

# M.S.A.D. # 72

Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, Sweden

## ANNUAL REPORT and 2017-2018 BUDGET EXPLANATION

Annual Budget Meeting  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017 7:00P.M.  
Molly Ockett School  
New Gymnasium



The detailed 2017-2018 proposed Budget is  
available online at the District web-site [www.msad72.org](http://www.msad72.org)

## FY18 Budget Summary

The proposed FY18 budget for MSAD 72 is **\$18,851,510**. This represents a **9.61%** increase over the current budget. Without factoring in the \$1,417,712 of debt service for the school construction project, that represents a **3.92%** increase overall. The process we utilize to create the budget relies on staff members, administrators, and the Board of Directors working together to assure that our budget supports the needs of students and staff members while at the same time being fiscally responsible.

There were many financial challenges presented by this year's budget. When the referendum on the building project took place, our citizens supported the idea of maintaining elementary schools in Lovell and Denmark rather than having one district-wide campus. Now the challenge is absorbing the costs of debt for the new project while paying to maintain the other two campuses. We had to push off a \$225,000 paving project until next year as well as reduce staffing in regular and special education to arrive at a budget figure that we feel voters can support.

Impacts on the proposed budget include: a \$1,417,712 increase to make our annual payment on the bond for the building project, a \$236,000 increase in health insurance costs, a \$345,000 increase in special-education costs, and a \$136,000 increase in out-of-district transportation costs.

We strongly believe that a **9.61%** budget-to-budget increase, with 7.52% of that being debt service for the building project, is reasonable as it helps us maintain key positions, helps us continue to meet the needs of students, and helps us minimize the increased demand on local taxpayers. This **9.61%** increase in the budget results in a **4.93% (\$590,134)** increase in costs to our towns, which is unavoidable given the increase in expenditures listed above. I hope that you come to the May 24<sup>th</sup> Budget Meeting at The Molly Ockett School (new school) gym to support this budget.

Jay Robinson  
MSAD 72 Superintendent

## Frequently Asked Budget Questions

### Q: What is budget-development?

A: Starting in late fall, we collect feedback from all employees regarding budgetary needs. Those requests are submitted to administrators in late December. Starting in January, the administrative team reviews the requests, asks clarifying questions as needed, and produces a preliminary budget. Throughout April and May, the school board reviews each cost center and each line of the budget. The superintendent and business administrator for the district also adjust the budget based upon State budgetary information, which is in flux sometimes even after the budget is finalized. Ultimately, the board votes to approve a final budget, which is then presented to the voters in a series of public meetings. The public then approves of the budget at the district budget meeting, which will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the gymnasium in The Molly Ockett School (7 PM).

### Q: What factors drive the budget?

A: The budget is determined by the State using the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) model. The State sets a statewide mill rate (8.29 this year) that every town is required to raise for its share of education costs. For each town, those costs are determined by the percentage of pupils. If the town's costs within the State formula are in excess of its share, based upon pupil count and the town's valuations, then the State pays the remainder of the educational costs. Because of high valuations, four of our towns (Denmark, Lovell, Stoneham, and Sweden) do not receive State subsidy, except for a portion of the bond payments (debt service) for the new building project.

### Q: How much State support do we receive?

A: As mentioned in an earlier answer, the State contributes to educational costs for a town when the town meets the established State mil rate (8.29). In our District, only three towns reach that mil rate, and those are Brownfield, Fryeburg and Stow. Those towns are receiving the following in State funding:

Brownfield	\$1,430,127	Denmark	\$116,854
Fryeburg	\$3,576,900	Lovell	\$ 81,340
Stow	<u>\$253,116</u>	Stoneham	\$ 22,373
Total:	\$5,260,143	Sweden	<u>\$ 34,999</u>
		Total:	\$255,566

### Q: Are there other costs assigned to towns?

A: Yes. Because the State-funding model is an "adequacy" model, meaning that the intent is not to provide all of a district's educational needs, districts include warrant articles for additional local funds. In our case, we pay higher secondary tuition costs as part of our contract with Fryeburg Academy, which exceed the costs recognized within EPS. We also have higher special-education costs than are recognized by the EPS model, and due to the geographic size of our District, smaller class sizes and higher transportation costs than are recognized by the model.

