"A CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE"

CORE VALUES

COLLABORATION FAMILY INTEGRITY PERSEVERANCE RESPECT TRUST

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
May 6, 2026, 6:30 p.m. ZOOM
AGENDA

1. **Call to Order:**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
3. **Statement from the Superintendent, recommendation from the Administrative Team regarding Kindergarten configuration for the 2026–27 school year**
   a. **Action Following Statement**
4. **Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent: (5 min.)**
5. **Reports/Updates: (20 min.)**
   a. **Celebrations:**
   b. **Reports:**
      - **Student Representatives**
      - **Elementary Principals***
      - **High School Principal***
      - **Finance Director***
      - **Health Center Director***
      - **Special Education Director***
      - **Superintendent***
   c. **Awesome Bear Society Upcoming Meeting - 5/13 @ 6:30 pm MCHS Media**
   d. **Subcommittee Upcoming Meetings/Minutes**
      - **Facilities & Transportation – 6/3 @ 5:15 pm MCMS Media**
      - **Policy* – Minutes 4/8, 5/27 @ 5:15pm Central Office**
6. **Citizens' Comment: (5 min.)**
7. **Action/Discussion/Informational Items:(20 min.)**
   a. **Approval of Minutes from April 1, 2026, School Board Business Meeting***
   b. **Approval of Minutes from, April 15, 2026, School Board Budget Workshop***
   c. **Acceptance of Donations through May 1, 2026***
   d. **Appointment of Second Probationary Contract Teachers***
   e. **Appointment of First Continuing Contract Teachers***
   f. **Second Reading, Policy EBBD, Temperature Standards for Schools***
   g. **Second Reading, Policy EBCB, Emergency Drills***
   h. **May 13, 2026 Annual Meeting Process**
8. **Adjournment:**

***Attachments**

(Link to Board Private Shared Drive)

Any citizen who wishes to add an item to the agenda may do so by notifying the Board Chair or the Superintendent's Office, in writing, ten days prior to the Board's next scheduled meeting.

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Statement from the Administrative Team

To the RSU 38 Board of Directors

April 27, 2026

The Administrative Team appreciates the opportunity to share our updated recommendation regarding the Kindergarten decision for 2026–27. We recognize that community members, particularly in Mount Vernon and Wayne, have consistently expressed good-faith concerns about the March decision, and we have heard that feedback. That engagement matters to the A-Team, and we have weighed it seriously alongside the operational realities we face. We also recognize that a one-year plan keeping Kindergarten in all four buildings is an outcome many community members have hoped to see.

What has made this recommendation possible is a change in the operational picture that has come into focus in recent weeks, as staffing for next year has been finalized. We believe the Board deserves the benefit of that updated information before the budget is presented at the annual meeting.

Reaching the approved 36-to-34 elementary teacher reduction for 2026–27 has come together through a combination of voluntary movement, natural cohort progression, and one configuration change at Wayne Elementary. ***The result is that no teacher is being laid off, the reduction target is met, and the FY27 budget approved by the Board on April 15 is unchanged.***

The movement breaks down as follows:

- Two MES teachers volunteered to fill Middle School positions left open by retirements (MES: current 11 teachers → 9).
- One MTVES teacher voluntarily moved to MES, and one RES teacher was reassigned to MES (MES: 9 teachers → 11; MTVES: current 6 → 5; RES: current 13 → 12).
- Grades K and 1 at Wayne Elementary will be combined into a single multi-age classroom for this one year, and the displaced WES teacher will move into the open position at MTVES (WES: current 6 teachers → 5; MTVES: 5 → 6).

Final 2026–27 elementary staffing: MES 11, RES 12, MTVES 6, WES 5 — a total of 34 teachers.

The additional Kindergarten section at MES is made possible by natural cohort progression. The current MES Kindergarten class moving up to grade 1 next year has only 13 students, so that it will require just one grade 1 section instead of two. The MES grade 1 teacher whose section is no longer needed will move into Kindergarten, allowing us to split the projected MES Kindergarten section of 19 students into two sections of 10 and 9.

A similar pattern at RES allowed the cross-building reassignment to MES without losing a Kindergarten section. The current RES Kindergarten class moving up to grade 1 next year is 14 students total, requiring just one grade 1 section instead of two. The freed grade 1 teacher fills the slot vacated by the RES teacher reassigned to MES.

The result is six Kindergarten sections across the four elementary buildings:

- Mount Vernon Elementary — 1 section (~ 10 students)
- Wayne Elementary — 1 section (~ 4 students/multi-age with grade 1 -11 students)
- Readfield Elementary — 2 sections (13/14 students)
- Manchester Elementary — 2 sections (10/9 students)

WES has a full-time general Ed Tech III who will support the K/1 classroom alongside the classroom teacher. That support helps mitigate the day-to-day impact of the multi-age arrangement.

On the PreK side, programming continues at MES and RES. Projected enrollment at MES continues to support only a single session (AM) for 2026–27, with the flexibility to add a PM session if registration warrants. RES PreK programming remains at two sections (AM & PM). Maine statute caps PreK at 16 students per class with a teacher and an education technician. If the MES PreK remains a single section, the teacher and Ed Tech can be allocated to support other areas of need in the building, along with the other full-time general Ed Tech III.

At the beginning of March, the only path to the 36-to-34 reduction within the approved budget was to lay off two teachers. We did not accept that as the right outcome for our staff, our students, or our community. The A-Team committed to finding a path that achieved the staffing reduction without layoffs — anticipating the Middle School retirements, working with teachers willing to move into those vacancies voluntarily, and building the cascade of internal moves described above. That work is what made this one-year plan possible.

However, this revised one-year plan carries real trade-offs that the Administrative Team does not support as a long-term solution. Combining grades K and 1 into a multi-age classroom at Wayne is not ideal. Wayne has done multi-age grouping in the past and found it challenging for the teacher and less effective for the learners. Students benefit from grade-level peer groups, curriculum pacing, and teachers who can collaborate with same-grade colleagues on instruction and assessment — and a combined K/1 classroom compromises each of those.

Class sizes across our elementary buildings are also uneven — not only in Kindergarten but throughout PK–5, with some sections in the low single digits and others above twenty. Part of what the original recommendation was designed to address was creating more balanced class sizes so every student has a comparable classroom experience. That concern does not go away with this recommendation, and it applies across every grade in every building.

These trade-offs are workable as a one-year bridge, but they are not sustainable. Equitable educational experiences, strong peer groups, grade-level teacher collaboration, and balanced class sizes across PK–5 are essential to serving all of our students and staff well — and they are among the central questions the strategic planning process will need to take up over the coming year.

The broader rationale behind the original recommendation — declining enrollment, aging facilities, and long-term fiscal pressure — remains unchanged, and the A-Team stands behind the analysis that led to the March decision. What is different now is narrower: the combination of voluntary movement, natural cohort progression, and our willingness to accept the one-year trade-offs

described above opens a path to maintaining Kindergarten at all four sites for 2026–27 within the approved budget, without laying off any teachers. That combination was not available to us at the beginning of March.

