

# **Mt. Blue Regional School District Proposed 2023-24 Community Budget Forum**

MBC Forum  
Tuesday, April 11, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

**COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM**

**Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all**

# Presentation Agenda

- **Mt. Blue RSD Local Budget Development Process**
  - Two full day meetings and three night meetings
- **Objectives supported by this budget proposal:**
  - Continue supporting student academic and student/family needs
  - Negotiated wage and benefit increases & the overall effects of current economy
  - Continue funding present district programs
  - Reduce recent dependency on RSU 9 balance-forward
- **Strategies**
  - 23-24 Focus to maintain our current level of programming and services while developing:
    - The RSU 9 Strategic Plan
    - A Ten-Year Facilities & Maintenance Plan
    - Be more “Systemic” with a multi-year planning “Mindset”

# Presentation Agenda

- **Presentation** will focus on Warrant Article Cost Centers
- **Reminder this presentation is sharing budget information that is still in draft form and subject to adjustments.** We in fact have made some adjustments which have reduced the budget as compared to the last time we presented.
- **Proposal's "Funding" is based upon:**
  - Proposed Ed 279 Funding from Maine DOE - March 28, 2023
    - 58% of our funding comes from the state of Maine
    - 36.9% from our local community taxes
    - *The remaining % comes from grants, balance-forward, tuition, MaineCare.*
    - Foster Tech Center receives 100% of their funding from the state.

# Article 1: Regular Instruction

- **Pre-K - Grade 12 Regular Instructional Program**
- \$11,575,779
  - Increase of \$223,506 over FY23 Level
  - +1.97%
- **Funding to Support:**
  - Staffing #s
    - 23-24 as compared to 22-23 (*Not replacing a retiring teacher, reducing 3 support staff positions*)
  - Contractual Wage and Benefit Increases
    - These increases are included in all cost centers
    - 5.81% Increase in Health Insurance (rates & staff coverage changes)

# Article 2: Special Instruction

- **Instructional Program for Students Pre-K - Adult Identified with Special Needs**
- **\$8,123,414**
  - Increase of \$645,012
  - +8.62%
  - Present # of identified students 402 (fluctuates) & Present # of new referrals 42
  - Present known new students for 23-24 + 11
- **Increase Includes:**
  - Additional 1 Speech Pathologist, 3 Ed Techs III positions, training & equipment/supplies, extra OT services for Adaptive Skills Autism Program
    - We will bill MaineCare for this program, and for some program services
      - MaineCare billing
        - FY23 Budget is on-target to recoup \$400,000 of expenditures
        - FY24 Budget is looking to expand our revenues by \$730,000
      - Staffing #s for 23-24 as compared to 22-23 + 1 Prof/ - 3 Ed Techs
    - Contractual Wage and Benefit Increases
    - **Will use Special Ed Reserve Account for potential Out of District Student Placement needs.**

# Article 3: Foster Career & Technical Education Center

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** All Foster Tech Center (FTC) funds come directly from the Maine Dept. of Ed. Any and all present budget increases for FTC come out of their state funding along with their own carry forward and contingency funds, not directly from our RSU 9 Communities.

**Their additional costs and funding are added to the RSU 9 bottom line but any and all increases do not add to local taxes.**

- **Career & Technical Education Programs**
- **\$3,295,000**
  - Increase of \$290,841
  - 9.68% (adjusted to include their % of operations of plant at MBC)
- Full-time FTE Assistant Director - Will be paid for by their increased state aid allocation. *(Does not affect RSU 9 taxes)*

# Article 4: Student & Staff Services/Support

- **Programs in Guidance, Social Work, Library Media Centers, School Health (Nurses), Curriculum & Assessment, and Instructional Technology**
  - \$3,116,581
  - Increase of \$147,493
  - +4.97%
- **Previous computer leases** were paid for by ESSER funds the last two years and now need to be covered by district funds. \$263,000 will be used from reserve
  - Instructional Tech Line increased by \$99,031, which is really \$362,000 (56% increase) but reduced from the their Reserve Account.
- **Two social worker positions** have been adjusted to actual costs for 23-24.

# Article 5: Other Instruction

- **Co and Extra Curricular Programs**

- \$563,143
  - Increase of \$38,812
  - +7.40% (negotiated agreement increases & fully fund present stipends with some supply increases)
- Expenses Support Coach/Advisor Stipends, Supplies, Equipment, and Fees
  - Athletics
  - Co-Curricular across multiple Grade Spans



# Article 6: System Administration

- **Superintendent's Office, School Board, Fiscal Services (Business Office), District Wide portion of Instructional Technology**
  - \$1,367,621
    - Increase of \$127,650
    - +10.29%
    - **Why?**
      - District Technology Administration server hosting fees (now covered by ESSER) will be moved to the district office
        - Estimated at this time up by about \$100,000
      - Director of Communications/Superintendent's Admin Assistant position has been reduced to part-time contracted services to reduce the overall increase.

