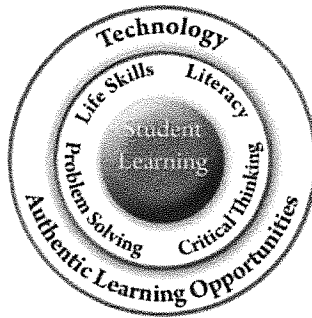


# RSU 3

## Regional School Unit #3



Serving students from Brooks, Freedom, Jackson, Knox, Liberty, Monroe, Montville, Thorndike, Troy, Unity and Waldo

### 2026-27 School Budget Proposal Information

***#RSU3forME***

#### Annual District Public Budget Meeting:

**Thursday, May 28, 2026 6:30pm at Mount View Middle School, Thorndike**

#### Referendum Vote: Proposed Budget and School Board Director Seats

**Tuesday, June 9, 2026 8:00am – 8:00pm at town polling locations:**

- BROOKS – Town Office
- FREEDOM – Town Office
- JACKSON – Town Office
- KNOX – Town Office
- LIBERTY – Town Office
- MONROE – Town Hall
- MONTVILLE – Town House
- THORNDIKE – Town Office
- TROY – Town Office
- UNITY – Town Office
- WALDO – Town Office

**Dear RSU 3 Community,**

It's hard to believe a full year has passed since I last wrote this letter. While the time has gone quickly, it has also been filled with meaningful work, important decisions, and steady progress. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and grateful for your continued support.

Over the past year, we have continued to prioritize transparency and communication. I hope the monthly newsletters I share have helped keep families and community members informed, not only about the accomplishments of our students and staff, but also about the budget development process, our ongoing work around school safety, and the many moving parts of a school system. My goal is for our community to feel connected to and informed about the work happening in our schools each day.

The development of the 2026-2027 school budget reflects that same commitment. This budget represents the collaborative work of many, from school and department leaders to the School Board, through ongoing monthly Finance Committee meetings and a series of thoughtful budget workshops. Together, we have built a plan that prioritizes student learning, support our staff, and remains mindful of the financial realities facing our communities.

We are all aware of the rising costs affecting households across our communities and throughout the country. As we developed this budget, we worked intentionally to balance the need to provide a high-quality education with the understanding that increasing costs create real challenges for families and taxpayers. The proposed budget reflects an overall increase of 2.79%, however, through the careful use of carryover funds, we have reduced the impact on the local assessment to an increase of 1.4%. In doing so, we have balanced short term tax relief with long term financial stability.

As in most districts, the largest portion of our budget is dedicated to salaries and benefits. These investments are essential to recruiting and retaining the dedicated professionals who support our students each day.

This year's budget proposal also reflects continued attention to long term planning. We are identifying priority projects that support both safety and the long-term sustainability of our facilities. Potential areas of focus include necessary lighting and controls upgrades at the Mount View Complex and resurfacing the high school track. These projects would be supported through capital reserve funds and are not included as new expenditures in the 2026-2027 operating budget. Final decisions will be made in collaboration with the Board and based on available resources. This approach is consistent with the long-term planning outlined in last year's budget message, as we continue to use resources thoughtfully to support district priorities.

We now have clarity regarding the future of the former Morse and Walker school buildings, as both Liberty and Brooks have voted to take possession of the buildings. As a result, the district will no longer incur ongoing expenses associated with these facilities, providing greater certainty and contributing to a more stable long-term financial outlook.

Our District Leadership Team (DLT) continues to serve as a steady foundation for our work, helping to guide and align district efforts as we begin the renewal of our strategic plan. This work is underway with staff, and the Board has been kept informed throughout the process. While there is still important work ahead, we are building a strong foundation that will soon expand to include broader community engagement. This process is intended to ensure our future direction reflects shared priorities and a clear vision for the district.

At the center of all of this work remains a shared commitment to our students, our staff, and our community. This budget reflects more than financial decisions, it reflects that shared commitment in action. Even in times of change, I remain deeply confident in our ability to work together, support one another, and move forward with purpose.