## Frequently Asked Budget Questions

**Q: What is the local tax impact for FY17?**

A: The impact, or increase in dollars paid by each town over last year for each town, is:

Brownfield	\$80,454	4.36%
Denmark	\$97,649	4.74%
Fryeburg	\$141,592	3.56%
Lovell	\$235,352	9.49%
Stoneham	\$10,086	2.06%
Stow	\$12,503	2.55%
Sweden	\$12,499	1.94%

It is important to keep in mind that \$1,417,712 of the budget-to-budget increase is the bond payment for the building project. Without debt service, the increase from FY17 to FY18 is 3.92%, which demonstrates the District's ongoing attempts to maintain quality programming while keeping the taxpayers' ability to pay in mind.

## FY18 Key Budget Information

Proposed Budget:	\$18,851,510
Current Year's Budget:	\$17,199,140
Increase w/o Bond Payment:	\$ 658,083 (3.92%)
Overall Increase:	\$ 1,652,370 (9.61%)

What is driving the increase?

<u>Fixed Cost Drivers:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary Increases	\$199,000 (3% PVEA/PVSSA; 2% Non-Contractual)
Health Insurance Increases	\$236,000
Fryeburg Academy Contract	\$71,249 – Projected 4% Tuition Increase

<u>State-Imposed Costs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Teacher Retirement Costs (3.97%)	\$212,825 (\$35,000 Increase)
Debt Service for Building Project	\$1,417,712 (\$994,287 Increase)

<u>Proposed Additions</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Amount</u>
One Bus	Aging Fleet	\$55,000
Minor Capital Projects	Building/Grounds Maintenance	\$29,500
Nursing Support	Required to Provide Coverage	\$28,000
Ed Tech (504)	Acute Student Need	\$16,500

<u>Proposed Cuts</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Classroom Teacher (1)	Reconfiguration of Students	\$65,000
Special Ed Educational Techs (2)	Case Driven	\$65,000
Special Ed Admin Assistant (.5)	Restructuring Central Office Staff	\$28,000

<u>State Aid</u>		<u>Required Local:</u>	
FY18	\$5,260,143 (38.34%)	FY18	\$9,124,770
	\$4,012,881 *w/o project		\$8,953,320 *w/o project
FY17	\$4,372,730 (32.89%)	FY17	\$8,888,268
	\$4,069,832 *w/o project		\$8,767,741 *w/o project
FY16	\$4,109,156 (30.87%)	FY16	\$9,196,707
FY15	\$3,652,940 (29.09%)	FY15	\$8,898,128
FY14	\$3,289,119 (26.97%)	FY14	\$8,907,171

<u>Impact on Local Taxpayer –</u>	<u>Additional \$</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Brownfield	80,454	4.36%
Denmark	97,649	4.74%
Fryeburg	141,592	3.56%
Lovell	235,352	9.49%
Stoneham	10,086	2.06%
Stow	12,503	2.55%
Sweden	12,499	1.94%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$590,134</b>	<b>4.93%</b>