The Board has already taken action on Kindergarten three times, and we do not minimize the trust implications of bringing a fourth revisit ahead of the Annual Meeting. ***What makes this one different is that it originates with the A-Team and rests on three foundations: the operational development described above, our sustained analysis of what is best for students, staff, and the district, and good-faith listening to the communities we serve.*** Those are the right foundations for a recommendation to the Board, and we will rely on them throughout the strategic planning process ahead.

What this recommendation offers is a chance to enter the strategic planning with the community a little less divided, the budget on solid footing, and the Board positioned to lead open and honest conversations from a place of stability rather than contention. ***That position — going into strategic planning with trust intact across all four towns — is worth preserving.***

The A-Team recommends that the Board support reversing the Kindergarten consolidation component of the one-year plan for 2026–27 and maintaining Kindergarten sections in all four elementary buildings, as detailed above.

Whatever the Board decides, the A-Team will implement it fully and with the same professionalism that has defined this process to date.

Elementary Principals' Report
May 6, 2026
Abbie Hartford (MES)
Michelle Hood (MTV)
Jeff Boston (RES)
Jeanette Jacobs (WES)

	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
MES	11	13	12/11	11/11	13/12	14/13	22	143
RES	9/10 (3 WES students in pm session)	7/7	10/11	15/15	13/14	11/11	17/17	167
MTV	1@Manch	11	13	11	12	17	16	80
WES	3 @RES	11	7	13	6	8	12	57

Elementary Spring Benchmark Assessments:
Supporting Student Success

Spring benchmark assessments throughout May provide valuable data to measure student growth and inform instructional practices. At our schools, these assessments include:

- **K-2 NWEA and Grades 3-5 NWEA Through-Year Assessments:** Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade complete the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments in reading and mathematics. Students in grades 3-5 complete the Through-Year, a comprehensive assessment that serves as our state assessment for reading and mathematics. These computer-adaptive tests adjust question difficulty based on student responses, providing precise measurement of each child's achievement level and growth.
- **Acadience Reading and Math Benchmark Assessments** Acadience assessments measure the acquisition of essential early literacy and numeracy skills through short, individual tests administered to students. These spring benchmarks provide critical end-of-year data showing student growth in foundational skills and help identify students who may need continued support over the summer months and into the fall.
- **Grade 5 MEA Science Assessment** Fifth-grade students take the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) for Science, which evaluates their understanding of key scientific concepts and practices aligned with state standards.

Data-Driven Decision Making

These spring assessments, along with other classroom measures, are carefully analyzed by our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Teams to:

- Measure individual student growth over the school year
- Identify class-wide achievement patterns
- Pinpoint specific skill areas needing additional support
- Develop targeted interventions for struggling students

The data analysis serves two critical purposes:

1. **Current-Year Applications**: Teachers use spring assessment results to adjust instruction during the final weeks of school, focusing on high-priority skills and concepts where students demonstrated gaps.

2. **Next-Year Planning**: Assessment data is shared with the upcoming year's teaching team, allowing them to develop intervention plans before students even enter their classrooms. This proactive approach ensures students receive appropriate support from the very first day of school.

   Through this comprehensive assessment and data analysis process, we ensure every student receives instruction tailored to their specific needs, creating a continuous cycle of improvement that spans across grade levels and school years.

Kindergarten Screening

Elementary schools will conduct screenings for incoming Kindergarten students during the month of May.

- **Rising Kindergarteners**: Screenings will occur on May 20th and May 21st at MES, MtVES, and RES.

These screenings allow our staff to identify potential speech, language, and motor skill concerns. A team of district kindergarten teachers, speech language therapists, and occupational therapists will conduct all assessments.

5th Grade Transition to Middle School Events

Mr. Muir and the middle school teachers have scheduled the following events to assist our 5th-grade students with opportunities to transition to middle school. These are as follows:

- Transition Fair is on April 9th
- Family information forms due by April vacation (April 17th).
- Teacher information spreadsheets due before April vacation (April 17th).
- 5th grade Q&A with middle school administration will be completed throughout the month of May.
- Team and advisor placements will be sent to 5th grade teachers and parents by the end of May.
- June 10th - District wide 5th-grade Field Day (morning) and Step Up Day (afternoon) at MCMS.

Glow Party Dance at RES

Dear REPA Members,

I want to extend my sincere thanks for your time, effort, and generosity in making our April 10th elementary "Glow Party" dance such a success. Your thoughtful planning and coordination truly made the event special for our students.

We are especially grateful for your support in organizing and funding a local DJ, which brought great energy and excitement to the evening. The popcorn and decorations you provided helped create a fun and welcoming atmosphere that our students thoroughly enjoyed.

Events like this do so much to build community and create lasting memories for our students, and none of it would be possible without your continued dedication and support. Please know how much we appreciate all that you do for our school.

Thank you again for helping make this event so memorable!





Elementary Field Trips

Field trips provide elementary school students with valuable learning experiences outside of the traditional classroom setting. Hands-on, real-world field trips help reinforce and supplement the concepts students are learning in school in engaging and memorable ways. Beyond the educational benefits, field trips also offer important developmental and social experiences for young students. Traveling to a new environment teaches children to be observant of their surroundings and adapt to different situations. Group field trips give kids the opportunity to build closer bonds with classmates and practice essential social skills like communication, collaboration, and responsibility. Over the months of May and June, each school has planned multiple field trips, including:

- Pineland Farms (Grade 2)
- The Norlands (Grade 1)
- Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (Grade 3)
- The Desert of Maine (Grade 4)
- Colby Art Museum (Kindergarten)
- Camp Laurel (Grade 5)
- Boston (Grade 5)
- Adventure Bound (Grade 5)

What an exciting list!

MARANACOOK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

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Readfield, Maine 04355

Tel. No.: (207) 685-4923
www.mcs.maranacook.org/o/mchs

Michele LaForge, Principal
Brant Remington, Dir of Student Services
Sarah Morrill, Health Center Director

Cal Dorman, Assistant Principal
Jennifer Russell, Main Office
Sara Chisholm, Guidance



Moose in Wayne April 3 2026 morning.
Thanks, Jeremy Smith for the photo for today's update.

Dear Maranacook School Board,

I hope you are well and feeling the spring sun on your face occasionally. I have provided my last few updates for your reading today, and here is the enrollment update:

Grade 9	89
Grade 10	94
Grade 11	93
Grade 12	86
Total	362

All my best,

Michele LaForge, Principal
Maranacook Community High School



Practically real time from the 2026 France-Spain trip!



Me, Dad John LaForge, Brother Matt LaForge

April 23, 2026

Hello, Maranacook,

Happy April break! I am working today (obviously), but did ring in the break with breakfast with my Dad and my brother. I hope you are all getting some good rest and maybe a little sun and fresh air. I have a bunch of updates for you today, so read on!



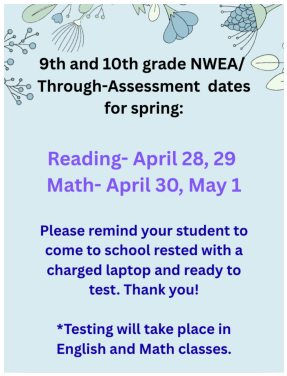
From Post Secondary day, a sophomore job shadow

Cam running the scoreboard at the Portland Sea Dogs!



