



BLUE MOUNTAIN
UNION SCHOOL

20
24

Annual Report
to the Community

WELLS RIVER, Vermont





Annual Meeting

& Public Informational Hearing
 Thursday, April 11
 6:00 p.m.
 Blue Mountain Union School
 Wells River, Vermont



Voting Day

Monday, April 15
 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 ■ Ryegate Town Hall
 ■ Groton Community Building
 ■ Wells River Village Garage

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Meet Our School Board Members

NAME	POSITION	TOWN	TERM
Angeline Bogie	Chair	Ryegate	2021-2024
Paul Hazel	Vice-Chair	Ryegate	2022-2025
Allison Ingerson	Member	Groton	2022-2025
Kristen Murray	Member	Ryegate	2022-2025
Kendall Lambert	Member	Wells River	2023-2024
Daniel LaCoss	Member	Ryegate	2023-2024
Kelsey Root-Winchester	Member	Wells River	2022-2025
Alissa Smith	Member	Groton	2023-2026
Sasha Emerson	Member	Groton	2023-2024
Abigail Emerson	Student Rep Class of 2024		
Maya Christy	Student Rep Class of 2025		



From the School Board Chair

Another year has come and gone, and as I write this annual report, I would like to thank the Blue Mountain Union School community for its commitment and support of our school. I always think of Dr. Rowe and his vision for BMU, “What’s best for the community is a good school, one that has a good reputation. What is best for the kids is a good school.”

I would like to congratulate our class of 2023 valedictorian Mia Beck and salutatorian Lauren Joy, who are both now attending the University of Vermont.

Our commitment to academic excellence, safe and healthy schools, and humanity and justice is paramount. Our students, your children, deserve an education that prepares them for entry into the college of their choice, success in their chosen career, or advancement towards whatever lifepath they choose. Embedded in that goal is equipping students to be creative, compassionate, and thoughtful members of society. To us, equity means that our school will attempt to provide every student with access to high quality, culturally responsive curriculum and programs, including teachers, administrators, extracurricular activities, and support services.

Because “equity” and “equality” are two very different things, achieving equity may require unequal distribution of resources and services. It involves acknowledging and changing inequitable practices, acknowledging biases (often unintentional), and employing practices that reflect

the reality that while all students may not be headed in the same direction after high school, all deserve a solid foundation for the lives they will eventually pursue.

As we look ahead, we know that enrollments will continue to decline and that expenses – for all stakeholders, will continue to rise. If we’re going to be sensitive to the financial burdens increasingly faced by taxpayers; and if our goal is to ensure that all students have the knowledge and resources, they need to succeed in whatever life pathways they choose; then we must begin to look at the structures we have in place and determine whether they are not only sustainable, but also best suited to serving our students.

The 2022-2023 school year brought home a Division IV Boys Baseball Championship as well as a Division IV Girls Softball Championship; a meal service program that continues to grow and provide universal meals to students; and an engaged student body throughout middle and high school.

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve your children and this district over the years.



Sincerely,

Angeline Bogie

ANGELINE BOGIE
OESU and BMU Board Chair



“What’s best for the community is a good school, one that has a good reputation. What is best for the kids is a good school.”
— Dr. Rowe



Board meetings take place the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at Blue Mountain Union School. Community attendance and participation are always welcome! Please use the QR code to stay abreast of the School Board’s ongoing activities.



Superintendent's Welcome



I can still remember my first science fair. It was 5th grade and I was in Mr. Tuttle's class at Lafayette Elementary School. Sunday night (the science fair was on Monday) and I hadn't started my project yet. Truth be told, I hadn't even picked a topic. Panicked, I told my mom and she, quite expectedly, blew a gasket. (It so happens that this was the first night I experienced a migraine. I don't think it was the first time for my mom, but she also got one.)

In the end, I did my project on black bears because I thought they were cool and already considered myself somewhat of an expert on them – I'd recently read the Encyclopedia Britannica entry. So I mashed something together and presented it the next day to a clearly disappointed Mr. Tuttle. Then that evening stood for an hour by my hastily thrown together poster board in the gym sandwiched between two overachievers who clearly had not waited to start their projects until after the previous night's evening news had ended. Nevertheless, and funny enough, as much of a mess as it was, it remains a core memory from elementary school for me.

