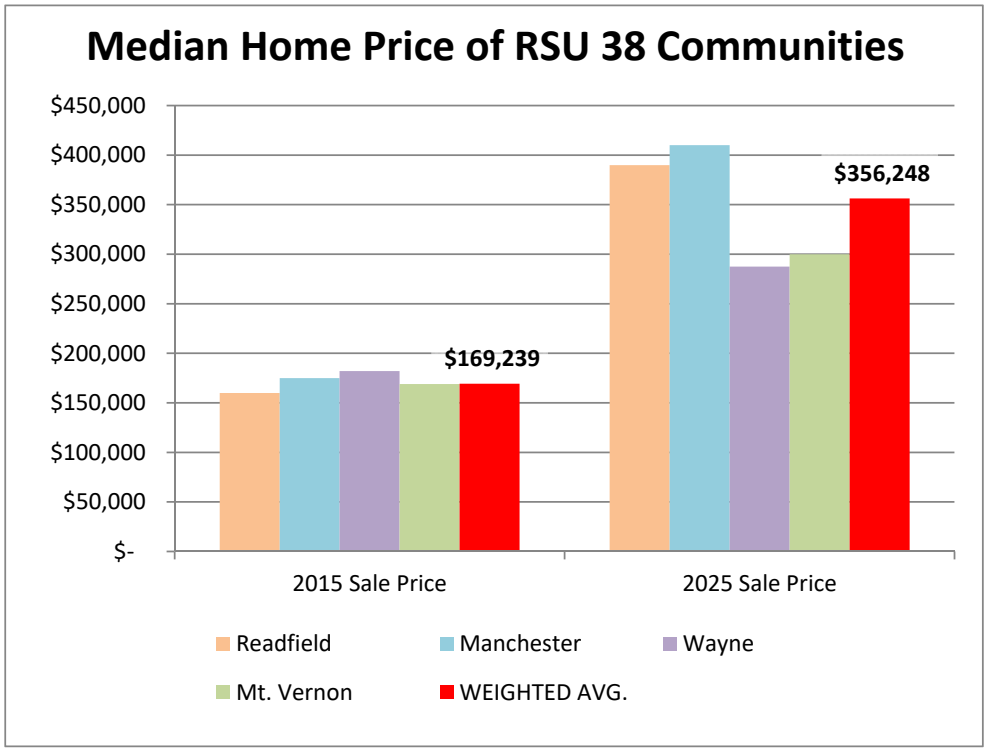
** ACS data contains inherent variance that disproportionally affects smaller populations*

Median Home Price Comparison

Data Source: https://www.mainehousing.org/data-research/housing-data

Town	2015 # of Sales	2015 Sale Price	2025 # of Sales	2025 Sale Price	% Change
Readfield	45	$160,000	27	$389,900	144%
Manchester	49	$175,000	36	$410,000	134%
Wayne	11	$182,000	16	$287,500	58%
Mt. Vernon	24	$168,950	31	$300,000	78%
WEIGHTED AVG.	32	$169,239	28	$356,248	111%





REORGANIZATION PLAN

SAU Submitting:	Town of Manchester, a municipal school unit; Town of Mount Vernon, a municipal school unit; Town of Readfield, a municipal school unit; Town of Wayne, a municipal school unit; and Community School District 10
Contact Information:	Richard A. Abramson, Interim Secretary
Date Submitted by SAU:	February 12, 2009
Proposed RSU Operational Date:	July 1, 2009

Preamble

We believe that these principles of school governance and financing are central to the efficient and productive operation of school systems:

1) Local schools are a central element of the identity of Maine communities. They should be preserved, and should continue to function as community centers after consolidation. It is important, therefore, that there continue to be schools that are strongly identified with their communities, such as Manchester Elementary School, Mt. Vernon Elementary School, Readfield Elementary School, Wayne Elementary School, and Maranacook Middle and High Schools.

2) Local communities should continue as stewards of their schools by having influence over the money spent for education and being able to invest additional community resources to make their local schools high functioning and unique.

3) We must consolidate administrative and other operational functions so that scarce taxpayer resources can be concentrated on providing students with a high quality education.

4) Our school system accepts all students and provides all students within the system with the best education possible so that each has the opportunity to be a valued, contributing member of our society.

Statutory Citations: Citations to "Section" (e.g., "Section XXXX36") refer to the school reorganization law, P.L. 2007 Ch. 240 as amended, unless otherwise indicated.