Spring NWEA testing starts this week

Get good sleep! Eat breakfast! Charge your laptops! Be patient and do your best on these tests. I know it is no one's favorite thing to do, but it is SO important for Maranacook's reputation and funding that we show what we know and can do.



Student Parking is always more crowded during the Spring. Please do not park on the grass, students!

As is the way in the spring, with many new drivers, the student parking lot often fills up. This has resulted in many of them parking on the grass at the south end of the parking lot or parking in other undesignated spots. Do not park on the grass. Students are welcome to parallel park along Millard Harrison Drive (makes for a faster exit!) or at the superintendent's office, if they cannot find a spot in the student lot.

Many athletic events this week

I am attaching the entire schedule but here is my summary of HOME events! Hope to see you there.

Monday 4/27

- 4 pm: HS Baseball vs. Old Orchard Beach
- 4 pm Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Madison
- 4 pm Girls Varsity Softball vs. Old Orchard Beach

Wednesday 4/29

- 5 pm Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Gardiner
- 6:30 pm Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Gardiner

Friday 5/1

- 5 pm Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Leavitt

Teacher Appreciation week NEXT week starting Tuesday May 5

I am grateful every day for the intelligent, collaborative, professional, and caring staff of teachers, counselors, librarians, nurses, ed techs, and other educators who make it possible for our students to reach their goals and achieve individual success. I am fortunate to work with them, and I hope you can join me in showing them our appreciation. Please show your support with snacks, beverages, and breakfast treats on Tuesday 5/5 and Friday 5/8. Here is the SIGN-UP for TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK. **Also, please accept this invitation from me to email or write to your student's teachers anytime. Your words, your recognition, always mean a great deal. Thank you!**

State Math meet results for 2025

The Maranacook Math Team finished the Maine State Math Meet in Third Place with 440 points! The top scorer for Maranacook was Sawyer Rooney with 69 points, followed by Carter Bennett and Max Tomassone who each scored over 50 points, Jack Thaller and Jonathan Rousculp who each scored at least 40 points, as well as Myles Roesner who scored over 20 points! Also, everyone on the team scored in the double digits! In addition, Maranacook also received an award for third place in Class C during the regular season, and Sawyer received an award for a tie for 5th place senior at the meet as well as an award for 7th place overall during the regular season. A great job by everyone who participated!



One more way to help our school this month and next

Hannaford runs a fundraising event for schools during the months of April and May. The flyer is attached but the bottom line is that **if you enter in your receipts online, we get money! Or just drop your receipts in the main office with Jenn Russell and we will enter them in.** Thank you, thank you!

Stars College Network article includes Maranacook

https://news.colby.edu/story/creating-pathways-to-college-for-rural-students/

Many thanks to school counselors Kim Ray and Sara Chisholm for bringing Maranacook Community High School into this great opportunity this year.



Rural Student Ambassador Ava St. Laurent '28, left, talks to Maranacook Community High School juniors about her experiences applying to and attending college as a rural Maine student.

A few more photos from past weeks (and my house)

France and Spain trip (happening RIGHT NOW!)













JMG field trip



Annual Maine World Language conference





Lily in my reading chair, my husband Jim and I on our way back from visiting daughter Josie, and Lily and daughter Maggie waiting for me to get home...

Maine Educational Assessment (MEA)
Testing in Science
Mandatory for all Juniors
Monday April 6, 2026

Juniors do not attend CATC on Monday, and all testing will be in Science classrooms with Science and other MCHS teachers.

- Get a good night's sleep
- Charge your computer (and bring your charger to school)
- Get to school on time

Thank you!

MEA testing Monday April 6

The juniors have MEA testing this Monday, so no CATC that day for Juniors. Juniors, please charge your laptops this weekend, get some good sleep, and bring your charger and laptop to school on Monday. Thank you!

Your help is needed with an easy way to support our school!

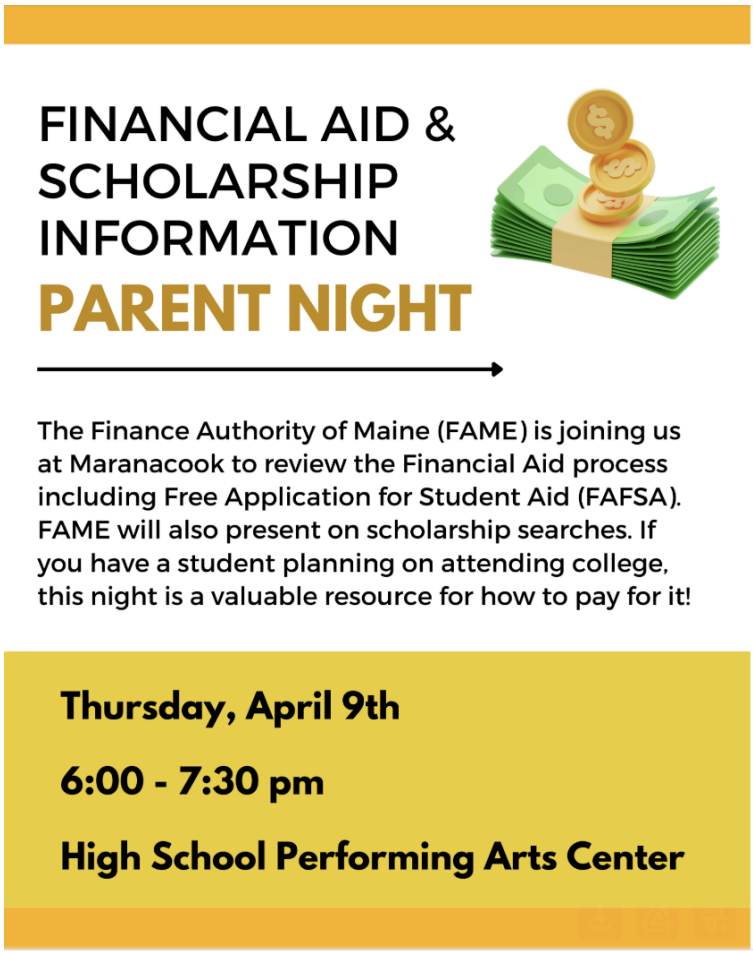
Hannaford runs a fundraising event for schools during the months of April and May. The flyer is attached but the bottom line is that if you enter in your receipts online, we get money! If that seems too hard, just drop your receipts in the main office with Jenn Russell and we will help enter them in. Thank you, thank you!



Post-Secondary Day on Thursday April 9

- Required day of school, as usual.
- 9th graders come to school and then are going to University of Maine at Farmington for a college tour. UMF has a very high bar for college tours and we are very fortunate that we secured this tour for our 9th graders!
- 10th graders must all complete a job shadow and I am hearing about some very compelling placements.
- 11th graders will all be at MCHS for a day dedicated to Junior Post-secondary planning. Small business panels, apprenticeships, working abroad, college essay writing, job interviews, and sessions hosted by representatives from the community college, state university system, and Colby college, among other offerings. It is going to be a great day for all Juniors.
- 12th graders will be attending the Financial Fitness Fair at Cony High School.
- Any questions, please contact a student's advisor.

Financial Aid and Scholarship Info night Thursday April 9



Extra Curricular events

- Currently there are 171 HS students signed up for spring extracurriculars. This is almost half the student body and a very high percentage for any school. Go Bears!
- THREE Maranacook teams will be defending their state titles this spring: the Math Team on April 7; Girls Tennis; and Girls Lacrosse!

