

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 4**

**ANNUAL REPORT & PROPOSED BUDGET  
for FISCAL YEAR 2024**

**MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR**

Hello RSU #4 Stakeholders,

It has been a great year of student achievement inside and outside of the classroom. Our Future Business Leaders of America team won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the 25<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Several of our students, who attend LRTC (Lewiston Regional Technical Center), won medals at the State SkillsUSA Championship. The Academic Decathlon team won 1<sup>st</sup> place at their state championship this past spring and are headed to Texas for Nationals. We are certainly living out our mission of *"Inspiring all Learners to Achieve Future Success."* We have 16 teachers that were nominated for Teacher of the Year. I am proud to be a member of this great school system.

Here we are at another budget season. The Board is aware of the continued rise in energy cost, food cost and much more to our families. Our schools are also experiencing the same increases. Our Administrative Team has been working hard to keep to a "needs-based" budget along with being aware of safety and maintenance needs for our schools. The Board also wants to make sure that we can continue to attract educators to our district while keeping our current, great educators.

We hope that you can help the Board support our FY 2023-2024 school budget.

Jill Bouchard

Chairperson  
Regional School Unit #4  
School Board of Directors



**RSU # 4 BUDGET MEETING  
HELD AT OAK HILL HIGH SCHOOL  
WEDNESDAY, May 17, 2023  
Immediately following the Public Hearing scheduled for 6:30 PM**

**RSU # 4 BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM  
HELD AT EACH TOWN'S POLLING LOCATION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023**

# REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 4

Dear Residents of Litchfield, Sabattus and Wales,

At the heart of this year’s budget development was the acknowledgement that it is important to have a school budget that provides a high quality education and is also fiscally responsible. We are asking RSU #4 communities to support a 5.46% budget increase this year. These are some of the items that raised this year’s budget:

- Utility rates and property insurance;
- Cost of supplies and anticipated repairs;
- Safety measures for schools such as the Verkada card system;
- Special education students’ attendance at Special Private Purpose schools at 100%;
- Salaries in order to adequately pay and retain our approximately 250 employees; and
- Health insurance costs.

Your tax dollars make a difference in educating our approximately 1,300 students with our mission “Inspiring All Learners to Achieve Future Success,” a mission we are committed to strive towards each and every day. Here is a list of the district’s, “Did you know’s” that exemplify the outstanding work of students and staff in RSU #4:

- Oak Hill High School’s Future Business Leaders of America Chapter won it’s 25th State Championship!
- At the State SkillsUSA Competition, OHHS/Lewiston Regional Technical Center (LRTC) students won 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze medals!
- OHHS Decathlon Team won States for the second year in a row!
- 16 teachers were nominated for the County Teacher of the Year recognition!
- Assistant Superintendent, Kathy Martin, was nominated by the Western Maine Superintendents’ Association to be recognized for her outstanding leadership.
- One of our Seniors wrote and directed the One Act Play, “North of the Burrow” and he and others received Special Recognitions at the competition.
- Eight students in grades 4-12 participated in the District III Honors Festival. Two high school students were accepted into the All-State SATB chorus.
- Seven OHHS students and an English teacher wrote an amazing book “Trinkets & Knick-Knacks” as a result of a twelve session residency hosted by The Telling Room.
- RSU #4 was selected as the 2023 recipient of the Healthy Androscoggin Will Bartlett Award for improving the lives of children and youth by providing a safe, tobacco-free environment for our students, parents and community through education, policy and collaboration.
- OHHS Graduation Rate has increased from 74.76% in 2017-2018 to 86.79% in 2021-2022.
- OHHS offers up to 19 Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment (students earn high school and college credits) Courses.
- Adult Education will graduate 10 students this year.
- G&T students at OHMS participated for the first time in the Meridian Stories competition and earned one second place prize and two third place prizes and multiple badges for their film projects in Mysteries and the Shakespearean Soliloquy Shake Up!

Thank you to all the community members, businesses and organizations that have supported our schools, they truly making a difference!

Thank you for your consideration to support the RSU #4 school budget.