But why this of all things? Everything that I did in these formative years of schooling, from kindergarten through 6th grade, this utter failure and squandering of an educational opportunity is what stays with me.

I thought of it recently because I had the opportunity to judge the middle school science fair at BMU. I was invited by Mrs. Page – Mr. Tuttle would shudder were he to know – to assess the merits of student projects and assign points to each one. Knowing just how ironic this truly was given my failure of a science fair history – of which Mrs. Page was thankfully ignorant or she might've rescinded her invitation or banned me altogether – I kept this sad history to myself and did my best to be a fair and impartial judge. Being in the BMU gym just 30 miles from where I once embarrassed myself on just such a night 42 years ago, and having the chance to see

these students present things that they had created and were proud of, made me realize how important these opportunities are for our students. It is so important that kids have people like Mr. Tuttle and Mrs. Page to give them the opportunity to explore areas of interest to them.

“Science fairs and other such activities allow for individual creativity, authentic learning, and the chance to find something that you can become an expert on.”



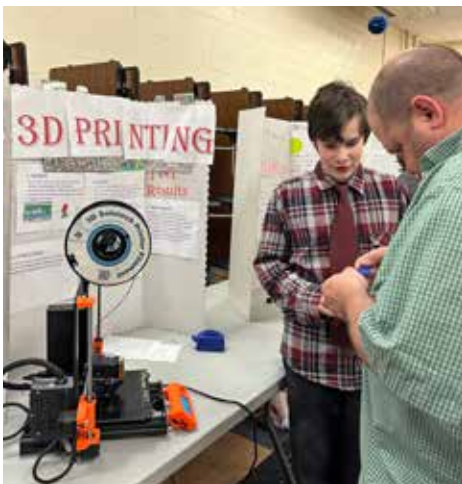
Science fairs and other such activities allow for individual creativity, authentic learning, and the chance to find something that you can become an expert on. In the process, kids often find something meaningful in it because it is theirs – they own it. And in the same way that I do, I imagine that this is one of the things that they are going to remember from their time at BMU, this thing that they chose, they created, and they were, for that one night at least, the expert on. And I want you to know that BMU is a place where this happens regularly, not just when there is a science fair. It is a place of perpetual creativity, exploration, personalization, and individual growth for all of the kids who walk through these doors. It is a place that our community can be proud of.



Sincerely,

Randy Gawel

RANDY GAWEL, Superintendent
Orange East Supervisory Union





Congratulations to our 2022-23 Division IV softball and baseball champions!

BMU is a place of perpetual creativity, exploration, personalization, and individual growth for all of the kids who walk through these doors.



How Many Students Are Enrolled in Our District?



Grade Level	Number of Students
EE	5
PK	29
K	28
1	20
2	36
3	22
4	29
5	24
6	29
7	26
8	23
9	40
10	26
11	35
12	24
Total	396

Elementary Update



“Two of the most significant changes this year that are pertinent to elementary students and staff are Illustrative Mathematics and Direct Instruction.”

Thus far, the 2023/2024 school year has been productive and full of change. Our staffing levels in the elementary portion of the school have seen some turnover with small pockets of vacancies. As we move into our second semester of the school year, I am feeling optimistic about being fully staffed. Once again, I am grateful for the hard work done on a daily basis by both students and staff, which is shifting instruction and learning in a positive direction! BMU is full of great people and I'm proud to be a part of this school community!

Two of the most significant changes this year that are pertinent to elementary students and staff are Illustrative Mathematics and Direct Instruction. These programs key in on math and reading instruction, which have become necessary focus points for our young learners.