Report on 5th grade band day last week

I want to share Dan Gilbert's reflection on 5th grade band day last week:

"I wanted to take a moment and thank you all for you incredible support in bringing this day together. I've been through a few iterations of what this day looks like in my tenure here at Maranacook, and this has by far been the smoothest the actual day has run. More than how smooth it went, the kids (of all ages) were phenomenal musicians and audiences today.

It's hard for me to describe what happened on our campus today as anything other than magical:

- *For the elementary students, it was a memorable experience of coming together as a mass ensemble and experience what it is like to both play with and listen to large groups to encourage them and push them onwards on their musical journeys.*
- *For the middle schoolers, it was a great opportunity for them to act as role models and get the 5th Graders excited for what awaits them at the Middle School.*
- *For the high schoolers, it was a moment for them to display leadership and give back to the program many of them went through.*

I'm so proud of all of the work today, and look to moments like these as a shining example of what our music program represents, and the future we are building for it in our community."





Area Summer Camps

Flyer attached

CATC: The other Maranacook campus!

CATC! There were a few students working in outside placements, and of course, Katie and Lane are at Nationals. Everyone else, though, was engaged in really interesting work, including the start of a three day Law enforcement final (including a crime scene tomorrow) and installing a vehicle starter.

















A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO 38

WARRANT ARTICLE RECONCILIATION
2025-2026
May 6, 2026

Account Number / Description	Approved Budget 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026	Revised Budget 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026	Expended 7/1/2025 - 4/30/2026	Encumbered 7/1/2025 - 4/30/2026	Amount Remaining 7/1/2025 - 4/30/2026	Percent Remaining 7/1/2025 - 4/30/2026
ARTICLE 2 REGULAR INSTRUCTION	**$9,636,541.83**	**$9,636,541.83**	**$7,223,506.42**	**$25,102.27**	**$2,387,933.14**	**24.78%**
ARTICLE 3 SPECIAL EDUCATION	**$3,530,789.31**	**$3,530,789.31**	**$2,514,210.75**	**$95.00**	**$1,016,483.56**	**28.79%**
ARTICLE 4 CTE INSTRUCTION	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	
ARTICLE 5 OTHER INSTRUCTION	**$646,272.00**	**$646,272.00**	**$489,113.73**	**$1,378.93**	**$155,779.34**	**24.10%**
ARTICLE 6 STUDENT & STAFF SUPP	**$2,418,942.76**	**$2,418,942.76**	**$1,758,492.24**	**$19,125.12**	**$641,325.40**	**26.51%**
ARTICLE 7 SYSTEM ADMIN	**$841,864.99**	**$841,864.99**	**$576,678.28**	**$1,065.56**	**$264,121.15**	**31.37%**
ARTICLE 8 SCHOOL ADMIN	**$1,524,261.63**	**$1,524,261.63**	**$1,145,554.67**	**$3,545.24**	**$375,161.72**	**24.61%**
ARTICLE 9 TRANSPORTATION	**$1,284,104.84**	**$1,284,104.84**	**$965,426.61**	**$8,898.38**	**$309,779.85**	**24.12%**
ARTICLE 10 OPER/MAINT OF PLANT	**$3,681,750.19**	**$3,681,750.19**	**$2,598,523.33**	**$149,514.90**	**$933,711.96**	**25.36%**
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**	**$63,084.16**	**$0.00**	**$51,253.04**	**44.83%**
GRAND TOTAL	**$23,678,864.75**	**$23,678,864.75**	**$17,334,590.19**	**$208,725.40**	**$6,135,549.16**	**25.91%**

As of today's date we are optimistic that the overall budget for Regional School Unit No. 38 remains sound as budgeted for fiscal year 2025-2026.
Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions through email at mandy_fitzgerald@maranacook.com or telephone 207-685-3336 x.1210

SBHC Board report - 5/6/26
Submitted by Sarah Morrill, RN BSN, Health Center Director

Data review

- **73 medical provider visits**
- **41 additional family planning visits**
- **Approx 48 students in KBH counseling**

Medical Services (MaineGeneral Partnership)

The partnership with MaineGeneral Health remains strong. Mary Wright, NP, provides onsite services each Friday. Dr. Carol Mansfield is at school every Wednesday morning to see her patients and cover acute care as needed.

Behavioral Health (Kennebec Behavioral Health Partnership)

We are staffed with 2 full-time KBH counselors who serve the district. There is an open 0.5FTE position for additional coverage at the elementary schools.

We have a new KBH counselor, Zoe Thomas, starting at the MS and HS to replace an existing counselor who will be moving on at the end of this school year.

Reproductive Health (Maine Family Planning Partnership)

The partnership with Maine Family Planning (MFP) continues for SY '25-'26.

Dental Health

Simply Smiles mobile dental clinic will return to the district this week for the semi-annual hygiene and fluoride clinic.

Totals • Screening: 177 • Full Care: 37

Readfield: 4/30, 5/1
Mount Vernon: 5/4
Maranacook MS & HS: 5/5, 5/6, 5/7
Wayne & Manchester: 5/8

Thank you again for your time and dedication to the success of the Maranacook schools! Please reach out with any questions to sarah_morrill@maranacook.com or x1019 at the High School.

MARANACOOK
AREA SCHOOLS

A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence

Karen G. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Ryan Meserve
Special Education Director

Mandy Fitzgerald
Finance Manager

Tel. 207-685-3336

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May Board Report

Dear RSU #38 School Board:

For this report I wanted to highlight a recent experience our Occupational Therapist, Julie McFarlane, was able to have while attending a national conference this past April:

Report to the School Board: AOTA National Conference 2026

Julie McFarlane, MOT, OTR/L--RSU 38

From April 23–25, 2026, I attended the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) National Conference in Anaheim, CA. This professional development opportunity, supported by the district, provided access to the latest evidence-based research in school-based practice. The insights gained will directly impact the efficacy of OT services across our six Maranacook Area Schools, supporting both our special education population and the broader student body. The conference highlighted critical strategies in handwriting instruction. Current research reinforces that multisensory intervention is the gold standard for Pre-K and Kindergarten students to build foundational motor maps. However, for students in first grade and beyond, the evidence-based "best practice" shifts toward a cognitive and motor learning framework. While our current *Amplify CKLA* curriculum provides direct instruction, there is a gap in multisensory support for our youngest learners unless supplemented individually by teachers. Additionally, I gained specialized knowledge in:

Functional Vision: Using targeted interventions for convergence and saccades (eye tracking) to directly improve reading fluency and stamina.

Interoception & Sensory Processing: Implementing trauma-informed strategies to help students regulate their internal states, reducing behavioral "melt-downs" and increasing time-on-task.

AI in Practice: Exploring ethical AI tools to streamline documentation, allowing more time for direct student contact.

Short-Term Goals (Immediate Impact)

Teacher Consultations: I would like to collaborate with Pre-K and Kindergarten teams to provide "low-tech" multisensory supplements to the CKLA curriculum, ensuring struggling writers have the multisensory input they need to keep pace with peers.

Vision-Reading Integration: I am integrating new screening techniques for functional vision deficits into my current evaluations to identify barriers to reading that may have previously been overlooked.