Lisa Roux, Superintendent

District Leadership Team (DLT) Members:

Administrative Assistant Maria King  
Assistant Superintendent Erica Gower  
Senior Administrator Alicia McCormick  
Facilities/Transportation/Operations/Technology Director Peter Quimby  
Special Services Coordinator Brett Leavitt  
Business Manager Barbara Van Deventer  
SNP Director Tina Fabian

Dear RSU 3 Community,

Your RSU 3 Board of Directors have been hard at work to improve communication with the families and taxpayers that support our local schools. The Board has launched the “Alumni Speaker Series,” that brings back Mount View graduates to speak to our Junior and Senior classes about life choices and job opportunities. The Board has also started an RSU 3 “School Board Facebook” page, to let the community know about the important work we are doing to improve and promote our schools. There are many other things we are working on, but there is too much to list here.

The Board has been working closely with our new Superintendent, Lisa Roux, and her administrative team to collaborate on policy, subject offerings for our students, improvements in transportation for reduced ride time, and a general plan to make RSU 3 a more welcoming place for our students. We want parents to choose RSU 3 as the educational choice for their child.

With all of this said, I encourage you to come out and participate at the District Public Budget Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Mount View Middle School Gym to voice your opinion and vote.

Thanks for your support and I hope to see you there,

Glenn Couturier  
Chair, RSU 3 Board of Directors

**RSU 3 SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTORS**

DIRECTOR	TOWN REPRESENTED	TOWN TERM EXPIRES
Craig Work	Brooks	2028
Eleanor Hess	Freedom	2027
Renee Fox	Jackson	2028
Cathie Cross	Knox	2027
James Chasse	Liberty *	2027
Michael Schaab	Monroe *	2026 *
Glenn Couturier	Montville *	2026 *
Elizabeth Healy	Thorndike *	2026 *
Vacant	Troy *	2028
Najeen Shedyak	Unity *	2026 *
Steven Miles	Waldo	2028

\*The district-wide voting process for at-large School Board Directors, will ask **all** RSU 3 voters to vote for **all** vacant seats on the school board. The at-large school board election will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at your town voting poll location.

**RSU 3 Proposed Budget Articles and Programs for 2026-27 Approved by the School Board April 13, 2026**

<b>Article 1</b>	<b>Regular Instruction</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>Article Total</b>	<b>\$7,425,750</b>	<b>\$7,863,800</b>	<b>438,050</b>	<b>5.90%</b>
•	K-2 Instruction Targeted Funds	\$80,800	\$72,200	(8,600)	
•	Pre-K Program	\$178,000	\$138,000	(40,000)	
•	Elementary & Middle School Instruction	\$4,684,450	\$5,107,700	423,250	
•	Secondary Instruction Grade 9-12	\$2,231,100	\$2,280,700	49,600	
•	English Language Learners	\$147,500	\$153,200	5,700	
•	Gifted and Talented	\$103,900	\$112,000	8,100	

Budget Note: Increase in Substitutes (pay/benefits), MPFML contribution costs, resources, software licenses, MVMS field trips transportation, professional courses, conferences and student activity admissions. Reduction in tutor pay.

**ARTICLE 1: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.  
School Board Recommends \$7,863,800.00**

<b>Article 2</b>	<b>Special Education</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>Article Total</b>	<b>\$3,994,650</b>	<b>\$4,307,200</b>	<b>312,550</b>	<b>7.82%</b>

Budget Note: Added p/t Certified Occupational Therapist Aide (COTA) position. Increase for Out of District Tuition and Behavioral Health Services and Speech Professional Services.

**ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education.  
School Board Recommends \$4,307,200.00**

<b>Article 3</b>	<b>Career and Tech Ed</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>Article Total</b>	<b>\$31,896</b>	<b>\$34,231</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>7.32%</b>

Budget Note: Assessment per WCTC Budget approved 3/19/26. WCTC Budget \$2,930,489 Increase 3.28%.

**ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.  
School Board Recommends \$34,231.00**

<b>Article 4</b>	<b>Other Instruction</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>Article Total</b>	<b>\$669,300</b>	<b>\$684,950</b>	<b>15,650</b>	<b>2.34%</b>
•	Summer School	\$25,100	\$28,400	3,300	
•	Co-Curricular Elem/MS	\$26,800	\$32,150	5,350	
•	Co-Curricular High School	\$92,300	\$90,500	(1,800)	
•	Clifford Performing Arts Ctr	\$3,100	\$3,100	-0-	
•	Athletics MVMS	\$118,700	\$124,500	5,800	
•	Athletics MVHS	\$403,300	\$406,300	3,000	

Budget Note: Increase in Middle School and High School Summer School teaching hours, MVMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip, JMG and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade events, and MVMS Co-Curricular Transportation. Added MVMS Golf Coach, Track and Field Assistant Coach, and Assistant Wrestling Coach. A reduction in insurance benefits.

**ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.  
School Board Recommends \$684,950.00**

<b>Article 5</b>	<b>Student and Staff Support</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>Article Total</b>	<b>\$1,727,075</b>	<b>\$1,783,305</b>	<b>56,230</b>	<b>3.26%</b>
•	Guidance K-12	\$524,100	\$534,900	10,800	
•	Health Services	\$226,200	\$243,800	17,600	
•	Improvement of Instruction	\$152,600	\$151,000	(1,600)	
•	Library K-12	\$276,310	\$288,400	12,090	
•	Technology Support	\$311,300	\$325,400	14,100	
•	Section 504	\$5,400	\$5,375	(25)	
•	Fitness Center	\$15,700	\$15,700	-0-	
•	School Resource Officer	\$134,565	\$140,230	5,665	
•	Student Assessment	\$80,900	\$78,500	(2,400)	

Budget Note: Increase for Substitutes (pay/benefits), resources, and employee added insurance. Reduction in services and supplies. Added funds for Rural Aspiration work, and reduced Instruction Coach.

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

**School Board Recommends \$1,783,305.00**

<b>Article 6</b>	<b>System Administration</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>Article Total</b>	<b>\$945,400</b>	<b>\$962,700</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>1.83%</b>
•	District School Board	\$175,900	\$171,700	(4,200)	
•	Superintendent Office	\$321,000	\$327,700	6,700	
•	Central Services	\$448,500	\$463,300	14,800	

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

**School Board Recommends \$962,700.00**

<b>Article 7</b>	<b>School Administration</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>Article Total</b>	<b>\$1,147,900</b>	<b>\$1,183,400</b>	<b>35,500</b>	<b>3.09%</b>
•	Office of the Principal	\$1,147,900	\$1,183,400	35,500	

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

**School Board Recommends \$1,183,400.00**

<b>Article 8</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>Article Total</b>	<b>\$2,170,800</b>	<b>\$2,146,600</b>	<b>(24,200)</b>	<b>-1.11%</b>
•	Transportation and Busses	\$2,170,800	\$2,146,600	(24,200)	

Budget Note: Increase for Substitutes (pay/benefits), software license, and bus purchase cost increase. Reduction in current routes, training, testing, fuel, and van purchase.

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

**School Board Recommends \$2,146,600.00**

<b>Article 9</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>	
<b>Article Total</b>		<b>\$2,872,772</b>	<b>\$2,660,057</b>	<b>(212,715)</b>	<b>-7.40%</b>

- Facilities, Custodial and Maintenance \$2,747,623 \$2,534,908 (212,715)
- Building Capital/Renovation Repayments \$125,149 \$125,149 -0-

Budget Note: Reference Budget Breakdown – Building Costs \$673,735 (FY26 was \$801,200). Custodial \$1,022,400 (FY26 was \$967,100). Maintenance \$831,208 (FY26 was \$971,823). School Safety \$7,600 (FY26 was \$7,500).

Building Capital Increase for Custodial Substitutes (pay/benefits). Added employee insurance. Renewal/Renovation is the annual repayment of: \$7,659 for SRRF Revolving Renovation Projects and \$117,490 for ESCO Energy Service Projects, SRRF payment ends FY2028, ESCO payments ends FY2032

This does not include any funds to maintain the Morse and Walker School facilities for the 2026-27 year.