Illustrative Mathematics

In the spring of 2023, our Math Vertical Team made the decision to change math programs from Big Ideas to Illustrative Mathematics (IM). The IM program is used in all grades K-8, along with algebra 1, geometry, and algebra 2 in the high school. IM presents a philosophical shift within pedagogical practices, given the need for students to construct their own understanding of the math content. There is a demand for “hands-on” learning, which is meant to build meaning, rather than to memorize procedural tasks. This change in math programs is requiring a drastic shift for both students and staff, but the outcomes seem favorable, based on the preliminary data captured since the beginning of the year.



Direct Instruction

Direct Instruction is a reading program we started implementing with students this past October. Students in grades K-2 are focused on mastering reading skills, while students in grades 3-6 are using the program for intervention purposes. The instruction is explicit and primarily focused on phonics and decoding, which is part of our greater literacy system. Along with initial training, teachers are being coached on a monthly basis to help support the instructional procedures and techniques. So far, this program appears to be showing positive results, both in terms of student performance and self-confidence.

I am truly excited and optimistic for BMU students! Along with the two big changes mentioned above, we continue to strive for maximizing student opportunities within the scope of resources available. As we dig out of the constraints of COVID, teaming and programming such as the reinvigoration of the Whole Child Outreach Team, a future Winter Program, Parent Nights at BMU, an upcoming Musical, and more are on the horizon.

Stay tuned and feel free to reach out at any time!



Scott Blood

SCOTT BLOOD
Elementary Principal



At BMU, every staff member plays a role in shepherding our young learners.



An Eye to the Future

Now that the constraints of COVID are mostly past, we are reinvigorating opportunities for students. Stay tuned for new programming on the horizon:

- Whole Child Outreach Team
- Winter Program
- Parent Night at BMU
- School Musical



Grades 7–12 Update

This school year has been a welcome period of calm after living through the past few years of interrupted schedules and paused school traditions. It is nice to begin to adjust to the new normal at Blue Mountain. For middle and high school, we continue to work to return many of the traditions that were once part of the BMU school experience. This has been a focus area over the past year that will continue into this school year, as we support more activities and enrichment experiences for all. We continue to support our proud athletic traditions, while also looking to grow opportunities for those who may not participate in athletics or may want to expand their extracurricular experience beyond athletics.

In middle and high school we increased

our college and career education activities in advisory, and took several field trips to colleges and businesses in the New England region with the help of the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. In addition, we are working to improve our advisory system in the high school with the addition of an intervention block, a more streamlined personalized learning plan model in grades 7-12, and added advisory activities and challenges led by Student Council. We continue to work on strengthening our support systems for students, be it academic or social-emotional, by working with a variety of community partners and school staff to meet the needs of our students and families. We have seen a large increase in the need for these types of supports over the past few years.

It is so exciting to see the students engaged in all of these experiences. As always, thank you for your continued support of Blue Mountain!



Emilie Knisley

EMILIE KNISLEY
7-12 Principal



A group of BMU middle school students will be headed to the district music festival in March to perform in Chorus.



We've taken students on several field trips to colleges in the New England region, including the University of Maine.

A Taste of Life in the Middle and High School Grades



New This Year!

- Bass fishing as a co-ed high school fall sports team
- The return of theater to the BMU stage with this spring's coming attraction, "High School Musical"
- The return of our middle school field trip to Boston
- International travel with our Global Explorers Club
- New Gaming Club
- New annual middle school science fair
- Gender & Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Club for high school
- The return of Senior Capstone Projects
- New Sewing Club
- Fitness and Conditioning Club



Our Global Explorers took a white water rafting trip as part of their experience in the Dominican Republic.



FY2025 Budget Information

Our Commitment

The BMU Board is committed to the ongoing educationally focused financial support of our students, staff, and community. To this end, we are unwavering in our desire to balance responsible fiscal management with increased student needs. By working collaboratively with all stakeholders, we look to grow opportunities for our students while understanding the equally important and varied needs of our communities.

Overall Budget

This budget increase includes a 16.4% healthcare cost increase for all staff (from the state – this is not determined locally), salary increases for staff through previously negotiated agreements, and adding necessary student support personnel to the local budget who were previously funded through ESSER grants (which have ended). Given the change that was made to how the state calculates spending per pupil (now based on LT ADM) projected spending per equalized pupil represents a 40.5% decrease over the previous year, increasing local tax capacity to help alleviate increased costs. The Board has again elected to return a portion of the surplus (\$200,000) to the general fund to help offset the burden placed upon local taxpayers.