Sensory/Interoception: I will introduce interoception-based "check-ins" for my current caseload to help students identify their body's signals before they reach a point of dysregulation.

Long-Term Vision (District-Wide Growth)

MTSS Integration: My primary long-term goal is to brainstorm with administration how to move handwriting instruction from a "referral-based" service to an MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) model. By brainstorming a tiered approach to handwriting, we can provide universal screenings and early intervention for all students, potentially reducing the number of formal Special Education referrals. The opportunity to attend the AOTA 2026 National Conference has been invaluable. It has not only sharpened my clinical skills for our students with IEPs but has also provided a roadmap for how Occupational Therapy can support the district by supporting the academic success of *every* student in the Maranacook Area Schools.

Thank you very much for your continued support to our district staff and programs,

Ryan Meserve

RSU 38 Maranacook Area Schools
Superintendent's Report

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

May 2026

🚌 **MAPT Regional Conference** — (Transportation Director, Jason Sirois)

On Thursday, April 23, seven of our drivers, our mechanic, and I attended the MAPT Regional Conference held at Mt. Blue High School.

The day included three professional development sessions:

- Student Securement — proper installation and use of the various bus harnesses and buckle devices used for special needs and Pre-K students.
- Mirrors to Mindset — correct procedures at each stop, including the discipline of double-checking all seven mirrors and the door before moving the bus.
- Bus Evacuations — a hands-on exercise in which the bus was filled with smoke to demonstrate the near-zero visibility of a real fire evacuation and the techniques needed to manage one safely.

The Regional School Bus Driver Competition was also held at the conference. Three of our drivers competed, demonstrating their skill in maneuvering a school bus through a series of obstacles. Our bus mechanic, Randy, placed 3rd out of more than 50 competitors, qualifying him for the State Finals in July at the Augusta Civic Center—the top two finishers at States advance to the National Competition.

We are proud of the team's performance and grateful for the training opportunity.

🏆 **Recognition — Brant Remington, Director of Student Services**

We are honored to recognize Brant for receiving the ***Special Achievement Award of Excellence*** from the *Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association*. The honor, voted on by his colleagues, recognizes Brant's outstanding contributions to the Mountain Valley Conference. The award was presented by MIAAA President Paul True, Athletic Director at Lake Region High School, at a ceremony held at the Samoset Resort on April 7, 2026. To be selected for this distinction by one's peers speaks to the respect Brant has earned across the state and to the leadership, dedication, and integrity he brings to athletics in RSU 38 every day. Congratulations, Brant — this recognition is well deserved.



📅 Attendance (*As of May 1, 2026*)

District attendance shows continued movement into the good attendance category. The percentage of students with **good attendance** (fewer than 5% absences) increased to **52.7%**, up from 51.4% at this point last year. The **at-risk population** (5–14% absent) declined from 34.7% to **29.5%**, a 5.2 percentage-point reduction.

Total chronic absenteeism rose from 13.9% to **17.8%** year-over-year, with the **chronically absent rate** (15–19% absent) increasing from 9.6% to **14.1%**. Encouragingly, the **severely chronically absent rate** (greater than 20% absent) decreased from 4.3% to **3.7%**.

Looking at attendance by grade level this year, our **elementary grades (K–5) and middle school grades (6–8) show the strongest attendance**, with the majority of students in good standing. **Attendance weakens noticeably at the high school level**, with chronic absenteeism most concentrated in **grade 12**, where the share of students in good attendance is the lowest in the district. This pattern — strong elementary and middle school attendance with a decline through the high school years — is consistent with what the historical charts have shown.

Administration will continue to deploy targeted, tiered supports, with particular attention to the high school population as we close out the school year.

District-Wide Attendance Summary

Category	May 1, 2025	May 1, 2026	Change
Good Attendance (<5% absent)	51.4%	52.7%	+1.3%
At Risk (5–14% absent)	34.7%	29.5%	−5.2%
Chronically Absent (15–19% absent)	9.6%	14.1%	+4.5%
Severely Chronically Absent (>20% absent)	4.3%	3.7%	−0.6%
Total Chronic Absenteeism	**13.9%**	**17.8%**	**+3.9%**

Truancy Status – The district currently has one student at the middle school who meets the statutory definition of truant under Maine law.

🌱 Update on the Millard Harrison Drive Tree Removal Project

Phase 2 of the Millard Harrison Drive project on the Maranacook campus is now in its final stages, with stump removal and earthwork underway. This work follows the December 18, 2023, storm, which caused considerable damage to trees along Millard Harrison Drive and throughout the district. The Board Facilities Committee met on January 2, 2024, to discuss the storm's impact, and given the extent of the damage, the committee identified the affected trees along Millard Harrison Drive as a safety priority. Phase 1 was completed within months of that meeting, additional tree care across the district was scheduled for FY25, and Phase 2 was scheduled for FY26 under the former superintendent. In hindsight, a communication to the community should have gone out before this phase of work began, and we will be mindful of this going forward whenever projects visibly change the look of our campuses. As this phase wraps up, our attention turns to replanting and thoughtful restoration along the corridor, to beautify the campus and ensure that Maranacook continues to feel like the welcoming, special place our students, staff, and community know and love.

BOARD CHAIR
SHAWN RODERICK

WENDY BROTHERLIN
PATRICIA CLARK
KRISTIN DUBOIS
NOAH EASTER
ANDREW GORRILL

RSU 38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

BOARD VICE CHAIR
LESLIE MARCO

DAVID GUILLEMETTE
DANIEL HOLMAN
CHIP JONES
BRIAN TARBUCK
DAVID TWITCHELL
CHAD WIGHT

Policy Committee Meeting Agenda
April 8, 2026
5:15-6:15 p.m. at Central Office

Board Members: Wendy Brotherlin, Daniel Holman, Leslie Marco

Administrators: Superintendent Dr. Karen G. Smith, Jason Sirois

1. DFF – Student Activities Funds

Policy DFF establishes that revenues from school stores, club and class dues, fees from outside schools for competitions, and student organization fundraising are deposited into a student activities fund maintained for each school, with separate accounts for accounting purposes. These revenues are school unit funds under the direct control of the Superintendent, who may delegate deposit, expenditure, and recordkeeping responsibility to building principals and appropriate staff.

Student activity funds are to be used only for student activities that augment school unit programs and are not intended to replace school unit funding. Funds raised by an approved club, organization, or class are spent to benefit that specific group. All expenditures require advance approval from the building principal and, at the Middle and High Schools, the Director of Student Services. Senior class disbursement provisions allow the senior class to direct the remaining funds after graduation (with all outstanding obligations paid first); any unexpended funds and interest are transferred to the MCS Alumni scholarship fund one year after graduation. Funds are audited as part of the District's annual audit. Adopted February 4, 2015; Last Reviewed November 17, 2020.

Committee Action: Reviewed. No changes. Update document review date to 4.8.26.

2. IE – Grade Placement and IE-R Grade Placement Procedure

RSU 38's current **Policy IE** states the Board's commitment to an appropriate, progressive, and sequential instructional program aligned with the Maine Learning Results. Placement is determined on an individual basis through parent and staff recommendations, and the array of credits and classes available is to be as comprehensive as resources allow.