(This total amount is 3.06% of the present RSU 9 Budget Draft)

- “Highly Efficient System Administrative Offices are at 4%” (Jim Rier, Maine DOE)

# Article 7: School Administration

- **School Building Level Administrative Offices (Principals and Administrative Assistants)**
- **All Elementary (5), Middle (1), and High (1) Schools**
  - \$1,835,131
    - Increase of \$165,373
    - +9.90%
      - Contractual Increases for Wages, Benefits & Coursework
      - 25% of one of the MBHS APs is now included in the MBHS budget, not in FTC.
    - Building Administrators (9)
    - Administrative Assistant Support (12.75)

# Article 8: Student Transportation

- **All Aspects of Student Transportation Services**
- \$2,913,488
  - Increase of \$205,489
  - +7.59%
    - Contractual Wage & Benefit Increases
  - Fuel Costs
  - Supply/Parts Costs

# Article 9: Plant Maintenance and Operations

- **All Aspects of Custodial and Maintenance Operations**
  - \$4,961,605
    - Increase of \$29,525
    - .60% (FTC Operations portion now in FTC Budget)
      - Contractual Wage & Benefit Increases
    - One small project (Mallett)
    - Need to create the 10yr. Maintenance Plan
    - Supply Costs
    - Needed work van replacement
  - Reserve Accounts for Capital and Fuel Reserve will be used if a major problem occurs
  - Staffing #s
    - 23-24 as compared to 22-23 - One less custodian

## Article 10: Debt Service

- **Existing Expenses for Project Related Debt Service**
  - \$4,000,904
    - Decrease of \$62,927
    - -1.55% Decrease

# Article 11: Other Expenditures

- **School Nutrition/Food Service Program**
- **Participation in National School Lunch Program (NSLP)**
  - Has increased program revenues to combat high food costs
  - Increased system improvement and oversight has also reduced food waste.
- **The Board removed the final Student Meal Debt with the present 22-23 Budget**
- **District funds will not be needed in 23-24.**

# Adult Education Program

- **All Aspects of Adult Education Programming**
  - \$537,642
    - Increase of \$28,990
    - +5.70%
  - Contractual Wage and Benefit Increases
  - Adult Literacy Contracted Services (outreach)
  - Career Professional Services (job preparedness)

# FY23 to FY24

- **Overall Budget**

- \$41,761,666
  - Increase of \$1,769,722
  - + 4.43% (Overall budget)

- **Local Assessment Share**

- \$14,296,995
  - ***Increase of \$758,360 or 5.60%***
- Last ten years:
  - **FY24: + 5.60%**
  - FY23: + 0.62%
  - FY22: + 2.97%
  - **FY21: (-1.69%)**
  - FY20: + 0.027%
  - FY19: + 6.25%
  - FY18: **(-2.06%)**
  - FY17: **(-2.10%)**
  - FY16: + 7.65%
  - FY15: + 12.64%



# Moving Forward

- **Fund Balance Usage and Planning** (“what is left over”)

*(REMINDER: The Fund Balance over the previous three years increased because a large number of positions were not filled along with a range of difficulties during COVID. This will NOT continue in the present budget or for future ones.)*

- We need to plan strategically for our present and future unassigned Fund Balance over the next 3 years
  - 6-30-21 Fund Balance
    - 4.13 Million
      - 2.93 million unassigned and 1.2 million assigned to 21-22 budget
  - 6-30-22 (waiting for audit to be completed)
    - Early estimate leaves about \$570,000 of the 1.2 million unused the 21-22 budget
  - 7-1-2022
    - 3.5 million
    - 1.25 million unassigned used for 22-23 (all of which will be used)
  - 6-30-2023
    - 2.25 million
      - \$800,000 requested for the 23-24 Draft Budget
    - Will leave 1.45 million
      - \$750,000 in present Reserve Accounts
      - \$700,000 Unassigned
- Must continue to reduce application of the unassigned fund balance to no more than \$600,000 in 24-25 and \$400,000 in 25-26

# Moving Forward - part 2.

- **ESSER Funding**

- ESSER Funding will end by Sept 2024 and all grant funded positions and stipends will cease at that time.
- As shared with the community and Board when these grants were developed, we will not fill any of these positions or stipends unless directed by the Board.

- **Strategic Plan and 10 Year Maintenance and Technology Plans**

- Will need to be finalized.
- Are needed to guide development of future Mt. Blue/RSU 9 programming and budget decisions.

# Community Questions



**COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM**

**Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all**