Annual Budget Meeting
May 14, 2025
Durham Community School Gymnasium

Board Chair Ritcheson officially called to order the Annual Budget Meeting for Regional School Unit No. 5 at 6:32 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Board Chair Ritcheson nominated Mr. Gregory Im as Moderator. Board member Beth Munsen seconded this nomination. No further nominations occurred, and Mr. Im was elected by unanimous vote. Superintendent Skorapa swore in Mr. Im.

Mr. Im welcomed everyone and explained the following:

- All ballot clerks were previously sworn in.
- The Maine Moderators Manual will be used as a procedural guideline.
- Mr. Im asked to allow the administrators in RSU5 who live outside Durham, Freeport or Pownal be allowed to speak at this meeting.
- Must be a registered voter to vote. Check in with the ballot clerk.
- Warrant articles will be gone through as printed.
- Speakers must come to the microphone for discussion, state their names and town of residence.
- You can make a motion to call for a vote. Requires ⅔ majority vote.
- The Recording Secretary is Cynthia Alexander.

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11
AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

ARTICLE 1: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

School Board Recommends $19,356,261
Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen

Amendment from the floor
To add the amount by $201,000.
Amendment fails.

Hand Vote in the original motion - Yes, Article 1 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

School Board Recommends $6,513,451
Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 2 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.

School Board Recommends $307,645
Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 3 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.

School Board Recommends $1,119,087
Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 4 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.

School Board Recommends $4,644,307
Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 5 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration.

School Board Recommends $1,263,587
Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 6 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration.

School Board Recommends $2,514,485
Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 7 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

School Board Recommends $1,931,576
Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 8 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 9: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

School Board Recommends $5,490,511
Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 9 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 10: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

School Board Recommends $1,087,428

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen

Hand Vote - Yes, Article 10 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 11: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.

School Board Recommends $139,591

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen

Hand Vote - Yes, Article 11 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 14 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 12: To see what sum the Regional School Unit 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 Regional School Unit 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 20A, section 15688.

Recommended amounts set forth below:

Total Appropriated (by municipality):			**Total Raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):**		
Town of Durham	$	9,124,451.74	Town of Durham	$	3,655,120.00
Town of Freeport	$	15,036,208.35	Town of Freeport	$	14,153,931.67
Town of Pownal	$	2,683,281.37	Town of Pownal	$	2,179,326.67
Total Appropriated (sum of above)	$	26,843,941.46	Total Raised (sum of above)	$	19,988,378.34

Explanation: The Regional School Unit'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 Regional School Unit must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.
[Note: The above appropriations are determined in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688(1); the amounts to be raised reflect the required local contribution in accordance with the RSU Reorganization Plan.)

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen

Hand Vote - Yes, Article 12 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 13: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the Regional School Unit 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 Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.

School Board Recommends $118,908.77

Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the Regional School Unit'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 the Regional School Unit voters.

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 13 passes in the amount recommended.

ARTICLE 14: (Written ballot required.) To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend $15,405,513.13**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend $15,617,478.13**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends $15,405,513.13, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by $15,617,478.13. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: The State's Essential Program and Services funding formula is a minimum model to support education in grades preK-12. RSU No. 5 provides additional funds to support lower student/teacher ratios and additional co-curricular activities in addition to complete educational programs for all our students.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Regional School Unit'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 Regional School Unit budget for educational programs.
[Note: The additional local funds reflect the adjustment to the required local contribution in Article 12 in accordance with the RSU Reorganization Plan.]

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Written Ballot Yes, Article 14 passes as recommended.
Yes 84 No 7

ARTICLE 15 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 15: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 from the Regional School Unit'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 $44,367,929

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen

Hand Vote - Yes, Article 15 passes in the amount recommended.

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

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Regional School Unit will appropriate **$133,000** for adult education and raise **$88,000** 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.

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen

Hand Vote - Yes, Article 16 passes as written.

ARTICLES 17 THROUGH 20 AUTHORIZE TRANSFERS TO AND EXPENDITURES FROM THE ARTICLE RESERVE FUNDS

ARTICLE 17: Shall the School Board be authorized to (i) transfer **$295,800** from available fund balances to the Regular Instruction reserve fund; and (ii) expend from the Regular Instruction reserve funds as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen

Hand Vote - Yes, Article 17 passes as written.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the School Board be authorized to (i) transfer **$618,517** from available fund balances to the Special Education reserve fund; and (ii) expend from the Special Education reserve funds as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen

Hand Vote - Yes, Article 18 passes as written.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the School Board be authorized to expend from the Student & Staff Support reserve funds as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen

Hand Vote - Yes, Article 19 passes as written.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the School Board be authorized to expend from the Transportation reserve funds as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen

Hand Vote - Yes, Article 20 passes as written.

ARTICLE 21 AUTHORIZES TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURES FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 21: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **$1,520,059** from available fund balances to the Capital Reserve Fund and to expend up to $2,495,234 from the capital reserve funds as needed at the discretion of the School Board?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 21 passes as written.

ARTICLE 22 AUTHORIZES TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE TRACK AND FIELD CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 22: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **$35,000** from available fund balances to the Track and Field Capital Reserve Fund; and to expend said reserve funds upon express authorization of the RSU voters or as permitted by law?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 22 passes as written.

ARTICLE 23 AUTHORIZES TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE TENNIS COURT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 23: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **$40,000** from available fund balances to the Tennis Court Capital Reserve Fund; and to expend said reserve funds upon express authorization of the RSU voters or as permitted by law?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 23 passes as written.

ARTICLE 24 AUTHORIZES THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUDGET

ARTICLE 24: Shall the regional career and technical education operating budget as approved by the cooperative board for the year beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 be approved in the amount of **$4,312,957?**

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 24 passes as written.

ARTICLES 25 THROUGH 26 AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURES FROM THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUDGET

ARTICLE 25: Shall Maine Region 10 Technical High School ("Region 10") authorize the Cooperative Board to transfer up to **$280,000** from undesignated fund balances to the Region 10 Capital Reserve Fund?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 25 passes as written.

ARTICLE 26: 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?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 26 passes as written.

ARTICLE 27 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 27: 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?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 27 passes as written.

ARTICLE 28 AUTHORIZES TRANSFERS AMONG COST CENTERS

ARTICLE 28: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

Moved and seconded by Ritcheson and Munsen
Hand Vote - Yes, Article 28 passes as written.

Mr. Im reminded the body of the June 10, 2025, referendum vote.
Moved by Ms. Ritcheson, seconded by Ms. Munsen to adjourn at 7:23 PM.

Greg Im, Moderator

May 15, 2025