1, 2009, are determined to be necessary within the meaning of Section XXXX-36(5)(M) and that the Superintendent of Schools be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to submit the school reorganization plan to the Commissioner of Education on behalf of this school administrative unit by December 10, 2008.

g) **School Closure Policy.**

i) The RSU School Board (the Board) recognizes the central role that a school can play in the social and economic health of a community. The purpose of this policy is to insure that any school closure proposal occurs in a reasonable and deliberate manner. The following policy prescribes the procedure to be followed for any school closure process before the matter may be brought to the full RSU school board for a vote.

ii) A school closure process should entail a lengthy and complete look at both the past and future. Therefore, this process shall take no less than two years and may indeed last for more than three years. Completion of the process shall provide necessary information to both the RSU School Board and the communities within the RSU district allowing them to make the most informed decision possible.

iii) A document shall be prepared by the Board that provides all of the following information before a vote by the Board is undertaken. A summary of this document (including the information in #1, #9 & #10 described below) shall be published in a public news medium that is distributed no less than weekly in each of the member towns. This summary shall include instructions for residents of member municipalities to obtain a copy of the full report at no cost. The full document shall be available on the RSU website no more than three business days after the official presentation to the RSU Board and Local School Committees (LSC).

iv) The document must include:

(1) A financial description of all operational costs of the school in question for the previous five years as well as for projected costs for the next five years. This shall be compared to the same information for all other schools within the RSU district.

(2) A financial description of all the operational costs (both one-time and ongoing) of closing the school in question.

(3) An analysis of the population of each of the RSU schools for the recent (3 year) past as well as projected into the next five years.

(4) An investigation of other ideas for the use of the building or expansion of programs to assist in increasing the viability and operation of the school in question. Descriptions of all efforts, successful and unsuccessful, to create/expand/develop programs that would make the school more viable.

(5) A review of all economic indicators that might affect the subject school's viability. This review should include such items as subdivision applications, home sales, business openings/closings, etc.

(6) A description of past capital investments (and repairs) in all schools in the district as well as a thorough description of future investments (other than general repairs) necessary to keep all schools open and efficient.

(7) A review of school attendance boundaries and the possibility of restructuring those boundaries that would utilize the school in question.

(8) A plan for the provision of services to all students if the school were to close. These services include but are not limited to transportation, school choice, personnel issues, and special education requirements.

(9) A description of the financial implications to taxpayers in each of the four towns with and without the school closure.

(10) Community descriptors.

(11) A description of the student impact across the district.

(12) Dates and times of two (2) public hearings to be held after media publication of the summary and prior to the RSU 2/3 majority vote. One of these hearings must be held in the municipality that is home to the affected school. These public hearings may be incorporated in a regularly scheduled RSU meeting provided that meeting meets all required notice of agenda and meeting date.

v) Any changes in this policy must be reviewed and approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the RSU Board as well as approved by a majority vote of the voters voting in the referendum in each of the four towns within the RSU. No changes to this policy may be enacted during the first cycle of the RSU elected representatives. Changes may be proposed after the seating of second cycle elected representatives.

vi) In the event that the Board of Directors of the Regional School Unit votes to close an elementary school in a member municipality pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. §1512, or successor provision, and the voters of that member municipality vote to keep the school open pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. §1512(2) or successor provision, the cost sharing percentage of the member municipality paying the school retention expense shall be reduced by the percentage necessary to equal that expense and the cost sharing percentages of the other municipalities shall be adjusted proportionately to reflect that amount.

14) Amendments to the RSU plan after adoption

Except as described in Section 13 (cost sharing and school closure) , this plan may be amended by a majority of the RSU Board, subject to approval by the Commissioner of Education and ratification by a majority of voters in the RSU at a duly called district referendum.

BOARD CHAIR
LESLIE MARCO
WENDY BROTHERLIN
PATRICIA CLARK
KRISTIN DUBOIS
NOAH EASTER
ANDREW GORRILL

RSU 38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

BOARD VICE CHAIR
CHIP JONES
JESSICA GORTON
DAVID GUILLEMETTE
DANIEL HOLMAN
BRIAN TARBUCK
DAVID TWITCHELL
CHAD WIGHT

DONATIONS RECEIVED THROUGH 10/30/26

DONOR NAME	AMOUNT	RECPIENT	NOTES
Hannaford	$1170	RSU 38	Hannaford Helps Schools Program
Community Cafe Members	$52.02	HS Art (Tom Ferrero)	31.6 grams of sterling silver (Estimated Value of 52.02)
Margy Burns Knight & Stephen Knight	$50	Maranacook Food Pantry	Honor of Ron Simons
Maranacook Education Foundation	$250	Maranacook Food Pantry	