Throughout the changes and the upheaval associated with the current school funding model, we have continued to seek to provide ongoing academic interventions and classroom support for our students through a combination of strategically utilized staffing and careful management of the local budget. To this end, our hope is to be able to identify students most in need of interventions and provide for them ongoing academic, as well as social emotional support. Moreover, we have expanded our efforts to engage students and staff in building the positive culture and climate we want at BMU through programmatic improvements and targeted interventions. We continue to support the expanded preschool program at Blue Mountain, enabling us to offer full day preschool five days each week, with the addition of home to school transportation. This has dramatically improved our ability to provide early intervention services to our families and we are strongly committed to continuing to do so.

This report has an overview of the budget changes, but detailed explanations of the budget and all related materials can be found on the BMU and OESU websites. If you have further questions please reach out to a BMU Board member, the BMU principals, or the Superintendent of Schools and we will be happy to provide you with more information.



Please plan to attend our annual informational meeting to learn more and ask any questions you may have: **Thursday, April 11 • 6 pm • Blue Mountain Union School**

The BMU Board Considered A Number of Issues in Developing the FY2025 Budget



Integrating previously ESSER (grant) funded positions to maintain continued levels of support for our students and staff within the local budgets to help meet the needs of all students, specifically when addressing academic and social emotional support.



The continued impact of the changing (negatively) Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) on local taxes.



Utilization of the budget surplus to help offset local taxes.



Increases in staff wages and state-mandated health care costs as mentioned above.



Inflationary increases in the price of goods, services, food, and transportation that everyone is faced with.



Ongoing changes to Vermont's student and school funding model that have led to additional support for local districts with regard to educational funding, but which is also currently under review by the legislature. So stay tuned to this developing story.

Please scan the QR code to review detailed budget information.



WARNING

**BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #21
ANNUAL MEETING AND PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING
April 11 & April 15, 2024**

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 (the "District"), comprising the legal voters, respectively, of the Towns of Groton, Ryegate, and Wells River, are hereby NOTIFIED AND WARNED to meet at the Blue Mountain Union School in Wells River, Vermont on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00PM to transact the following business from the floor:

- Article 1: To elect the following officers as required by law and to authorize the Board of School Directors to fix their compensation: Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer
- Article 2: To hear and act on the reports of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 officers for the past year.
- Article 3: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year?
- Article 4: To transact any other business thought proper under this warning.

Said meeting shall be followed immediately by a public informational hearing regarding the proposed budget and other business, to be voted on by Australian Ballot, Monday, April 15, 2024.

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 are further notified and warned to meet at the following locations:

Ryegate:	Town Hall in Ryegate Corner
Groton:	Groton Community Building in Groton
Wells River:	Village Garage in Wells River


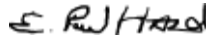
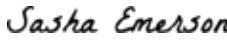

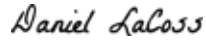


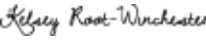

On Monday, April 15, 2024 between 10:00 in the morning and 7:00 in the evening there will be a vote by Australian Ballot on the following question:

Article #1: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 approve the school board to expend \$10,594,007.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?


Article #2: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 authorize an amount of \$102,159 to be taken from the 2022-2023 school year fund balance and be deposited into the Capital Reserve Account, for the purpose of future building and maintenance upkeep?

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said Annual Meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u of Title 16 and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Signed by the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 Board of School Directors at Wells River, in the County of Orange and State of Vermont this 12 day of March, 2024

 Angeline Bogie	 E. Paul Hazel	 Sasha Emerson
 Allison Ingerson	 Daniel LaCoss	 Kendall Lambert
 Kristen Murray	 Kelsey Root-Winchester	 Alissa Smith

Recorded on this date prior to posting, March 12, 2024.


