

# MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHESTERVILLE – FARMINGTON – INDUSTRY – NEW SHARON – NEW VINEYARD – STARKS – TEMPLE – VIENNA – WELD – WILTON

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TO: RSU 9 Families  
FROM: Christian M. Elkington, Superintendent  
RE: 3-16-2025 Updates  
DATE: 3-16-2025

**We have been working on the** FY 26 Budget over the last three + months. At present the budget stands at an overall increase of 0.54%:

- A short review can be found at [25-26 Parent Budget Update 3-9-2025.docx](#).
- Our budget book, which provides the detailed information given to our School Board members, is available at <https://www.mtbluersd.org/about/budget-information/25-26-budget-information>
- For a draft of “present” individual town increases please go to [Draft of FY26 RSU 9 Town Budget Assessments 3-9-2025.docx](#)

**The RSU 9 Board will be receiving the FY26 Proposed Draft Budget** on Tuesday, March 25th at their regularly scheduled Board meeting. The budget meeting scheduled for tomorrow, **Tuesday, March 18th has been canceled**. Instead, a review of the proposed budget will be held on Tuesday, April 1st, 6:00 pm in the Forum at Mt. Blue Campus.

**In January I put a partial freeze** in place within our district budget as we had several budget lines that were going over and some revenue predictions which were not going to meet expectations. For the most part these restrictions have reduced some expenses but have not interfered with daily learning expectations. In order to replace the activities canceled because of the budget freeze, some staff held fundraisers and started GoFundme pages. Parents and community members have been generous in their responses and we THANK YOU! As we get into the spring we expect that some school and district supplies will become tight so you may see some classroom teachers asking for assistance. Changes will also be seen in spring classroom trips as the district will not have funds to support these as we have in the past. Regularly scheduled student activities for clubs or sports teams will continue to be supported. Thank you in advance for any help you may or have given!

**Unfortunately Cyber attacks continue to** be made against school systems and other public entities throughout our country. RSU 9 is not immune. Each week we have bad actors trying to get into our systems from the outside by sending phoney emails to staff, families, and students. Recently, some individuals have attempted to copy parts of my email address to pretend to be me. Please know that we are constantly looking for suggestions from cyber security experts and are pleased to note that a review of a recent set of suggestions [3-3-2025 Cybersecurity Suggestions](#) PowerSchool update:

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[PowerSchool Cybersecurity Incident Update.pdf](#) ) showed that our Tech Dept. is already working on each of them. We ask that you continue to be extremely careful in opening any emails that seem potentially suspicious. Please contact Director of Technology, Kevin Bremner at [kbremner@mtbluersd.org](mailto:kbremner@mtbluersd.org) with your concerns and so we can verify the legitimacy of messages you may have received. Thank you for assisting us in these efforts.

**As a follow up to last week's public hearing** - On the Maine Connectivity Authority Grant proposal, some community members shared that more time was needed to adequately offer community input. In response RSU 9 cordially invites you to attend a community comment & question session regarding the grant and the proposed purchase of the Ingalls School to serve as a Community Resource Hub and the new home of Franklin County Adult Education this Wednesday. This comment & questions forum will provide an opportunity for more questions and community input. We encourage you to attend to share your thoughts and ask questions on this community-based initiative.

**Event Details:**

- Wednesday, March 19th
- 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- Mt. Blue Campus "Forum"

This is a public community comment and question session, NOT a formal board meeting. Its purpose is for community members to share their feedback and ask questions on the Maine Connectivity Authority Hub Grant and the potential acquisition (if RSU 9 voters approve) of the Ingalls School as the Community Resource Hub.