Katherine (Katy) Grondin

## ANNUAL REPORT - ENROLLMENT October 1, 2022

RSU 4 Enrollment per Town	Litchfield	Sabattus	Wales	Other
Libby Tozier PreK-K	54	69	18	4
Sabattus Primary School 1-2	55	76	34	2
Carrie Ricker 3-4	73	94	24	2
Oak Hill Middle School 5-8	122	187	68	9
Oak Hill High School 9-12	116	190	73	17
	420	616	217	34
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>1287</b>			
Homeschooled	40	37	31	0
<b>Total Homeschooled</b>	<b>108</b>			

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 4**  
**ANNUAL REPORT & PROPOSED FY 2024 BUDGET**  
**Proposed Budget for FY 2024**

Budget Warrant Article/Cost Center	Proposed Budget FY 2024	Adopted Budget FY 2023	Adopted Budget FY 2022	Diff 23 vs. 24
1. Regular Instruction	\$7,602,308.53	\$7,449,377	\$6,964,486	\$152,931.53
2. Special Education	\$4,677,731.79	\$3,990,495	\$3,735,738	\$687,236.79
3. Career & Technical Education	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. Other Instruction	\$520,656.33	\$497,389	\$437,557	\$23,267.33
5. Student & Staff Support	\$2,610,594.21	\$2,547,779	\$2,423,563	\$62,815.21
6. System Administration	\$866,302.32	\$842,780	\$666,492	\$23,522.32
7. School Administration	\$1,049,350.51	\$1,030,202	\$895,536	\$19,148.51
8. Transportation	\$1,134,357.02	\$1,251,231	\$1,132,045	\$(116,873.98)
9. Facilities & Maintenance	\$3,538,434.34	\$3,110,093	\$2,711,300	\$428,341.34
10. Debt Service	\$453,429.77	\$472,244	\$490,767	\$(18,814.23)
11. All Other Expenditures	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$(100,000)
<b>RSU No. 4 Total</b>	<b>\$22,453,164.82</b>	<b>\$21,291,591</b>	<b>\$19,557,484</b>	<b>\$1,161,573.82</b>

**BUDGET ADOPTION PROCESS**

The budget approval process was changed by law in 2007. The budget referendum procedure is now a “double approval” process for the school budget. First, the budget is presented in line item format for action at the Regional School Unit budget meeting, similar in format to local town meetings. Voters from the towns of Litchfield, Sabattus and Wales are requested to attend the budget meeting to vote on and adopt a budget. Second, the budget approved at the budget meeting will be voted on in a referendum vote in each of the three towns.

**Regional School Unit Budget Meeting Process:** Following the election of the moderator and the presentation of the budget, the moderator will conduct the meeting to vote on the dollar amounts to be approved for the 11 expenditure cost centers (warrant articles 1-11), then articles 12 & 13 to raise funds for the proposed budget. It should be noted that Article 13 requires a written ballot.

Article 14 approves the total proposed school budget for the RSU.

Articles 15 & 16, appropriate and raises funds for the School Nutrition & Adult Education programs.

Article 17 allows the Regional School Unit to expend for school purposes other sums from federal and state sources received during the fiscal year.

Article 18 corrects the FY23 budget amount for the Adult Education program.

**Budget Validation Referendum Process:** Once the budget is approved at the budget meeting, a referendum vote will be held in each town on **June 13, 2023** to vote **yes or no** to approve the budget ratified at the budget meeting. The votes in each town will be tabulated and the results of the combined votes will determine whether the budget passes.



**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 4**

**ANNUAL REPORT & PROPOSED FY 2024 BUDGET**  
**Proposed Revenue for FY 2024**

Revenue Summary FY 2024 General Fund	Proposed FY2024	Adopted FY2023	\$ Difference FY 2024 to FY 2023	Explanations
Local Allocation - Litchfield	\$2,754,776.33	\$2,683,327	\$71,449.33	Required to receive state funds
Local Allocation - Sabattus	\$2,345,288.83	\$2,252,712	\$92,576.83	Required to receive state funds
Local Allocation - Wales	\$912,489.17	\$880,755	\$31,734.17	Required to receive state funds
Additional Local Funds - Litchfield	\$1,818,599.59	\$1,442,705	\$375,894.59	To raise after all other sources
Additional Local Funds - Sabattus	\$2,099,691.68	\$1,608,683	\$491,008.68	To raise after all other sources
Additional Local Funds - Wales	\$747,092.43	\$598,137	\$148,955.43	To raise after all other sources
School Lunch from Towns	\$0	\$0	\$0	Moved to School Nutrition 2930
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$129,000	\$129,000	\$0	Fees/Interest Income/Activity Fees
State Allocation RSU 4	\$11,038,226.80	\$11,108,273	\$(70,046.20)	State General Purpose Aid
State Agency Clients	\$180,000	\$104,000	\$76,000	Reimbursement for billable services for eligible State Agency Clients
Child Development Services Revenue	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	Reimbursement for billable services for eligible PreK students
Lap Top Damage Reimbursement	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	Revenue for lap top damage
Maine Care Reimbursement	\$20,000	\$78,000	\$(58,000)	Reimbursement for billable services for Maine Care eligible students
Fund Balance	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	To lessen the impact of local taxes
<b>Total Regional School Unit No. 4</b>	<b>\$22,453,164.83</b>	<b>\$21,291,591</b>	<b>\$1,161,573.83</b>	