All retention and advancement decisions are individualized and made only after parent–staff discussions. At grades 9–12, guidance assists with placement based on earned credits and standards met. When grade placement is unclear due to a transfer or other circumstance, the principal makes the final assignment after consultation with building staff, specialists, and parents. IE includes a detailed RSU 38 appeal process: a parent or guardian has 30 days to file an appeal with the principal, who convenes a Hearing Committee composed of the principal, parent, teacher, and a district administrator. If the family remains dissatisfied, they



have 10 days to notify the Superintendent, who meets with the Hearing Committee and renders the final placement decision. Revised December 2, 2015; Last Reviewed November 17, 2020.

RSU 38's current **Policy IE-R** serves as both an administrative procedure and a worksheet. It provides a Considerations for Grade Placement Discussions form covering social maturity; behaviors and temperament; habits of work; strengths; known history (birth trauma, family stressors, developmental milestones); assessment and achievement data; attendance, truancy, and tardiness; access to curriculum; special education identification; 504 services; interventions tried and their results; parent views; and the intervention plan for the following year.

IE-R also sets a timeline for grade-placement conversations: fall conferences (do not initiate retention discussion unless raised by parents); spring conferences (mention possibility of retention along with summer programming, home work, and continued interventions); first two weeks of May (school-based committee meets to discuss considerations — explicitly not a decision-making meeting — and includes teachers, interventionists, specialists, and the principal); end of May (committee meets with parents to discuss considerations and develop a placement and intervention plan). A Grade Placement Committee record form is included. Last Reviewed July 10, 2015.

3. IKE – Promotion, Retention and Acceleration

RSU 38 does not have an **IKE** policy. However, it is on the required policy list. Maine and federal laws and regulations require local school boards to adopt certain written policies. In addition, there are policies that, though not specifically mandated, are essential for demonstrating compliance with laws and regulations affecting the governance or administration of schools.

The MSMA sample policy IKE addresses promotion, retention, and acceleration as a single, integrated framework. It states the Board's intent to provide sequential instructional programming aligned with the Learning Results, to recognize developmental differences among students, and to direct that placement decisions be made in the best educational interest of the individual student.

Section A enumerates twelve criteria for promotion, retention, and acceleration decisions, with explicit primary weight given to achievement of Learning Results content standards. Other criteria include cross-curricular skills, participation in remedial and summer programs, potential benefit from repetition or acceleration, attendance, social and emotional maturity, health, age relative to grade placement, program options, student attitude, and parental concerns. Section B addresses retention: early parent notification, information about remediation options, a conference involving parents, the teacher, the principal, and (as appropriate) the guidance counselor and other staff. The policy permits conditional advancement contingent on remediation or demonstrated proficiency. The principal makes the final retention decision; parents may appeal to the Superintendent, whose decision is final. Section C addresses acceleration: the principal decides in consultation with teachers, the Gifted and Talented Coordinator, and other professionals; appeal lies with the Superintendent. Section D sets credit/learning- experience thresholds for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors (sample blanks). Section E directs the principal to determine the value of prior educational experience for transfer students.



The Committee discussed how IKE, IE, and IE-R relate to one another. The following overlaps, gaps, and one apparent conflict were identified for further review:

Overlaps

- General philosophy. IE and IKE both open with substantially similar Learning Results–aligned, individualized, sequential-programming language.
- Retention process. IKE Section B and IE-R both address parent notification, conferencing, and the role of the principal and other staff in retention decisions, but in different formats (IKE narrative; IE-R worksheet and timeline).
- Retention criteria. IKE Section A lists twelve criteria; the IE-R worksheet captures most of the same domains (achievement, attendance, social/emotional maturity, parental views, interventions) in a different structure.
- Transfer students. IE briefly addresses transfer placement in its general text; IKE Section E addresses it as a standalone provision.
- Appeal language. Both IE and IKE include appeal provisions, but the structures differ (see Conflict below).

Gaps in current RSU 38 policy (present in IKE)

- Acceleration. Neither IE nor IE-R addresses acceleration / grade-skipping or coordination with the Gifted and Talented Coordinator.
- Conditional advancement. IKE permits advancement conditional on remediation or demonstrated proficiency within a specified time; IE/IE-R does not include this option.
- Explicit primary criterion. IKE explicitly elevates achievement of Learning Results content standards above other factors; IE/IE-R do not.
- Cross-curricular skills. IKE references the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results as a placement consideration; IE/IE-R do not.
- High school credit/learning-experience thresholds. IE mentions guidance assistance based on earned credits and standards met, but contains no thresholds; IKE Section D provides specific (though sample-blank) thresholds for sophomore, junior, and senior status.

Apparent conflict: Final-decision authority on retention. IKE assigns the final retention decision to the principal, with appeal to the Superintendent (Superintendent's decision final). IE assigns the final placement decision to the Superintendent after a Hearing Committee process. The Committee should determine which structure RSU 38 wants to retain.

Discussion Question: Should the District separate these (retain a distinct IE "Grade Placement" policy and adopt IKE for promotion/retention/acceleration), or consolidate IE, IE-R, and IKE content into a single coordinated policy and procedure set?

Committee Action: The Committee requests Principal input and other district sample policies for review at the next Policy Committee meeting. Note: RSU 38 currently has IE and IE-R; the District does not currently have IKE, but it appears on the MSMA list of required policies. There is meaningful overlap among the three documents that warrants a coordinated approach.

4. EEAEAA-R Drug and Alcohol Testing of School Bus Drivers Administrative Procedures

Policy **EEAEAA** establishes that any RSU 38 employee who regularly transports students as a condition of employment must perform their duties free from the effects of alcohol and from drugs that would adversely affect their ability to operate a vehicle and perform safety-sensitive functions, including pre-trip safety inspections, navigating railroad crossings, and reading situational traffic patterns. Such employees are subject to administrative procedures the Superintendent determines necessary, which may include checks for valid insurance and driver's license, driving tests, and drug and alcohol testing.

All employees, including bus drivers, are subject to the District's Drug Free Workplace Policy. In accordance with the federal Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 and other applicable state and federal laws, the Board commits to an alcohol and controlled-substance testing program for school bus drivers and any employee who regularly transports students as a condition of employment. The Superintendent implements the program and has the authority to adopt rules and impose consequences for violations.
Adopted February 5, 2008; adopted by the RSU 38 Board of Directors April 27, 2009; Reviewed December 19, 2017; Revised April 10, 2024.

Per MSMA, Maine and federal laws and regulations require local school boards to adopt certain written policies. In addition, there are policies that, though not specifically mandated, are essential for demonstrating compliance with laws and regulations affecting the governance or administration of schools. The MSMA checklist helps boards keep their required policies current and complete. EEAEAA is on that list.

Review of MSMA Sample **EEAEAA-R** — Administrative Procedure: The Committee reviewed the MSMA sample administrative procedure EEAEAA-R, which provides a comprehensive 10-page framework summarizing the federal regulatory provisions for drug and alcohol testing of bus drivers. The sample procedure is organized into fifteen sections covering: applicability; implementation under 49 CFR Parts 40, 382, 390, and 395; the list of controlled substances covered; safety-sensitive functions; driver prohibitions (including the 0.02 alcohol-concentration threshold and pre-duty timing rules); required testing categories (pre-employment, post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return-to-duty, and follow-up); refusal to submit; supervisor training requirements (60 minutes each on alcohol and on controlled substances); enforcement; recordkeeping and confidentiality; driver notification and informational materials; physician-prescribed controlled-substance disclosure; referral, evaluation, and treatment by a substance abuse professional; and return-to-duty procedures.