Lauren Nelson, Clerk

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Blue Mountain Union School District # 21 Wells River, Vermont • March 6, 2023

The legal voters of Blue Mountain Union School District #21 met in the Garvin Library at Blue Mountain, March 6th, 2023 for the annual school district meeting. Angeline Alley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. with approximately 11 in attendance (including school board members and administrators).

Article 1: Election of officers and authorization to fix their compensation

- Brent Smith of Groton, Vermont was nominated for, and then elected as Moderator.
- Lauren Nelson of Ryegate, Vermont was nominated for, and then elected as Clerk.
- Murdena Baker of Groton, Vermont was nominated for and then elected as Treasurer.

Article 2: Action on the reports of Blue Mountain School District for the past year

A motion was made and seconded that the Blue Mountain School District reports be accepted.

The annual reports were accepted as published by a unanimous voice vote with no discussion.

Article 3: Authorization to borrow money

Angeline Alley moved to authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Article 4: To transact any other business

Richard Roderick (Wells River) opined that the slimmed down BMU Annual Report does not contain enough information. It is lacking reports for the following areas: Treasurer, Riverbend,

reserve funds, 2022 meeting minutes, to name a few. Richard feels that the new Annual Report does not properly inform the electorate on what is going on. Paul Hazel (Ryegate board representative) agreed that there should be more information included. Allison Ingerson (Groton board representative) reminded us that the origin of the slimmed down version to garner a \$4,000 cost savings for the district. Suggested improvements to rectify this situation were discussed such as producing a more traditional report that could be downloaded from the website, the link to this version could be highlighted on the back of the mailed booklet. Another thought was to produce printed copies of this traditional report and leave them at clerk offices and libraries.

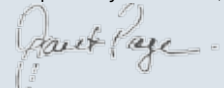
Richard Roderick (Wells River) asked exactly what the OESU provides. Collectively the board responded as follows: Food services, Transportation, Billing and special education coordination and Custodial services.

Dan LaCoss publicly thanked the BMU school board for improving the Pre-K program at BMU to full-time, this has made the Pre-K program more inclusive to working parents.

Richard Roderick mentioned that he always marvels at the condition of the building.

Angeline Alley made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Janet Page, District Clerk

NOTE: These minutes are unaudited.