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

**School Board Recommends \$2,660,057.00**

<b>Article 10</b>	<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease)</b>	
<b>Article Total</b>		<b>\$1,976,057</b>	<b>\$1,976,057</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Budget Note: Budget per MMBB Amortization Schedule Bond for Mt. View Complex construction. Bond was refinanced. FY27 \$1,976,057 Budget Principal amount only, no interest due. Final payment November 2027 (FY28 Budget).

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

**School Board Recommends \$1,976,057.00**

<b>Article 11</b>	<b>Other Expenditures</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
<b>Article Total</b>		<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>

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

**School Board Recommends \$0.00**

**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 20-A, section 15688.

**Recommended amounts set forth below:**

on student count, funding of system administration which is based on student count, funding for building operations which is based on student count, funding of transportation which is based primarily on student density per mile; (2) the EPS allocation for special education underestimates the needs and subsequent cost of providing for students' special needs; (3) the EPS funding underestimates the market and delivery costs for fuel; (4) the EPS funding allocation assumes that districts will cover the major portion of the costs for co-curricular and athletic student activities; (5) the EPS formula does not provide sufficient funds for equitable education of students in rural communities that do not have the enrollment population to receive adequate funding; (6) the EPS formula does not provide sufficient funds to offer innovative educational opportunities for the students in rural communities.

*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.*

**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, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 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 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.

**School Board Recommends \$ 23,602,300.00**

	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$22,961,600</b>	<b>\$23,602,300</b>	<b>\$640,700</b>	<b>2.79%</b>

**ARTICLE 16 RAISES AND APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM**

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate \$ 85,000.00 for the school nutrition program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the school nutrition program.

**School Board Recommends \$ 85,000.00**

**Total Appropriated  
(by municipality):**

Town of Brooks	\$	1,547,834.36
Town of Freedom	\$	793,723.59
Town of Jackson	\$	1,066,611.92
Town of Knox	\$	1,402,587.34
Town of Liberty	\$	1,115,027.60
Town of Monroe	\$	1,210,391.80
Town of Montville	\$	1,515,557.24
Town of Thorndike	\$	1,057,809.07
Town of Troy	\$	1,427,528.75
Town of Unity	\$	2,654,059.11
Town of Waldo	\$	880,284.95
<b>Total Appropriated (sum of above)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,671,415.73</b>

**Total Raised (and Regional School Unit  
assessments by municipality):**

Town of Brooks	\$	581,717.25
Town of Freedom	\$	473,239.16
Town of Jackson	\$	338,700.00
Town of Knox	\$	418,200.41
Town of Liberty	\$	1,115,027.60
Town of Monroe	\$	707,883.00
Town of Montville	\$	707,036.25
Town of Thorndike	\$	397,972.50
Town of Troy	\$	572,308.91
Town of Unity	\$	1,118,933.09
Town of Waldo	\$	520,751.25
<b>Total Raised (sum of above)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,951,769.42</b>

*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.*

**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 \$ 0.00**

*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.*

**ARTICLE 14: (Written ballot required.)** To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$4,325,195.68**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$4,325,195.68**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends \$4,325,195.68, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$4,325,195.68. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: (1) the EPS formula does not meet the essential needs of rural school districts with numerous small schools regarding the funding for staff which is based

**ARTICLES 23 THROUGH 25 AUTHORIZE THE  
REGION 7 CTE BUDGET AND CAPITAL RESERVE FUND ACTIONS**

**ARTICLE 23:** Shall the Region 7 Waldo County Technical Center operating budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 be approved in the amount of \$ 2,930,488.77?

**CTE Cooperative Board Recommends a “YES” Vote.**

**ARTICLE 24:** Shall the Cooperative Board of Region 7 Waldo County Technical Center be authorized to transfer up to \$100,000.00 to the Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of capital improvements and/or building facilities maintenance?

**CTE Cooperative Board Recommends a “YES” vote.**

**ARTICLE 25:** Shall the Cooperative Board of Region 7 Waldo County Technical Center be authorized to expend from available funds in the Capital Reserve for capital improvements and/or building facilities maintenance as needed in the discretion of the Cooperative Board?