Committee Action: The Committee requests more information regarding the Required Testing section (Part VI of the MSMA sample), including review of comparable procedures from other Maine school districts, before drafting an RSU 38 EEAEAA-R for adoption.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2026, 5:15-6:15 pm @ Central Office

"A CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE"

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
APRIL 1, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Minutes of Meeting

Board Members: ☑ Chair, Shawn Roderick, ☑ Vice Chair, Leslie Marco

☑ Wendy Brotherlin	☑ Dan Holman	☑ Patricia Clark	☑ David Twitchell
☑ Kristin Dubois	☑ Noah Easter	☑ Chad Wight	☑ Andrew Gorrill
☑ David Guillemette		☑ Brian Tarbuck	
☑ Chip Jones			
☐ Kate Parker	☑ Luke Tinckham		

Administrators/Directors Present: Superintendent Karen Smith, Finance Director Mandy Fitzgerald, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Principals Michele LaForge, Mike Muir, Jeff Boston, Michelle Hood, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Transportation Director Jason Sirois

1. Call to order: 6:30 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

3. Executive Session to consult with legal counsel pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E)
Motion to enter Executive Session 6:33 pm: NE **Second:** DT **Yes:** 13 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**
Call to order: 7:19 pm

a. **Action(s) following Executive Session (if any):** None

4. Executive Session to consider negotiations between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the RSU #38 Maranacook Area Support Staff pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(D)
Motion to enter Executive Session 7:22 pm: NE **Second:** BT **Yes:** 13 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**
Call to order: 7:32 pm

a. **Action(s) following Executive Session (if any):**
- Motion to approve the negotiated agreement between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the RSU #38 Maranacook Area Support Staff. **Motion:** NE **Second:** PC **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**
  KD - Absent from the vote

5. Citizens' Comment:

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

a. **Superintendent Smith Added:**
- Presentation on Elementary Students' Supports and Transportation
- 8.j. Consideration of Out-of-State Field Trip - MT Vernon 5th Grade Class to Boston

7. Reports/Updates:

a. **Celebrations**
b. **Reports**
c. **Awesome Bear Society**

8. Action following Budget Workshop (if needed):

a. **Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2026, School Board Meeting**
- **Motion:** DG **Second:** CW **Yes:** 13 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

b. **Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2026, Budget Workshop with Town Select Boards**
- **Motion:** PC **Second:** NE **Yes:** 13 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

c. **Acceptance of Donations through March 27, 2026**
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** KD **Yes:** 13 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

d. Policy DJ, Bidding/Purchasing Requirements
- **Motion:** AG **Second:** NE **Yes:** 13 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

e. Policy DJ-R, Bidding/Purchasing Requirements Procedures
- **Motion:** AG **Second:** NE **Yes:** 13 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

f. First Reading, Policy EBBD, Temperature Standards for Schools

g. First Reading, Policy EBCB, Emergency Drills

h. Consideration of request for Leave of Absence for 2026-2027 School Year, Maranacook Middle School Team Teacher Anna Satterfield
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** PC **Yes:** 13 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

i. Consideration of Overnight Field Trip, Adult Ed: Truck Driving Competition in Bangor on 5/15-5/17
- **Cancelled**

j. Consideration of Out-of-State Field Trip, Mt Vernon Fifth Grade Class to Boston on 6/4
- **Motion:** CW **Second:** NE **Yes:** 13 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

7. Adjournment: 8:15 pm; **Motion:** NE

Any citizen who wishes to add an item to the agenda may do so by notifying the Board Chair or the Superintendent's Office, in writing, ten days before the Board's next scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Karen G. Smith, Superintendent
Mandy Fitzgerald, Finance Director, Recorder

"A CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE"

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
APRIL 15, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Minutes of Meeting

Board Members: ☑ Chair, Shawn Roderick, ☑ Vice Chair, Leslie Marco

☑ Wendy Brotherlin	☑ Dan Holman	☑ Patricia Clark	☑ David Twitchell
☑ Kristin Dubois	☑ Noah Easter	☐ Chad Wight	☑ Andrew Gorrill
☑ David Guillemette		☑ Brian Tarbuck	(online 7:47 PM)
☑ Chip Jones			
☐ Kate Parker	☐ Luke Tinckham		

Administrators/Directors Present: Superintendent Karen Smith, Finance Director Mandy Fitzgerald, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Principals Michele LaForge (online), Mike Muir, Jeff Boston, Michelle Hood, Jeanette Jacobs (online), Assistant Principal Cal Dorman, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Transportation Director Jason Sirois

1. Call to order: 6:34 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

3. Executive Session to consider negotiations between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the RSU #38 Maranacook Area School Bus Drivers pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(D)
Motion to enter Executive Session 6:35 pm: NE **Second:** BT **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**
Call to order: 6:45 pm

a. **Action(s) following Executive Session (if any):**
   - **Motion to approve the negotiated agreement between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the RSU #38 Maranacook Area School Bus Drivers; Motion:** NE **Second:** PC **Yes:** 11 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

4. Citizens' Comment (not related to budget):

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

a. **Superintendent Smith Added:**
   - 7.a. Consideration of Out-of-State Field Trip - HS Math Team

6. Budget Workshop:

a. **Updates**
b. **Citizens' Comments (budget-related)**
c. **Deliberations, follow-up, and decision-making,**
   - **Motion made to direct the Maranacook Administrative Team to recalculate the district plan to continue to offer Kindergarten at all four elementary schools.**
     Motion: DT **Second:** NE **Yes:** 4 **No:** 8 **Abstain:** 0; **Fails**
d. **Vote on 2026-2027 RSU #38 Budget**
   - **Motion:** BT **Second:** NE **Yes:** 10 **No:** 1 **Abstain:** 1; **Passes**
e. **Vote on 2026-2027 RSU #38 Adult Education Budget**
   - **Motion:** PC **Second:** NE **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**
f. **Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Validation Referendum, and to Authorize the Notice of Amount Adopted**
   - **Motion:** NE **Second:** BT **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

7. Action following Budget Workshop (if needed):

a. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip - HS Math Team

- **Motion:** NE **Second:** PC **Yes:** 11 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

8. Adjournment: 9:01 pm; **Motion:** BT

Any citizen who wishes to add an item to the agenda may do so by notifying the Board Chair or the Superintendent's Office, in writing, ten days before the Board's next scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Karen G. Smith, Superintendent
Mandy Fitzgerald, Finance Director, Recorder

APRIL 15, 2026

MOTION: I move that the Vote entitled, "Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted," be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.

