



MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

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Budget Update #7 – RSU #38 Budget Workshop, March 29, 2017

To view the video as well as all supporting materials, please go to www.maranacook.org/budget

“Promoting student success in all areas as we strive for academic excellence while maintaining fiscal responsibility”

The RSU #38 School Board Budget Deliberation Meeting began with a celebration of the district’s recent placement as number #9 on the top ten 2017 Best School Districts in Maine list, published by Niche.com. The ranking is based on data provided by the U.S. Census and the U.S. Department of Education, and is based on “state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality, public school district ratings, and more”. You can visit the niche.com website to learn more about this data:

<https://www.niche.com/k12/rankings/public-school-districts/best-overall/s/maine/>

I am extremely proud of the RSU #38 staff and administrators who do so much to make RSU #38 *“a caring school community dedicated to excellence.”*

Further good news included a MSMA (Maine School Management Association) news release that states, “The Education Committee has voted 8-3 against the Governor’s plan to eliminate the allocation for system administration as part of the K-12 portion of the state budget. “ The Governor’s plan eliminated system administration from state subsidy and placed the cost of district administration on the local taxpayers. The Education Committee’s recommendation has gone to the Appropriations Committee for consideration. I urge all RSU #38 voters to contact your legislators and members of the **Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs** to support this recommendation of the Education Committee. Including system administration as part of the K-12 portion of the state budget could reduce the local dollars needed to support the FY18 RSU #38 expenditure budget.

In support of their budget goal statement ***“Promoting student success in all areas as we strive for academic excellence while maintaining fiscal responsibility”***, the RSU #38 School Board agreed to support the proposed **General Fund School Summary Budget, Version 2**, of \$17,382,414.28 at the March 29 budget deliberation meeting. The statement of support followed a discussion about items on the **Priorities for FY18 Budget** list and the recommendation by the administration to keep all of the *Items to Consider Cutting* in the FY18 budget. Administrators believe that these items are necessary to the safety, maintenance, and operation of our buildings, and to ensure that our students will meet the new state requirements for a high school diploma.

Additional information provided at the March 29 meeting included the RSU #38 **Instructional Staff History**. This chart shows the history of the numbers of teachers and educational technicians from FY10 to the present. The Coach/ELA/Math category includes math and literacy coaches, interventionists, and specialists.

The final RSU #38 Budget Deliberation Meeting will be on April 5, 2017. The Board will vote approval on the FY18 Budget at the April 12, 2017 RSU #38 School Board Meeting. Citizens will have the opportunity to address the Board regarding budget comments and concerns at these meetings. I urge all citizens to attend these final budget meetings.

Opportunities for citizen comments and questions are also available on the district website (<http://www.maranacook.org/>) on the budget link under **Budget 2016-2017, Submit Budget Questions or Comments.**

Sincerely,

Donna H. Wolfrom, Ed.D.
Superintendent of School