Blue Mountain Union School District: Budget Comparison FY2022 – FY2025

		Budget FY22	Budget FY23	Budget FY24	Proposed FY25	Budget Change (+/-)
REVENUES	State - Support	\$7,008,054	\$7,557,755	\$8,205,638	\$9,769,089	\$1,563,451
	State - Sp Ed	\$285,000	\$0	\$0		\$0
	State - Transportation	\$120,000	\$115,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0
	Tuition	\$166,000	\$128,400	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$0
	Prior Year Surplus	\$382,959	\$626,680	\$640,000	\$200,000	(\$440,000)
	Vocational Transportation Reimb.	\$31,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
	High School Completion Program	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Other Local/Miscellaneous	\$9,401	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
	Municipal Bond Refund	\$7,646	\$6,003	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0
	Total Revenues	\$8,015,060	\$8,461,838	\$9,135,638	\$10,259,089	\$1,123,451
BUDGET/EXPENSES	Direct Instruction	\$3,129,728	\$3,098,533	\$3,501,948	\$4,048,843	\$546,895
	ELL	\$2,000	\$2,250	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$0
	Reg Ed Behavior Interventionist	\$7,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Preschool	\$123,028	\$175,013	\$230,351	\$260,274	\$29,923
	Special Ed	\$505,847	\$524,966	\$704,220	\$723,104	\$18,884
	Vocational Education	\$185,820	\$208,784	\$235,207	\$251,196	\$15,989
	Student Activities	\$58,189	\$63,052	\$90,256	\$120,256	\$30,000
	Athletics	\$155,464	\$176,717	\$169,301	\$197,999	\$28,698
	Guidance	\$296,800	\$305,894	\$337,387	\$397,804	\$60,417
	Nurse	\$9,675	\$16,864	\$11,125	\$11,125	\$0
	Staff Development	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$84,800	\$84,800	\$0
	Library	\$126,137	\$127,551	\$143,038	\$151,673	\$8,635
	Curriculum	\$101,709	\$98,335	\$57,694	\$58,950	\$1,256
	Enrichment	\$36,092	\$31,425	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$0
	Computer Instruction Services	\$264,077	\$265,308	\$289,641	\$295,633	\$5,991
	School Board	\$126,750	\$135,072	\$130,896	\$154,896	\$24,000
	Staff Relations/Negot./Conting.	\$252,650	\$663,420	\$294,342	\$281,878	(\$12,464)
	Principal	\$219,819	\$217,955	\$335,485	\$358,671	\$23,186
	Dean of Students	\$98,068	\$99,936	\$110,097	\$111,411	\$1,314
	School Administration	\$179,553	\$185,870	\$169,115	\$181,494	\$12,379
	Fiscal Services	\$1,150	\$2,442	\$1,992	\$1,692	(\$300)
	Plant Operations	\$656,828	\$663,568	\$731,478	\$916,321	\$184,843
	Transportation	\$368,480	\$364,841	\$384,470	\$388,499	\$4,029
	Rowland Foundation	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Transfer to Food Service	\$58,667	\$77,776	\$164,710	\$132,029	(\$32,681)
	Central Office Assessment	\$376,326	\$446,757	\$313,180	\$394,968	\$81,788
	Early Childhood Spec. Ed Assess.	\$47,903	\$32,997	\$74,640	\$99,229	\$24,589
	K-12 Spec. Ed. Teachers Assess.	\$524,416	\$348,510	\$433,752	\$538,861	\$105,109
	Ropes Course Assessment	\$1,234	\$1,293	\$1,302	\$2,511	\$1,209
	ELL Teacher Assessment	\$15,851	\$17,600	\$12,571	\$12,571	\$0
	Behavior Specialist Billing	\$0	\$0	\$35,325	\$0	(\$35,325)
	Technology Director Assessment	\$0	\$29,109	\$31,117	\$26,202	(\$4,915)
	SU Assessment Surplus	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenses	\$8,015,060	\$8,461,838	\$9,135,638	\$10,259,089	\$1,123,450	

