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Katahdin Region Residents Invited to Join Community Conversations About the Future of Local Schools

Regional Engagement Process Continues with Public Discussions in Millinocket, Medway, East Millinocket, and Online

KATAHDIN REGION, MAINE – Residents from across the Katahdin region are invited to participate in a series of community conversations this June as part of the ongoing stakeholder engagement process exploring opportunities, challenges, and possibilities for increased collaboration among the Medway, Millinocket, and East Millinocket school districts.

These conversations represent the first phase of a comprehensive community/school engagement process launched earlier this year to gather perspectives from educators, students, school boards, families, businesses, community organizations, and residents. The goal is to ensure that any future discussions regarding district collaboration or reorganization are informed by the experiences, priorities, and aspirations of the communities they serve. This website provides additional information on each of the stakeholder meetings

Importantly, community members are welcome to attend **any** of the scheduled conversations, regardless of where they live. A resident of Millinocket may attend the East Millinocket session, a Medway resident may attend the Millinocket session, and all residents are encouraged to participate in whichever meeting best fits their schedule. The conversations are intended to bring together voices from across the region and are not limited to residents of a particular town.

Community Conversation Schedule

Millinocket Community Conversation
June 8, 2026 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Medway Community Conversation
June 11, 2026 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Regional Community Zoom Session
June 15, 2026 | 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

East Millinocket Community Conversation
June 18, 2026 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Creating Space for Meaningful Community Dialogue

Unlike traditional public meetings, these conversations are designed to foster thoughtful discussion and active participation. The sessions will use a small-group, community-centered format that encourages participants to share their experiences, ask questions, and explore possibilities together.

Participants will engage in discussions focused on:

- What is currently working well within the region's educational system
- Challenges facing schools, students, and communities
- Opportunities that could emerge through stronger connections and collaboration across districts
- Community traditions, values, and identities that should be preserved and honored
- New possibilities for serving students and families across the region
- Creative and innovative ideas for the future of education in the Katahdin region
- Considerations that should guide future planning efforts
- Qualities and perspectives that should be represented on a future cross-district Design Team

The conversations will also provide an overview of the engagement process to date and offer participants an opportunity to help shape the next phase of the work.

Building on Community Voices

Since January, the engagement process has included discussions with teachers, staff, students, administrators, and school board members across the three districts. The community conversations provide an opportunity to broaden the discussion and ensure that local residents have a meaningful voice in considering the future of education in the Katahdin region.

Information gathered throughout the engagement process will help inform the possible formation of a regional Design Team that will review themes, identify priorities, and explore potential models for future collaboration. Any future recommendations will be grounded in the input and perspectives shared by stakeholders throughout the process.

"Our goal has always been to create a process that is transparent, inclusive, and rooted in the communities it serves," said facilitators Korah Soll and Dr. Catharine Biddle. "These conversations are an opportunity for residents to reflect on what they value most about their schools and communities, while also imagining what might be possible if we work together to strengthen educational opportunities for students across the region."

The districts remain committed to ensuring that all perspectives are heard and that community members have multiple opportunities to engage throughout the process.

How to Participate

Residents, parents, business owners, community leaders, and interested community members are encouraged to attend any of the scheduled conversations. Participation is not restricted by town of residence, and attendees are welcome to choose the meeting location or format that works best for them.

Additional information, meeting locations, and participation details will be shared through district communications, local media outlets, and community organizations. For those who are unable to attend, a survey can be accessed through the Tri-Town Education Futures website.

About the Facilitators

Korah Soll is a facilitator with the Rural Aspirations Project, specializing in educational planning, rural innovation, and community engagement.

Dr. Catharine Biddle is a faculty member at the University of Maine whose work focuses on educational leadership, rural schools, and community-centered approaches to educational change.

For more information, please contact:

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