WARRANT TO CALL REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38
BUDGET MEETING
(20-A M.R.S. §1485)

TO: Mandy Fitzgerald, a resident of Regional School Unit No. 38 ("RSU") composed of the Towns of Manchester, Mount Vernon, Readfield, and Wayne, State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify the voters of each of the municipalities within Regional School Unit No. 38, namely, the Towns of Manchester, Mount Vernon, Readfield, and Wayne, that the Regional School Unit Budget Meeting will be held at Maranacook Community Middle School, 2100 Millard Harrison Drive in the Town of Readfield, Maine at 7:00 p.m. on May 13, 2026 for the purpose of determining the Budget Meeting articles set forth below.

Article 1 To choose a moderator to preside at the said meeting.

Article 2 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction, including Alternative Education, Multilingual Learners Instruction, and Gifted & Talented Education.

School Board Recommends: $9,442,965.00

This article includes negotiated salaries and benefits for regular education instructional staff, supplies, professional development, contracted services, and copier maintenance costs.

Article 3 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

School Board Recommends: $3,802,011.00

This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for special education administration and instructional staff, special education legal costs, and tuition costs for out-of-district placements. Special Education provides services as required by law.

Article 4 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education, Co-op/Pathways Program, and Capital Area Technical Center (CATC) Tuition.

School Board Recommends: $0

The State of Maine has changed funding and expenses for CATC, so we no longer need to budget this tuition.

Article 5 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction (co-curricular, extra-curricular, and regular education summer instruction).

School Board Recommends: $658,563.00

This article includes activities in middle and high school, such as sports, plays, math team, speech and debate, and student senate. The expenses in this article are for coaching salaries, officials' services, supplies, equipment, dues & fees. This article also includes salaries and benefits for summer regular education instructional programs.

Article 6 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Student Support (guidance, health, technology) and Staff Support (improvement of instruction and staff training, curricular, library, assessment).

School Board Recommends: $2,479,734.00

This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for staff and directors in the above-mentioned departments, district-wide professional development, and other assessment testing and supplies.

Article 7 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for System Administration (School Board and Superintendent's Office).

School Board Recommends: $847,365.00

This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for central office staff, school board stipends, contracted services for legal and audit, legal liability insurance, and supplies for the school board and central office.

Article 8 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for School Administration (principals' offices).

School Board Recommends: $1,440,086.00

This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for principals and secretaries, principal professional development, accreditation costs, supplies, dues, and fees.

Article 9 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.
School Board Recommends: $1,340,162.00

This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for transportation administration, mechanic, and bus drivers, mandated physicals and drug testing, repairs, vehicle insurance, fuel, supplies, and lease purchase payments.

Article 10 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.
School Board Recommends: $4,031,361.00

This article includes negotiated salary and benefits for maintenance administration, custodians, and School Resource Officer (SRO), utilities (electricity, oil/propane, telephone), contracted services for snowplowing, heating systems, and roof monitoring, building repairs and projects, painting, and supplies. It also includes the facility's repair bond principal and interest payment.

Article 11 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.
School Board Recommends: $ 0

Article 12 To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures (Food Services, Reimbursable Transportation).
School Board Recommends: $114,337.00

This article includes local dollar support of the food service program and reimbursable transportation provided for RSU #38 towns and recreation programs.

Article 13 To see what sum the RSU will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the RSU will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-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.
School Board Recommends: amounts set forth below

Total appropriated (by municipality)		*Total raised (School Unit assessments by municipality)*	
Manchester	*$4,730,939.18*	*Manchester*	*$2,822,405.91*
Mount Vernon	*$2,960,157.20*	*Mount Vernon*	*$2,271,736.16*
Readfield	*$5,108,706.00*	*Readfield*	*$2,410,320.91*
Wayne	*$1,956,714.08*	*Wayne*	*$1,822,676.41*

School Unit Total Appropriated $14,756,516.46 School Unit Total Raised $9,327,139.39

State-Mandated Explanation: RSU #38's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-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 RSU #38 must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars. *In other words, this article gives the minimum amount that each town will pay based on the ED 279 (state subsidy report) and that RSU #38 must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

Article 14 To see what sum the RSU will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the legislative body 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 RSU's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.
School Board Recommends: $ 0

State-Mandated Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on RSU #38'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 voters.