**CTE Cooperative Board Recommends a “YES” vote.**

<b>Student Enrollment</b>						
<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>	School Year
1,052	1,061	1,027	982	944	925 estimate	Students

**Revenue for 2026-27 Budget Approved by the School Board April 13, 2026 Draft**

	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>	
	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	
	<u>6.10 MILL CAP</u>	<u>5.645 MILL CAP</u>	Mill Expectation set by the State
State EPS Contribution	\$7,450,482.19	\$7,719,646.31	
State Contribution Debt Service	\$1,976,057.00	\$1,976,057.00	
State Subsidy for Education SVC Ctr	\$52,868.29	\$46,131.59	
Local EPS Contribution	\$6,789,488.62	\$6,951,769.42	
Local Only	<u>\$4,314,703.90</u>	<u>\$4,325,195.68</u>	
Total State Share	\$9,479,407.48	\$9,741,834.90	
Total Local Share	<u>\$11,104,192.52</u>	<u>\$11,276,965.10</u>	
Total Subsidy and Taxes:	\$20,583,600.00	\$21,018,800.00	
<b>Other Revenues and Balances:</b>			
Balance Forward	\$900,000.00	\$900,000.00	
Extra Balance avail from previous yrs	\$1,100,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	
MaineCare Inter-Fund Transfer	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	
Tuition Revenue	\$25,000.00	\$41,500.00	
Athletic Gate Receipts	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	
Miscellaneous	\$13,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Interest	\$33,000.00	\$100,000.00	
Charter School Rev	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	
State Agency Reimbursement	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Sub-Total Other Revenues:	\$2,378,000.00	\$2,583,500.00	Difference
<b>Total Budget Revenue:</b>	<b>\$22,961,600.00</b>	<b>\$23,602,300.00</b>	<b>\$640,700 2.79% Increase</b>

**ARTICLE 17 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM  
AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE**

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Regional School Unit will appropriate \$ 130,100.00 for adult education and raise \$ 40,000.00 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.

**School Board Recommends a “YES” vote.**

**ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF  
GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS**

**ARTICLE 18:** 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?

**School Board Recommends a “YES” vote.**

**ARTICLE 19 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO  
THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**ARTICLE 19:** Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$ 600,000.00 from available balances at the end of the 2025-26 fiscal year to the Capital Reserve Fund for repairs and improvements at the District’s schools and buildings?

**School Board Recommends a “YES” vote.**

**ARTICLE 20 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**ARTICLE 20:** Shall the School Board be authorized to expend from available funds in the Capital Reserve for capital improvements and/or building facilities maintenance as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

**School Board Recommends a “YES” vote.**

[More information will be provided at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Public Budget Meeting]

**ARTICLE 21 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE CAPITAL  
EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND**

**ARTICLE 21:** Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$ 10,000.00 from available fund balances to the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund; and to expend from available funds in the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

**School Board Recommends a “YES” vote.**

**ARTICLE 22 AUTHORIZES REDUCTION IN LOCAL TAX ASSESSMENTS  
IN THE EVENT OF AN INCREASE IN STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the School Board will be authorized to reduce the amount raised and assessed as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as defined in Section 15671-A(1)(B) of the Maine Revised Statutes to the extent of any unanticipated increase in the adjusted state contribution under the Essential Programs and Services funding model.

**School Board recommends a “YES” vote.**

## BUDGET APPROVAL PROCESS FOR RSU 3 DISTRICT VOTERS

### **ANNUAL DISTRICT PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING - Thursday, May 28, 2026, @ 6:30 pm in the Mount View Middle School**

Our eleven towns will each have a representative present with a current list of the registered voters of their town.

All registered voters must check in with their town representative and receive a voter's card.

Any individual attending this meeting who is not a resident of our district, should sit in the seating area designated for non-residents. [Non-residents will not participate in the voting process and will need recognition and approval if they wish to speak.]

The board chair will call the meeting to order.

A moderator will be nominated and elected.

Town representative will be appointed and sworn in as ballot clerks.

Moderator will call for a vote to approve the Superintendent to speak. The Superintendent will present and speak about the proposed budget that was approved by the board of directors.

Each article will be read by the moderator and voted on by the registered voters present. (Articles may be amended up or down.)

