Maine School Administrative District No. 75

Bowdoin – Bowdoinham – Harpswell - Topsham

WARRANT

May 16, 2024

To: Linda Dumont, a resident of Maine School Administrative District No. 75, composed of the following municipalities: Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham. In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of Maine School Administrative District No. 75 in said counties and State qualified to vote in Maine School Administrative District No. 75 affairs to meet at the Orion Performing Arts Center in the Town of Topsham on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

Article 1: To elect, by ballot, a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $17,490,159 for regular instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Regular instruction includes costs associated with regular classroom instruction. The FY 2025 budget recommendation is increasing by $600,773, or 3.56% from the FY 2024 budget of $16,889,386. This budget increase is primarily to support salary and benefit increases for teachers.

Article 3: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $10,712,064 for special education for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Special Education includes costs associated with the education of students with special needs. The FY 2025 budget recommendation is increasing by $452,567, or 4.41% from the FY 2024 budget of $10,259,497. This budget increase is primarily to address salary and benefit increases for teachers, as well as to absorb the cost of additional outside contracted services for students requiring support.

Article 4: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $415,734 for career and technical education for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

This article funds the additional local cost for Region Ten Technical High School. This assessment is increasing by $25,332, or 6.49% from the FY 2024 assessment of $390,402. This increase is primarily the result of increased salaries by the participating districts as well as increased costs from School Revolving Renovation Funds loan.

Article 5: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $933,900 for other instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Other Instruction includes the costs associated with co-curricular and extracurricular activities as well as athletics. The FY 2025 budget recommendation is increasing by $69,878, or 8.09% from the FY 2024 budget of $864,022. This budget increase is primarily to support increased salaries and stipends for athletic programs as well as increased costs for things such as equipment, referees and dues.

Article 6: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $6,019,485 for student and staff support for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Student and Staff Support includes costs associated with school counselors, health staff, Learning Commons staff, technology integration, learning strategists, the Technology Department and improvement of instruction. The FY 2025 budget recommendation is increasing by $351,470, or 6.20% from the FY 2024 budget of $5,668,015. This increase is primarily to support salary increases for staff based on negotiated agreements as well as increasing costs for district software maintenance.

Article 7: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $1,767,600 for system administration for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

System Administration includes costs associated with central administration including the Office of the Superintendent, Business Services and Human Resources. The FY 2025 budget recommendation is increasing by $103,590, or 6.23% from the FY 2024 budget of $1,664,010. This budget increase is to support salary increases for staff and increased costs for software, insurance and the approved Strategic Planning project.

Article 8: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $2,444,777 for school administration for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

School Administration includes costs associated with the principals, school administrative assistants and their offices in each school. The FY 2025 budget recommendation is increasing by $147,322, or 6.41% from the FY 2024 budget of $2,297,455. This increase is primarily related to salaries and benefits.

Article 9: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $3,915,661 for transportation and buses for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Transportation and Buses includes costs associated with student transportation, repair and maintenance of all district vehicles, and the costs to operate the Transportation Garage. The FY 2025 budget recommendation is increasing by $216,458, or 5.85% from the FY 2024 budget of $3,699,203. This budget increase supports salary and benefits increases as well as a rise in out-of-District costs for special education students while also continuing to support financing the lease purchase of buses and passenger vans to maintain the fleet.

Article 10: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $5,519,132 for facilities maintenance for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Facilities Maintenance includes the costs associated with maintaining school and office buildings owned by the District, maintaining the grounds and athletic fields, and funding minor capital projects. The FY 2025 budget recommendation is increasing by $378,873, or 7.37% from the FY 2024 budget of $5,140,259. This budget increase is primarily the result of additional costs for building maintenance and outside contracted repairs and services for capital projects across the District, as well as salary and benefit adjustments.

Article 11: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $5,410,918 for debt service and other commitments for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Debt Service and Other Commitments include the cost of State-funded debt, which is reimbursed through the State's funding formula. The FY 2025 budget recommendation is increasing by $4,800, or 0.09% from the FY 2024 budget of $5,406,118. This budget increase is primarily the result of the interest payment on the school improvement bond being adjusted. The principal payment for the high school bond remains flat.

Article 12: To see if the District will authorize the Board of Directors to expend $220,000 for all other expenditures for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Other Expenditures include the costs associated with General Fund support of the Food Service Program and the Orion Performing Arts Center. The FY 2025 budget recommendation is decreasing by $176,559, or 44.52% from the FY 2024 budget of $396,559. This budget decrease in the local support is primarily the result of increased funding from the State and Federal Government.

