MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 35
Serving the communities of ELIOT & SOUTH BERWICK

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Dear Marshwood Families,

As we enter this season of gratitude, I find myself reflecting on just how much there is to appreciate about our Marshwood community. Every day, I am reminded of the dedication, creativity, talent, and generosity of our students, staff, families, and community partners. There is so much happening across our schools, and so many people working together to create meaningful opportunities for our students. It truly is a great time to be a Marshwood Hawk!

A Weekend Full of Hawk Pride!

If you are looking for something to do this weekend, there are plenty of opportunities to get out and support our students!

Our school musical is in full swing, with additional performances this weekend. The talent, creativity, and hard work that go into bringing a production like this to life are extraordinary. If you haven't had the chance to see it, I encourage you to go! Bring your tissues, as it is sure to be a memorable performance. Congratulations to all of our students, directors, and everyone behind the scenes who have made this production possible.

On Saturday, our Varsity Football team heads to Portland to compete in the State Championship! What an accomplishment for our players and coaches. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, determination, and teamwork that have brought this group to this moment. Let's show up, cheer loudly, and support our Hawks as they take the field!

And if that's not enough, our Ski Team is hosting a fundraiser Saturday morning. This is another wonderful opportunity to support our student-athletes and the programs that make Marshwood such a special place.

From the stage to the football field to the ski slopes, there is something for everyone. I hope to see many of you out supporting our students this weekend!

Board of Directors Update

The Board of Directors met Wednesday evening, following a meeting of the Finance and Facilities Committee. There were several important conversations and updates as we continue our work planning for the future of the district.

Finance and Facilities Committee

The Board received an update on the district's finances and ongoing facilities and transportation work. Through October 31, the district had received approximately $14.9 million in revenue (36.67% of the FY27 budget) and expended approximately $13.75 million (33.8% of the budget), reflecting progress generally in line with the fiscal year. Facilities updates included the restoration of the MHS digital sign, installation of the JBGWS lettering, winter weather preparations, and securing propane pricing for the season. The district is also actively recruiting a night custodian for MHS and a grounds person. Transportation continues to be an area of focus: a new van driver has been hired, the wheelchair bus with the lift has been delivered and is in daily use, and additional van driver

candidates are in the hiring process. However, the district continues to face a critical shortage of CDL bus drivers, and continued adjustments to late bus timing have been made to address ongoing delays.

Celebrating Junior Achievement at Jerry Burnell Great Works School

One of the highlights of Wednesday evening's Board meeting was a wonderful presentation from students from the Jerry Burnell Great Works School about their work with Junior Achievement.

It was terrific to hear directly from students and educators about the concepts and skills related to financial literacy and entrepreneurship this program provides. These types of experiences help students make connections between what they learn in the classroom and the world around them. Thank you to the students and staff who took the time to share their experiences with the Board!

Class Size Policy and Future Enrollment

The Board also reviewed our Class Size Policy (IIB). This policy provides guidance for class size expectations across our schools and helps inform decisions about staffing, classroom assignments, and the learning environment. Reviewing this policy is an important part of ensuring that we are thoughtful and intentional about how we organize our schools and allocate resources to support students and teachers.

We also reviewed projected enrollment for the 2027–2028 school year. Current projections reflect decreases in enrollment at EES, CES, and JBGWS; an increase at MMS; and no projected change at MHS. Enrollment projections are an important part of our ongoing planning, helping us anticipate staffing needs, classroom capacity, programming, and resources as we look ahead and begin planning for the upcoming budget cycle.

Policies and Student Opportunities

The Board approved several new policies and reviewed existing policies as part of its ongoing policy work. The Board also enthusiastically approved the JBGWS fifth-grade trips to Pinkham Notch this spring. These experiential learning opportunities are an important part of the fifth-grade experience, and the Board was happy to support the students and staff in making these trips possible!

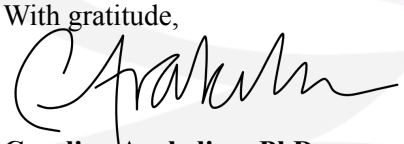
As always, thank you to our Board members for their time, thoughtful questions, and commitment to the long-term success of our schools.

A Season of Gratitude

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to take a moment to recognize the many ways our families partner with our schools. Whether you are volunteering, attending school events, supporting extracurricular activities, communicating with teachers, helping with homework, or simply encouraging your children each day, your involvement matters. Strong schools are built through strong partnerships, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us and the support you provide.

Thank you for being part of what makes Marshwood special. I wish all of our families and staff a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with time to relax, reconnect, and enjoy the holiday with family and friends.

With gratitude,



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