Articles must pass by a majority vote.

The warrant article to raise additional local funds which exceed the Essential Programs and Services model must be approved by a written ballot.

### **BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM - The results of the budget that was approved by the voters at the Budget Meeting will be presented for a Budget Validation Referendum vote on June 9, 2026 in each town.**

A "Notice of Amounts Adopted at the Budget Meeting" document will be posted at all town polling locations which shows the budget article amounts that were approved at the Budget Meeting.

The budget validation questions will be:

-Do you favor approving the Regional School Unit No. 3 budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the latest Regional School Unit budget meeting?

**ABSENTEE VOTING** -If you would like to apply for an Absentee Ballot, please contact your individual town office. Please note that Absentee Ballots must be received by the town **no earlier than the date following the District Budget Meeting in order to be counted.**

Visit our website to access  
up-to-date information, announcements and more

**[www.rsu3.org](http://www.rsu3.org)**

**RSU 3 School Nutrition Program – Estimated Revenue for 2026-27 Budget**

	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
State and Federal Meal Subsidy	\$898,000	\$1,135,000
Sale of Meals, Catering, Misc.	\$76,000	\$100,000
SNP Balance Forward	\$165,550	\$38,200
Local Assessments	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$85,000</u>
<b>Total SNP Budget Revenues:</b>	<b>\$1,239,550</b>	<b>\$1,358,200</b>

**RSU 3 Adult and Community Education – Estimated Revenue for 2026-27 Budget**

	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
State Subsidy	\$30,000	\$20,680
State Subsidy Age 16-20	\$0	\$36,000
Adult Ed Course Fees	\$1,000	\$1,000
Adult Ed Balance Forward	\$62,300	\$32,420
Local Assessments	<u>\$40,000</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>
<b>Total Adult Ed Budget Revenue</b>	<b>\$133,300</b>	<b>\$130,100</b>

<b>Total Local Assessments including SNP and Adult Ed</b>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>			
	<b>\$11,244,193</b>	<b>\$11,401,965</b>	<b>\$157,773</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>1.40%</b>

**RSU 3 Town Assessments for 2026-27 Budget (FY27) -per Preliminary State Subsidy info ED279 dated 2-2-26**

Local Share of EPS at 5.645 Mill Expectation, plus Local Only raised to support General Fund Budget, School Nutrition and Adult Ed Programs:

**DRAFT: NOT FINAL** – If the State increases their contribution toward the school budget, RSU#3 will reduce the amounts raised and assessed to each town, provided that the warrant article authorizing this reduction passes at the May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Public Budget Meeting.

TOWN	STATE SHARE of EPS Allocation on behalf of town	2026-27 (FY27) LOCAL SHARE including School Nutrition and Adult Ed Programs	2025-26 (FY26) Town Assessment	Compare FY27 to FY26 Increase	Town % Increase
Brooks	\$1,174,591	\$947,401	\$923,730	\$23,671	2.6%
Freedom	\$427,389	\$778,028	\$735,658	\$42,370	5.8%
Jackson	\$871,571	\$552,302	\$526,860	\$25,442	4.8%
Knox	\$1,173,298	\$670,525	\$671,662	-\$1,136	-0.2%
Liberty	\$150,180	\$1,910,414	\$2,035,906	-\$125,493	-6.2%
Monroe	\$665,534	\$1,170,375	\$1,087,229	\$83,145	7.6%
Montville	\$1,012,648	\$1,098,171	\$1,215,502	-\$117,330	-9.7%
Thorndike	\$802,310	\$636,089	\$637,207	-\$1,119	-0.2%
Troy	\$1,047,490	\$947,049	\$879,622	\$67,427	7.7%
Unity	\$1,892,595	\$1,845,461	\$1,718,687	\$126,774	7.4%
Waldo	\$478,097	\$846,151	\$812,129	\$34,022	4.2%
	<b>\$9,695,703</b>	<b>\$11,401,965</b>	<b>\$11,244,193</b>	<b>\$157,773</b>	<b>1.40%</b>

State Subsidy has declined from \$12,998,079 for 2009-10 to \$9,695,703 for 2026-27