Adult & Continuing Education	Proposed FY2024	Adopted FY2023	\$ Difference FY 2024 to FY 2023	Explanations
Local Allocation Ad Ed - Litchfield	\$33,835.62	\$19,766	\$14,069.62	Local Assessment
Local Allocation Ad Ed - Sabattus	\$39,065.42	\$22,040	\$17,025.42	Local Assessment
Local Allocation Ad Ed - Wales	\$13,899.89	\$8,195	\$5,704.89	Local Assessment
State Subsidy and Carry Forward Balance	\$24,349.03	\$102,461	\$(78,110.97)	Est. State Subsidy
General Course Fees	\$8,000.00	\$0	\$8,000	Course Fees
<b>Total Adult &amp; Continuing Education</b>	<b>\$119,149.96</b>	<b>\$152,461</b>	<b>\$(33,311.04)</b>	

School Nutrition	Proposed FY2024	Adopted FY2023	\$ Difference FY 2024 to FY 2023	Explanations
Local Allocation Nutrition - Litchfield	\$58,471.06	\$0	\$58,471.06	Local Assessment
Local Allocation Nutrition - Sabattus	\$67,508.65	\$0	\$67,508.65	Local Assessment
Local Allocation Nutrition - Wales	\$24,020.29	\$0	\$24,020.29	Local Assessment
School Lunch Subsidy	\$656,000	\$573,666.13	\$82,333.87	Est. State Subsidy
School Lunch Daily Sales	\$50,000	\$140,000	\$(90,000)	Revenue from POS sales
<b>Total School Nutrition</b>	<b>\$856,000</b>			



# REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 4

## ANNUAL REPORT & PROPOSED FY 2024 BUDGET

### Proposed Local Revenue by Town for FY 2024

Litchfield	Proposed FY2024	Adopted FY2023	\$ Difference FY2024 to 2023	Notes
Local Allocation Required	\$2,754,776.33	\$2,683,327.00	\$71,449.33	Required to receive state funds
Additional Local Allocation	\$1,818,599.59	\$1,442,705.00	\$375,894.59	Raised after all other sources
Local Allocation - Adult Education	\$33,835.62	\$19,766.00	\$14,069.62	Adult Education
Local Allocation - Nutrition	\$58,471.06	\$0	\$58,471.06	School Nutrition
Total Litchfield	\$4,665,682.59	\$4,145,798.00	\$519,884.59	

Sabattus	Proposed FY2024	Adopted FY2023	\$ Difference FY2024 to 2023	Notes
Local Allocation Required	\$2,345,288.83	\$2,252,712.00	\$92,576.83	Required to receive state funds
Additional Local Allocation	\$2,099,691.68	\$1,608,683.00	\$491,008.68	Raised after all other sources
Local Allocation - Adult Education	\$39,065.42	\$22,040	\$17,025.42	Adult Education
Local Allocation - Nutrition	\$67,508.65	\$0	\$67,508.65	School Nutrition
Total Sabattus	\$4,551,554.58	\$3,883,435.00	\$668,119.58	

Wales	Proposed FY2024	Adopted FY2023	\$ Difference FY2024 to 2023	Notes
Local Allocation Required	\$912,489.17	\$880,755.00	\$31,734.17	Required to receive state funds
Additional Local Allocation	\$747,092.43	\$598,137.00	\$148,955.43	Raised after all other sources
Local Allocation - Adult Education	\$13,899.89	\$8,195.00	\$5,704.89	Adult Education
Local Allocation - Nutrition	\$24,020.29	\$0	\$24,020.29	School Nutrition
Total Wales	\$1,697,501.77	\$1,487,087.00	\$210,414.77	

Total All Towns	\$10,914,738.95	\$9,516,320.00	\$1,398,418.95	Net increase
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Estimated Mill Rate impact of RSU 4 only budget	Est. Inc/(dec)		
Litchfield - 1 Mill raises	\$391,752.00		1.327
Sabattus - 1 Mill raises	\$362,379.00		1.844
Wales - 1 Mill raises	\$127,385.00		1.652
	Litchfield	Sabattus	Wales
Est. Annual Inc/(dec) on a home valued at \$100,000	\$132.71	\$184.37	\$165.18
Est. Annual Inc/(dec) on a home valued at \$150,000	\$199.06	\$276.56	\$247.77
Est. Annual Inc/(dec) on a home valued at \$200,000	\$265.42	\$368.74	\$330.36



## REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 4

# WARRANT FOR RSU # 4 BUDGET

To: Michelle O’Connell, a resident of Regional School Unit No. 4 (the “Regional School Unit”), composed of the Towns of Litchfield, Sabattus and Wales, State of Maine:

**ARTICLE 1A:** To elect a Moderator to preside at the meeting.

**ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11**  
**AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES**

**ARTICLE 1:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **REGULAR INSTRUCTION**.  
 (School Board recommends \$7,602,308.53)

**ARTICLE 2:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **SPECIAL EDUCATION**.  
 (School Board recommends \$4,677,731.79)

**ARTICLE 3:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **CAREER and TECHNICAL EDUCATION**.  
 (School Board recommends \$0)

**ARTICLE 4:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **OTHER INSTRUCTION**.  
 (School Board recommends \$520,656.33)

**ARTICLE 5:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **STUDENT & STAFF SUPPORT**.  
 (School Board recommends \$2,610,594.21)

**ARTICLE 6:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION**.  
 (School Board recommends \$866,302.32)

**ARTICLE 7:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**.  
 (School Board recommends \$1,049,350.51)

**ARTICLE 8:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **TRANSPORTATION & BUSES**.  
 (School Board recommends \$1,134,357.02)

**ARTICLE 9:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**.  
 (School Board recommends \$3,538,434.34)

**ARTICLE 10:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **DEBT SERVICE & OTHER COMMITMENTS**.  
 (School Board recommends \$453,429.77)

**ARTICLE 11:** To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for **ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES**.  
 (School Board recommends \$0)

**ARTICLES 12 AND 13**  
**RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

**ARTICLE 12:** 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.

**Recommended amounts set forth below:**

Total appropriated (by municipality): TOWN of LITCHFIELD    \$5,530,237.47 TOWN of SABATTUS       \$8,624,305.84 TOWN of WALES            \$2,896,237.82	Total raised (and RSU assessments by municipality): TOWN of LITCHFIELD    \$2,754,776.33 TOWN of SABATTUS       \$2,345,288.83 TOWN of WALES            \$912,489.17
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**Total Appropriated (Sum of above) : \$17,050,781.13      Total Raised (Sum of above): \$6,012,554.33**

*Explanation: 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 is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the RSU must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 4**

**ARTICLE 13: (Written ballot required)** To see what sum the RSU will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$4,665,383.69**), which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$4,665,383.69**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board?

The School Board Recommends \$4,665,383.69, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$4,665,383.69 due to inequities in the EPS funding formula, including but not limited to the regional labor market adjustment factor, student/teacher ratios, extra and co-curricular programs and administrative costs.

*Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the RSU’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 budget for educational programs.*

**ARTICLE 14 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see what sum the RSU will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 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 debt services, 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 \$22,453,164.82**)

**ARTICLE 15 RAISES AND APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM**

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the RSU will raise and appropriate **\$150,000** for the school nutrition program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the school nutrition program.

**ARTICLE 16 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE**

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the RSU will appropriate **\$119,149.96** for adult education and raise **\$86,800.93** 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.

**ARTICLE 17 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANT AND OTHER RECEIPTS**

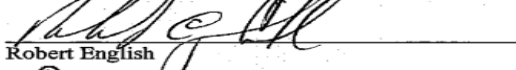
**ARTICLE 17:** In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Board be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school and other program purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

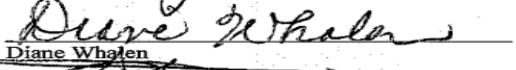
**ARTICLE 18 CORRECTS THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2022-2023 ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the RSU will increase the total appropriation for the 2022-2023 adult education program from \$102,461 to \$152,461.

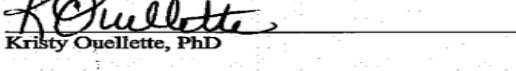
Given under our hand this day, April 12, 2023 at Wales, Maine.

  
Robert Gayton Jr.

  
Robert English

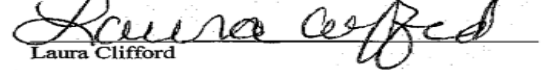
  
Diane Whalen

  
Scott Lyfe

  
Kristy Ouellette, PhD

  
Jill Bouchard

  
Vicki Russell

  
Laura Clifford

  
Brandon Richards

A majority of the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 4

A true copy of the Warrant, attest:   
Michelle O’Connell, Resident  
Regional School Unit No. 4

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 4**

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

**BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM**

HELD AT THE POLLING PLACE IN EACH INDIVIDUAL TOWN

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023**



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**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 4**

Regional School Unit # 4  
Office of the Superintendent  
971 Gardiner Road  
Wales, ME 04280

Non Profit Organization  
U.S Postage  
Paid permit No. 1  
Sabattus, ME 04280

**ECRWSS  
RESIDENT  
04280**



**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 4**

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

**BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM**

**HELD AT THE POLLING PLACE IN EACH INDIVIDUAL TOWN**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023**



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**ECRWSS  
RESIDENT  
04350**