Tax Worksheet: 2025 Proposed Budget

	RYEGATE	GROTON	WELLS RIVER	RYEGATE	GROTON	WELLS RIVER	
	Adopted Budget 2023-2024	Adopted Budget 2023-2024	Adopted Budget 2023-2024	Proposed Budget 2024-2025	Proposed Budget 2024-2025	Proposed Budget 2024-2025	
Estimated Education Spending							
Estimated General Fund Expenditures	\$9,135,635	\$9,135,635	\$9,135,635	\$10,259,089	\$10,259,089	\$10,259,089	
Estimated Grant Expenses	\$583,350	\$583,350	\$583,350	\$334,918	\$334,918	\$334,918	
OESU Assessment Credit	-\$74,403	-\$74,403	-\$74,403	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total Estimated Expenditures	\$9,644,585	\$9,644,585	\$9,644,585	\$10,594,007	\$10,594,007	\$10,594,007	Warning: 9.84% Increase
Less Anticipated Receipts							
Grant Revenues	(\$583,350)	(\$583,350)	(\$583,350)	(\$334,918)	(\$334,918)	(\$334,918)	
State and Local Revenues for General Fund	(\$215,597)	(\$215,597)	(\$215,597)	(\$290,000)	(\$290,000)	(\$290,000)	
Prior Year General Fund Balance	(\$640,000)	(\$640,000)	(\$640,000)	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)	
Total Estimated Receipts	(\$1,438,947)	(\$1,438,947)	(\$1,438,947)	(\$824,918)	(\$824,918)	(\$824,918)	Receipts: 42.67% Decrease
Estimated Education Spending	\$8,205,638	\$8,205,638	\$8,205,638	\$9,769,089	\$9,769,089	\$9,769,089	Ed Spending: 19.05% Increase
Equalized Pupils/LTWADM	385.05	385.05	385.05	771.51	771.51	771.51	
Estimated Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$21,310.58	\$21,310.58	\$21,310.58	\$12,662.30	\$12,662.30	\$12,662.30	
Cost Containment Threshold (Previously Excess Spending)	\$22,204.00	\$22,204.00	\$22,204.00	\$23,193.00	\$23,193.00	\$23,193.00	
Is Spending Per Student Below State Spending Threshold?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Est. Excess Spending Penalty	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Estimated Education Spending Per Pupil	\$21,310.58	\$21,310.58	\$21,310.58	\$12,662.30	\$12,662.30	\$12,662.30	
Homestead Property Yield	\$15,479.00	\$15,479.00	\$15,479.00	\$9,785.00	\$9,785.00	\$9,785.00	
District Spending Adjustment Percentage	137.674%	137.674%	137.674%	129.405%	129.405%	129.405%	
Base Homestead Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	
Estimated Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized	\$1.3767	\$1.3767	\$1.3767	\$1.2941	\$1.2941	\$1.2941	
% Pupils PK-12	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	
Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.3767	\$1.3767	\$1.3767	\$1.2941	\$1.2941	\$1.2941	
Other Components	\$0.0000	\$0.0000	\$0.0000	\$0.0000	\$0.0000	\$0.0000	
Total Eq Homestead Tax Rates	\$1.3767	\$1.3767	\$1.3767	\$1.2941	\$1.2941	\$1.2941	
Common Level of Appraisal	96.37%	91.60%	88.23%	85.84%	77.43%	79.84%	
Estimated Local Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.4286	\$1.5030	\$1.5604	\$1.5075	\$1.6713	\$1.6208	
Base Non-Residential Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.3860	\$1.3860	\$1.3860	\$1.8600	\$1.8600	\$1.8600	
Estimated Non-Residential Tax Rate	\$1.4382	\$1.5131	\$1.5709	\$2.1668	\$2.4022	\$2.3297	

Three Years Comparison

Format as Provided by the Vermont Agency of Education

- Using the revised February 27, 2024 Education Fund Outlook FY25 forecast, the FY25 education fund need results in a property yield of \$9,875 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$9,946 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.448. These figures use the estimated \$13,000,000 surplus from the Education Fund. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.**

- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.

- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

PRELIMINARY

District: Blue Mountain USD SU: Orange East		U021 Orange County			Property dollar equivalent yield	Homestead tax rate per \$9,785 of spending per pupil	ESTIMATES ONLY	
					9,785	1.00		
					9,946			
							Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income	
Expenditures		FY2022	FY2023	FY2024		FY2025		
1.	Adopted or warned union district budget (including special programs and full technical center expenditures)	\$8,328,091	\$8,459,981	\$9,135,638		-		1.
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at union district meeting	-	-	-		-		2.
3.	Adopted or warned union district budget plus articles	\$8,328,091	\$8,459,981	\$9,135,638		-		3.
4.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-		-		4.
5.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-		-		5.
6.	Total Union Expenditures	\$8,328,091	\$8,459,981	\$9,135,638		-		6.
7.	S.U. assessment (included in union budget) - informational data							7.
8.	Prior year deficit reduction (if included in union expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-		-		8.
Revenues								
9.	Union revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, federal, etc.)	\$1,320,037	\$1,209,092	\$930,000		-		9.
10.	Total offsetting union revenues	\$1,320,037	\$1,209,092	\$930,000		-		10.
Education Spending		\$7,008,054	\$7,250,889	\$8,205,638		-		11.
12.	Blue Mountain USD pupils	414.70	401.77	385.05		771.51		12.
Education Spending per Pupil		\$16,899.09	\$18,047.36	\$21,310.58		-		13.
14.	minus Less net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per pupil	-	-	-		-		14.
15.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$66,446 for an individual (per pupil)	\$11.17	\$17.24	\$17.24		-		15.
		based on \$60,000	based on \$60,000	based on \$66,206		based on \$66,446		
16.	minus Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per pupil)	-	-	-		-		16.
17.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per pupil)	-	-	-		-		17.
18.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per pupil)	-	-	-		-		18.
19.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per pupil)	-	-	-		-		19.
20.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per pupil)	-	-	-		-		20.
21.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per pupil)	-	\$49.78	\$51.94		-		21.
22.	minus Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting.	-	-	-		-		22.
23.	Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$18789 \$18,789.00	threshold = \$19,997 \$19,997.00	threshold = \$22,204 \$22,204.00		threshold = \$23,193 \$23,193.00		23.
24.	plus Excess Spending per Pupil over threshold (if any)	suspended thru FY23	suspended thru FY23	suspended thru FY23		suspended thru FY23		24.
25.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$16,899	\$18,047	\$21,311		-		25.
26.	Union spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	149.325%	135.552%	137.995%		-		26.
		based on yield \$11,317	based on yield \$13,314	based on \$15,443		based on \$9,785		
27.	Anticipated equalized union homestead tax rate to be prorated [\$0.00 + (\$9,785 / \$1.00)]	\$1.4933	\$1.3555	\$1.3800		-		27.
		based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00		based on \$1.00		
28.	2024 H.850 Tax rate "cent discount" FY25 - FY29					-		28.
29.	Cent discount adjusted anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate					-		29.
Prorated homestead union tax rates for members of Blue Mountain USD		FY2022	FY2023	FY2024		FY2025	FY22 Pe	
T087	Groton	1.4933	1.3555	1.3800		-	100.00%	
T175	Ryegate	1.4933	1.3555	1.3800		-	100.00%	
T229	Wells River	1.4933	1.3555	1.3800		-	100.00%	
30.	Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated from Blue Mountain USD [(0.00 + \$9,946) x 2.00%]	2.45%	2.26%	2.43%		-		30.
		based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%		based on 2.00%		
Prorated union income cap percentage for members of Blue Mountain USD		FY2022	FY2023	FY2024		FY2025	FY23 Pe	
T087	Groton	2.45%	2.26%	2.43%		-	100.00%	
T175	Ryegate	2.45%	2.26%	2.43%		-	100.00%	
T229	Wells River	2.45%	2.26%	2.43%		-	100.00%	

Blue Mountain Union School District: Tax Rate Projections

Common Level of Appraisal: Change from FY2024 to FY2025

Towns	CLA 2023-2024	CLA 2024-2025	CLA Reduction
Ryegate	96.37%	85.84%	10.92%
Groton	91.60%	77.43%	15.46%
Wells River	88.23%	79.84%	9.47%

HOW DOES THE CLA AFFECT OUR TAXES?

- The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) compares each town's total property value on the grand list versus the fair market value of properties.
- The higher the fair market value of properties, the further under 100% the CLA will be.
- As the CLA decreases, the tax rate increases.
- This is how the State provides taxpayers with an equalized grand list across the state.



Tax Rate Change: FY2024 to FY2025

Towns	Common Level of Appraisal	Post Legislative Session 2023-2024	Estimated Tax Rates 2024-2025	Increase (Decrease)
Ryegate	85.84%	\$1.4286	\$1.5075	\$0.0789
Groton	77.43%	\$1.5030	\$1.6713	\$0.1683
Wells River	79.84%	\$1.5604	\$1.6208	\$0.0604

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Equalized Pupils: 771.51
- Property Yield: \$9,785.00
- Local Spending per Equalized Pupil: \$12,662
- Equalized Tax Rate = \$1.2941



Tax Rate Change: Impact on Tax Bills

Towns	Projected Tax Rates FY 2024-2025	\$100,000 House Value	\$200,000 House Value	\$300,000 House Value
Ryegate	\$1.5075	\$78.92	\$157.83	\$236.75
Groton	\$1.6713	\$168.25	\$336.51	\$504.76
Wells River	\$1.6208	\$60.41	\$120.81	\$181.22

DIFFERENCES BY TOWN

- Each Town starts with an equalized tax rate of \$1.2941 and an equalized tax rate decrease of \$.0826.
- The local Common Level of Appraisal affects the actual tax rate, which is why the amounts differ by Town.



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