Article 15 To see what sum the RSU will raise and appropriate in additional local dollars in support of the food service program.
School Board Recommends: $105,000.00

This money helps fund the school's food service program and equipment replacement.

WRITTEN BALLOT REQUIRED

Article 16 To see what sum the RSU will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (Recommend $7,177,562.00), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (Recommend $7,177,562.00), as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board recommends $7,177,562.00 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by $7,177,562.00.

The $7,177,562.00 that exceeds the 100% EPS funding level is needed to continue programs and services presently offered by the RSU which are not covered, or not fully covered, by EPS such as: contingency - $75,000.00, co-curricular program and summer school (athletics, theater, math team, debate, etc.) - $564,363.00, operations and maintenance - $2,452,437.00, transportation - $404,734.00, special education - $1,035,134.00, system administration - $694,276.00, regular education instruction - $1,951,618.00. The funding from the state ($5,429,377.00) is 36.79% of the total Essential Programs and Services (EPS) allocation. This allocation covers only a portion of the above-noted programs. This article describes the additional funds that RSU #38 needs to raise to achieve the RSU #38 school district budget.

State Mandated Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above RSU #38's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-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 RSU #38 budget for educational programs.

Article 17 To see what sum the RSU will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 from the RSU's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, local funds for 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.

School Board Recommends: $24,156,584.00

This article authorizes the School Board to spend the recommended budget in the Fiscal Year 2026. The School Board cannot spend an amount above the authorized budget.

Article 18 In the event that the RSU receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Board be authorized to use all of the additional state subsidy to decrease the local cost share expectation, as defined in Title 20-A, section 15671-A(1)(B), for local property taxpayers for funding public education as approved by the School Board?

School Board Recommends: OUGHT TO PASS

This article authorizes the School Board to use the entire additional State subsidy to reduce local assessments.

Article 19 Shall the RSU appropriate (Recommend $404,067.00) for Adult Education and raise (Recommend $40,000.00) 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: OUGHT TO PASS

This article covers academics and vocation as well as enrichment programs offered through the adult education program.

Article 20 Shall the School Board be authorized to expend other revenue from State, Federal, local and private sources for the support of the schools?

School Board Recommends: OUGHT TO PASS

This article allows the School Board to pursue and use funds that may be received through unexpected grants or donations, and grant applications that are made by members of the Regional School Unit staff or community. We do not include a specific amount due to the unpredictability of the receipt of the funds and because most are dedicated to a specific project or purpose. Examples of some of the funding we received in 2025-2026 are: Title IA $168,158.00; Title IIA $54,892.00; Title IV $16,711.00; Title V-Rural Low Income $6,149.00; Local Entitlement $411,876.00; and other miscellaneous grants $50,000.00. The estimated income for the upcoming year is $707,786.00.

Article 21 Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to $400,000 from available fund balances at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the Capital Reserve Fund, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed at the discretion of the School Board?

School Board Recommends: OUGHT TO PASS

This article covers the Capital Reserve Fund and the expenditure as needed.

Article 22 Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to $75,000 from available fund balances at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the Special Education Reserve Fund, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed at the discretion of the School Board?

School Board Recommends: OUGHT TO PASS

This article covers the Special Education Reserve Fund and the expenditure as needed.

Article 23 Shall the School Board be authorized to enter into a five-year contract with the Fayette School Department to allow Fayette resident students in grades 6-12 to attend RSU 38 schools.

School Board Recommends: OUGHT TO PASS

This article renews the contract for school privileges between the RSU 38 Board and the Fayette School Department to accept tuition students, grades 6-12. This is a renewal of an agreement that began in 2011. Current year revenue is $875,000.00.

Given under our hand this day, April 15th, 2026, at Readfield, Maine.

A majority of the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 38

A true copy of the Warrant, attest: Mandy Fitzgerald

Mandy Fitzgerald, Resident
Regional School Unit No. 38