ARTICLES PURSUANT TO 20-A M.S.R.A. Section 15690

(Articles 13-16 must be adopted by recorded vote.)

Article 13: To see if the District will appropriate $38,216,904.89 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 if the District will raise and assess $17,371,163.06 for 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 accord with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Section 15688.

Total Appropriated (by municipality)		Total Raised (by municipality)	
Bowdoin	$7,486,691.67	Bowdoin	$1,915,828.00
Bowdoinham	$6,745,283.72	Bowdoinham	$2,339,949.34
Harpswell	$5,484,125.85	Harpswell	$5,478,664.06
Topsham	$18,500,803.65	Topsham	$7,636,721.66
Total Appropriated	**$38,216,904.89**	**Total Raised**	**$17,371,163.06**

Explanation: This article sets forth the amount of money determined by State Law to be the minimum amount the District must raise and assess on each community in order to receive the full amount of State subsidy dollars.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 14: To see if the District will raise and appropriate $498,285.69 for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by District voters for non-State-funded school construction projects or non-State-funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12.

School (Local Only Share)	Interest Rate	Last Payment	Principal	Interest
Mt. Ararat High School (20-year bond)	3.0%	11/1/2039	$342,867.35	$155,418.34
Total (Principal & Interest) in FY 2024			**$342,867.35**	**$155,418.34**

Explanation: Non-State-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the District's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by District voters.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 15: Shall Maine School Administrative District No. 75 raise and appropriate $13,519,240 for additional local funds which exceed the State's Essential Programs & Services allocation model by $13,519,240 as required to fund the budget recommended by the Board of Directors? The Board of Directors recommends $13,519,240 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs & Services funding model by $13,519,240:

EPS allows for only minimal staffing of paraprofessionals, guidance, library, health, technology and administration, and does not cover the cost of long-term medical leaves for maternity or long-term illnesses. Many important activities such as teacher workshop days, summer school and other activities outside direct classroom instruction are not part of the EPS formula. Other activities such as co-curricular and athletic programs, Advanced Placement courses at the High School, K-12 Gifted and Talented and English Language Learner programming, and special education services are only partially funded by the formula.

The District's costs for student transportation exceed the EPS formula because of the excessive distances the District's buses must travel, late buses to accommodate student participation in school activities, and summer school transportation for special education students.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally-raised funds over and above the District'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 debt service payment on the non-State-funded portion of school construction projects.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 16: To see if the District will authorize the School Board to expend $54,849,430 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 from the District'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, non-State-funded school construction projects, 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.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 17: To see if the District will appropriate $1,381,748 for adult education and adult vocational education and **raise $168,647 as the local share** for the year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program?

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 18: To see if the District will raise and appropriate $220,00 in additional local funds in support of the food service program and Orion Performing Arts Center for the year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 19: In addition to the amounts in Article 16, shall the District appropriate and authorize the School Board to expend additional State, Federal and other funds received during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such additional funds do not require the expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated?

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 20: Shall the regional career and technical education operating budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 be approved with the local share in the amount of $415,734?

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 21: Shall Maine Region 10 Technical High School ("Region 10") authorize the Cooperative Board to transfer up to $100,000 from undesignated fund balances to the Region 10 Capital Reserve Fund and delegate authority to the Cooperative Board to expend up to $100,000 of the balances accumulated in that Fund to cover any excess or unanticipated costs related to a capital project required to remove and replace the bridge structure at the exterior of the Region 10 school building?

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 22: Shall Maine Region 10 Technical High School ("Region 10") delegate authority to the Cooperative Board to expend additional balances accumulated in the Region 10 Capital Reserve Fund from time-to-time on such specific items or types of capital improvements or equipment as the Cooperative Board determines to be needed by Region 10?

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 23: Shall Maine School Administrative District No. 75 authorize the Board of Directors to transfer up to $200,000 from unexpended balances at the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding school construction, capital improvement projects, facility upgrades, plant maintenance, and capital equipment purchases?

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 24: Shall Maine School Administrative District No. 75 authorize the Board of Directors to transfer all gate receipts from District athletic events to the existing Athletic Facilities Capital Reserve Fund?