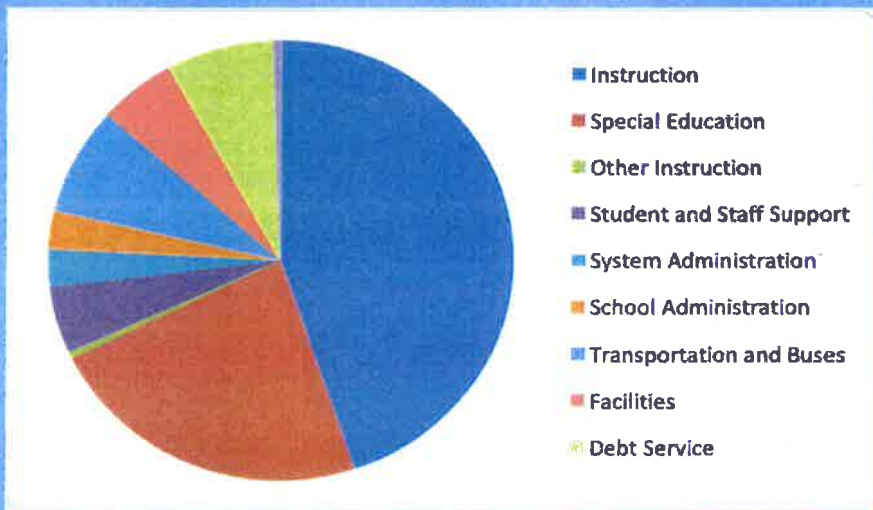
**MSAD 72 FY18 Budget**

				<b>17 - 18</b>	
	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>Instruction</b>					
K-8	3,835,041	3,711,505	3,832,191	120,686	3.25%
GT	106,334	108,246	108,332	86	0.08%
9-12	4,237,686	4,423,581	4,494,831	71,249	1.61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,179,062</b>	<b>8,243,332.43</b>	<b>8,435,353.64</b>	<b>192,021</b>	<b>2.33%</b>
<b>Special Education</b>					
Instruction, Special Ed	3,657,288	3,972,852.14	4,317,384.65	344,533	8.67%
Regular Class Pl	353,952	216,265	430,248	213,983	98.94%
Resource Room	768,313	714,465	768,410	53,946	7.55%
Self Contained	1,712,804	2,100,880	2,157,933	57,053	2.72%
All Other Programs	613,812	653,542	634,838	-18,704	-2.86%
OOP	208,408	287,700	325,956	38,255	13.30%
<b>Other Instruction</b>					
Co-Curricular	89,409	84,928	82,152	-2,775	-3.27%
Summer School	7,983	7,224	7,258	34	0.48%
	<b>97,392</b>	<b>92,151.42</b>	<b>89,410.58</b>	<b>-2,741</b>	<b>-2.97%</b>
<b>Student and Staff Support</b>					
Guidance	215,617	219,180	208,193	-10,987	-5.01%
Health	87,625	91,615	109,109	17,494	19.09%
Other Student Support Services (504)	14,305	5,455	21,948	16,493	302.34%
Improvement to Instruction	58,637	61,599	82,833	21,234	34.47%
Library	151,448	151,560	158,072	6,512	4.30%
Technology	265,701	285,603	326,460	40,857	14.31%
Assessment	34,306	26,392	33,710	7,318	27.73%
	<b>827,639</b>	<b>841,404.08</b>	<b>940,324.55</b>	<b>98,920</b>	<b>11.76%</b>
<b>System Administration</b>					
Directors	22,348	22,516	22,346	-169	-0.75%
Superintendent's Office	465,614	476,008	486,257	10,249	2.15%
	<b>487,962</b>	<b>498,524.07</b>	<b>508,603.35</b>	<b>10,079</b>	<b>2.02%</b>
<b>School Administration</b>					
Office of the Principal	518,119	532,802.05	529,718.24	-3,084	-0.58%
<b>Transportation and Buses</b>					
Transportation	1,523,840	1,390,306.36	1,479,194.99	88,889	6.39%
<b>Facilities</b>					
Operation and Maintenance	1,015,853	1,016,643	1,004,308	-12,335	-1.21%
Minor Capital Projects	19,400	72,530	29,500	-43,030	-59.33%
	<b>1,035,253</b>	<b>1,089,172.83</b>	<b>1,033,807.75</b>	<b>-55,365</b>	<b>-5.08%</b>
<b>All Other Expenditures</b>					
Food Service	99,000	115,169.00	100,000.00	-15,169	-13.17%
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>16,425,555</b>	<b>16,775,714.38</b>	<b>17,433,797.75</b>	<b>658,083</b>	<b>3.92%</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>					
Debt Service	0	423,425.62	1,417,712.25	994,287	234.82%
		17,199,140.00	18,851,510.00	1,652,370	9.61%

## Budget Cost Centers

<b>Cost Centers</b>		
Instruction	8,435,354	44.75%
Special Education	4,317,385	22.90%
Other Instruction	89,411	0.47%
Student and Staff Support	940,325	4.99%
System Administration	508,603	2.70%
School Administration	529,718	2.81%
Transportation and Buses	1,479,195	7.85%
Facilities	1,033,808	5.48%
Debt Service	1,417,712	7.52%
Food Service	100,000	0.53%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,851,510</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Cost Centers Continued