VOTE TO CALL AND APPROVE THE WARRANTS FOR THE BUDGET MEETING AND THE VALIDATION REFERENDUM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE NOTICE OF AMOUNTS ADOPTED

VOTED: That the warrant for the Regional School Unit Budget Meeting presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved and that the Regional School Unit budget meeting be and is hereby called for May 13, 2026 for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the Regional School Unit for the 2026-2027 fiscal year;

That the Warrant and Notice of Election for the Regional School Unit Budget Validation Referendum presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved, and that the Regional School Unit budget validation referendum be and is hereby called for June 9, 2026, for the purpose of approving the budget adopted at the Regional School Unit budget meeting for the 2026-2027 fiscal year; and

That the form of Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting presented to this meeting be and is hereby approved, and that the Superintendent of Schools of the Regional School Unit is hereby authorized and directed to complete said Notice by adding the amounts approved by the voters for each expenditure category and the total school budget summary expenditure amount, all in accordance with Regional School Unit budget meeting on May 13, 2026, and to cause copies of said notice, as completed, to be delivered to the municipal clerks of each municipality of the Regional School unit for posting at the polling places for the June 9, 2026 Regional School Unit budget validation referendum.

BOARD CHAIR
SHAWN RODERICK

WENDY BROTHERLIN
PATRICIA CLARK
KRISTIN DUBOIS
NOAH EASTER
ANDREW GORRILL

RSU 38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS



BOARD VICE CHAIR
LESLIE MARCO

DAVID GUILLEMETTE
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CHIP JONES
BRIAN TARBUCK
DAVID TWITCHELL
CHAD WIGHT

DONATIONS

(RECEIVED THROUGH May 1, 2026)

DONOR NAME	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Ann E. Parker C David Tobie	$200	Maranacook Food Pantry
Nancy Perkins	$450	Maranacook Food Pantry

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38
TEACHER APPOINTMENTS 2026-2027

SECOND PROBATIONARY CONTRACT TEACHERS:

The following teachers are being presented for second probationary contracts for the 2026-2027 school year:

Name	School	Position
Jo Mueller	MES	Music Teacher k-3
Sheena Reese	MES	Library Ed Tech
Christina Spila	MES	Elementary Teacher
Tuesdae Masse	MTVES	Elementary Teacher
Sara Qualey	MTVES	Music Teacher 4-5
Jamye Winter	MTVES	Elementary Teacher
Meg Porter	RES	Guidance Counselor
Chloe Allen	MCMS	Team Teacher
Reid Gagnon	MCMS	Team Teacher
Casey Garretson	MCMS	Team Teacher
Holly Chapdelaine	MCHS	English Teacher
Laurie Cullen	MCHS	Science Teacher

FIRST CONTINUING CONTRACT TEACHERS:

The following teachers are being presented for first continuing contracts for the 2026-2027 school year:

Name	School	Position
Erica Coombs	MES	Elementary Teacher
Shayna Frost	MTVES	Elementary Teacher
Andrew Gordon	MTVES	Elementary Teacher
Laura Houghton	MTVES	P.E Teacher
Lucy Perkins	MTVES	Elementary Teacher
Doug Blay	RES	Elementary Teacher
Sarah Dyer	RES	Elementary Teacher
Madelyn Voye	WES	Elementary Teacher
Jenn Kelliher	MCMS	Middle School Nurse
Leigh Mathieu	MCMS	Team Teacher
Aaron McClure	MCMS	Special Education Teacher
Nat Shacklett	MCMS	Art Teacher

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 38
TEMPERATURE STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS

Maine law (20-A MRSA § 1001(23)) requires school boards to adopt and implement a policy establishing minimum and maximum temperature standards for school buildings.

The Board believes that the optimal environment ("comfort zone") for teaching and learning is between a minimum of 68 degrees and a maximum of 78 degrees and adopts this OSHA-recommended "temperature standard" for the District's schools.

The Board recognizes that, due to age and construction, the District's school buildings may not have HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems capable of maintaining consistent temperatures within this range in all or some areas of the buildings. Some schools may have air conditioning in a few spaces, while others may have none at all.

When temperatures in the building as a whole or in classrooms or other occupied spaces exceed the maximum comfort zone, schools are expected to take practicable measures to relieve heat and humidity-related discomfort, such as (but not limited to):

- Opening windows, when this can be done safely
- Pulling down shades or blinds
- Using fans and/or opening doors within the building to improve air circulation
- Turning off heat-producing electronics and equipment
- Having water readily available to students and staff
- Allowing students and staff to bring battery-operated personal fans to school
- If an individual classroom is affected, allowing teachers to move students to a cooler area of the building (e.g., air-conditioned library or space on shaded side of the building) or, if feasible, to move students to a cooler "outside classroom" for continued instruction
- On days of extreme heat, consider rescheduling tests/exams to another day to enable more effective demonstration and evaluation of student performance

This does not preclude building administrators from acting preemptively in anticipation of a rise in building/classroom temperature to a point that will require action.

On cold days, when building and classroom temperatures hover near the minimum, schools are encouraged to incorporate more opportunities for physical activity during class time and may consider having extra layers of clothing available.

Families should ensure that their students are dressed appropriately for expected weather conditions.

Building administrators will be responsible for implementing this policy, including identifying and planning feasible measures for their schools.

This policy will be posted/made accessible to the public on the District's website.

Adopted: _____

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 1001(23)

SECOND READING

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38
EMERGENCY DRILLS

To protect the safety of students and school personnel and in compliance with Maine Department of Education regulations, schools at all levels (K-12) are required to hold two emergency evacuation drills during the first two weeks of school. Schools enrolling grades K-5 will hold an additional eight emergency evacuation drills during the year; schools enrolling grades 6-8 will hold an additional six emergency evacuation drills; and schools enrolling grades 9-12 will hold an additional four emergency evacuation drills. Schools enrolling any combination of these grade levels will hold the additional number of emergency evacuation drills required of the lowest grade level within the span, except that the local fire chief may increase the number of drills required. Results shall be recorded, deficiencies noted, and corrected.

Emergency evacuation procedures will be incorporated into the school unit's emergency management plan. Building principals should seek advice from local fire, emergency management, and law enforcement officials to identify routes for evacuating their individual school buildings as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Written procedures for emergency evacuation drills shall be posted in each classroom and in the building principal's office.

Principals shall keep a record of all fire drills held in their schools, stating the date and time the drill was held and the time required for evacuation of the building. This information will be reported to the Superintendent or their designee after each drill. Fire officials will be notified before each drill.

The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for ensuring that school personnel receive an annual orientation concerning emergency evacuation procedures. The building principal will be responsible for ensuring that teachers familiarize students with designated evacuation routes before the first emergency evacuation drill of the school year.

LOCKDOWN DRILLS

In some high-risk situations, the school may be locked down rather than evacuated. Each school will hold at least one lockdown drill during the school year, which may be incorporated into the required emergency drills in the previous section.

BUS EVACUATION DRILLS

Maine Department of Education regulations require that students transported on school buses be instructed in safe riding practices and participate in emergency evacuation drills at least twice a year. The building principal will be responsible for arranging the times and locations of such drills. Bus evacuation drills must be conducted in the school parking lot or other safe location. The principal**,** in consultation with the Special Services Director and/or Section 504 Coordinator, will determine appropriate evacuation procedures for students with disabilities.

Legal Reference: Ch. 125 § 10.2 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)
Ch. 81 § 2(B) (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)
Resolve Ch.2, 127th Leg., 1st Session (Me 2015)
Cross Reference: EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (Crisis Response Plan)

Adopted:

SECOND READING