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 25: Shall Maine School Administrative District No. 75 (1) establish a Regular Instruction Reserve Fund for the purpose of covering unanticipated regular instruction costs; (2) authorize the Board of Directors to transfer up to $85,000 from unexpended balances at the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the Regular Instruction Reserve Fund; and (3) authorize the Board of Directors to expend up to $85,000 from the Regular Instruction Reserve Fund during the 2024-2025 fiscal year for the purpose of funding an additional teaching position if enrollment numbers increase?

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Article 26: Shall Maine School Administrative District No. 75 (1) establish a Special Education Reserve Fund for the purpose of covering unanticipated special education costs; (2) authorize the Board of Directors to transfer up to $100,000 from unexpended balances at the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the Special Education Reserve Fund; and (3) authorize the Board of Directors to expend up to $100,000 from the Special Education Reserve Fund during the 2024-2025 fiscal year for the purpose of funding increased out-of-district tuition costs for special education students?

The Board of Directors recommends a YES vote.

Given under our hand, as of this twenty-fifth day of April 2024 at Topsham, Maine.

Hutson Hayward, Chair

Frank V. Wright

Amy Spelke, Vice-Chair

Andrew Begin

Haley Kulas

Brandy Robertson

River Khoriaty

Gregory Greenleaf

Kimberly Pacelli

William "Bart" Beattie

Ryan Larsen

James R. Moulton

Mary Hopson

Vacant

A true copy of the Warrant:

Attest: Linda Dumont

Summary of Warrant Articles

Article	Description	Local $	State $	Other $	Total $
2	Regular Instruction				$ 17,490,159
3	Special Education				$ 10,712,064
4	Career and Technical Education				$ 415,734
5	Other Instruction				$ 933,900
6	Student and Staff Support				$ 6,019,485
7	System Administration				$ 1,767,600
8	School Administration				$ 2,444,777
9	Transportation and Buses				$ 3,915,661
10	Facilities Maintenance				$ 5,519,132
11	Debt Service/Other Commitments				$ 5,410,918
12	All Other Expenditures				$ 220,000
Total Articles 2-12					**$ 54,849,430**
13	State/Local EPS Funding Allocation	$17,371,163	$20,845,742		$ 38,216,905
14	Non-State-Funded Debt Service	$ 498,285			$ 498,285
15	Additional Local Revenues	$13,519,240			$13,519,240
	Other Revenues			$ 2,615,000	$ 2,615,000
16	**Total General Fund**				**$ 54,849,430**
17	Adult Education/Adult Voc. Educ.				$ 168,647
18	Food Service Support				In Article 12
19	Spend Unanticipated Revenues				Approval Only
20	Region Ten Operating Budget				In Article 4
21	Region Ten Capital Reserve Fund				From Fund Bal.
22	MSAD No. 75 Capital Reserve Fund				From Fund Bal.
23	Athletic Facilities Cap. Reserve Fund				From Receipts
24	Regular Instruction Reserve				From Fund Bal.
25	Special Education Reserve				From Fund Bal.
Total Articles 2-12, 17					**$ 55,018,077**

Fiscal Year 2025 Revenue Projections
Based on a District Budget of $55,018,077 (including Adult Education)

Revenue Source	Approved FY 2024 Budget	Proposed FY 2025 Budget	Increase (Decrease) $	Increase (Decrease) %
State Contribution	$20,593,537	$20,845,742	$252,205	1.2%
Local Share - Total	$30,473,029	$31,557,335	$1,084,306	3.6%
Other Revenues	$50,000	$50,000	$0	0.0%
Fund Balance Carryover	$1,700,000	$2,565,000	$865,000	50.9%
Total Revenue	**$52,816,566**	**$55,018,077**	**$2,201,511**	**4.17%**
DETAIL TO LOCAL SHARE:				
Required Local Contribution	$16,844,426	$17,371,163	$526,737	3.1%
Debt Service	$505,091	$498,285	($6,806)	-1.3%
Adult Education/Adult Voc. Ed.	$141,639	$168,647	$27,008	19.1%
Additional Local Contribution	$12,981,874	$13,519,240	$537,366	4.1%
Total - Local Contribution	**$30,473,029**	**$31,557,335**	**$1,084,306**	**3.56%**

EXPLANATIONS:

State Contribution: State funding to support general operating costs and debt service
Required Local Contribution: The State expectation for local funding raised by the District's towns
Additional Local Contribution: Funding raised by the District's towns above State expectations
Other Revenue: Miscellaneous revenue such as interest, rental fees and transportation for other districts
Fund Balance Carryover: Revenue from the District's fund balance