MSAD 72 Town Assessments FY18

Town:	Town's % used for local share above EPS	Local share above EPS	Local only Debt Service	Adult Ed	EPS Funding Formula (Local Required)	Total of Adult Ed and EPS	Prior Year's Total	Impact in Dollars	Percentage Impact
Brownfield	0.14700761	503,645.49	0	2,940	1,419,524.33	1,926,110	1,845,656	80,454	4.36%
Denmark	0.15338608	525,498.02	0	3,068	1,629,810.72	2,158,376	2,060,728	97,649	4.74%
Fryeburg	0.32556020	1,115,363.51	0	6,511	2,992,690.00	4,114,565	3,972,973	141,592	3.56%
Lovell	0.25161867	862,041.14	0	5,032	1,847,022.90	2,714,096	2,478,744	235,352	9.49%
Stoneham	0.03963522	135,789.56	0	793	362,499.83	499,082	488,996	10,086	2.06%
Stow	0.03574184	122,450.92	0	715	379,820.17	502,986	490,483	12,503	2.55%
Sweden	0.04705038	161,193.76	0	941	493,402.52	655,537	643,039	12,499	1.94%
<b>Total</b>	100%	<b>3,425,982</b>	0	20,000	9,124,770	12,570,753	11,980,619	590,134	4.93%
		<b>3,425,982</b>	0	<b>20,000</b>	<b>9,124,770</b>	<b>12,570,753</b>	<b>11,980,619</b>	<b>590,134</b>	
					<b>16-17 over 15-16</b>		<b>17-18 over 16-17</b>		
Brownfield	(1,045)	-0.06%	3,123	0.18%	91,582	5.22%	80,454	4.36%	
Denmark	(42,743)	-2.24%	31,504	1.69%	162,471	8.56%	97,649	4.74%	
Fryeburg	(4,225)	-0.11%	(8,859)	-0.23%	179,996	4.75%	141,592	3.56%	
Lovell	40,188	1.68%	(120,635)	-4.97%	172,733	7.49%	235,352	9.49%	
Stoneham	63,182	15.22%	33,785	7.06%	(23,127)	-4.52%	10,086	2.06%	
Stow	(5,656)	-1.21%	6,909	1.49%	20,088	4.27%	12,503	2.55%	
Sweden	51,328	8.12%	(25,300)	-3.70%	(14,823)	-2.25%	12,499	1.94%	
<b>Total</b>	101,029	0.0089	(79,474)		588,920		590,134		



**MSAD 72 FY18 Revenues**

	<b>Local</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Balance Forward</b>	560,000.00		560,000.00
<b>Tuition:</b>			
Chatham, NH	304,720		304,720.00
Chatham SpEd	73,000		73,000.00
Albany, ME		35,744	35,744.00
Albany SpEd		20,000	20,000.00
<b>Transportation (Other P.S.)</b>	30,000		30,000.00
<b>State Subsidy</b>			
EPS Funding Model	9,124,770.47	5,260,143.13	14,384,913.60
Local Share Debt Service			
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	17,000.00	150.00	17,150.00
<b>Additional Local Funds</b>	3,425,982.40		3,425,982.40
	<u>13,535,472.87</u>	<u>5,316,037.13</u>	<u>18,851,510.00</u>

**Increase in Town**

2017-2018 Valuations	1,515,833,334
2016-2017 Valuations	1,516,583,333
2015-2016 Valuations	1,538,333,333
2014-2015 Valuations	1,552,175,000
2013-2014 Valuations	1,570,250,000
2012-2013 Valuations	1,597,300,000

**THE BALANCE FORWARD AS A TAX REFUND**

Many people ask, "If the District does not spend all of the money in its budget what happens to the extra money; does the Superintendent spend that money for what he wants?" The answer is: The district returns that money to the tax payer. It returns that money through the Balance Forward in the next year's budget (see Estimated Revenue: General Fund above).

Thus the Balance Forward, which is the unspent money from the previous budget subtracted from the amount to be raised from the towns to support the proposed budget.

In addition, a Finance Committee of School Board members reviews and approves every individual payment (check) made by the District, the School Board approves the budget itself, and the District employs an independent Certified Public Accountant to audit its books at the end of each fiscal year.

**WARRANT TO CALL MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 72  
BUDGET MEETING  
(20-A M.R.S. §1485)**

TO: Heather Sheehan, a resident of Maine School Administrative District No. 72 (the "District") composed of the Towns of Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, and Sweden, State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify the voters of each of the municipalities within the District, namely, the Towns of Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, and Sweden, that the District Budget Meeting will be held at the Molly Ockett School, 25 Molly Ockett Drive, Fryeburg, Maine at 7:00 P.M. on May 24, 2017 for the purpose of determining the Budget Meeting articles for the 2017-2018 fiscal year set forth below.

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

**ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11**  
**AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES**

**ARTICLE 1:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.  
**School Board Recommends \$8,435,353.64**

**ARTICLE 2:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Special Education.  
**School Board Recommends \$4,317,384.65**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.  
**School Board Recommends \$0.00**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.  
**School Board Recommends \$89,410.58**

**ARTICLE 5:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.  
**School Board Recommends \$940,324.55**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for System Administration.  
**School Board Recommends \$508,603.35**

**ARTICLE 7:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for School Administration.  
**School Board Recommends \$529,718.24**

**ARTICLE 8:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.  
**School Board Recommends \$1,479,194.99**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.  
**School Board Recommends \$1,033,807.75**

**ARTICLE 10:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.  
**School Board Recommends \$1,417,712.25**

**ARTICLE 11:** To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.  
**School Board Recommends \$100,000.00**

**ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 14**  
**RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

**ARTICLE 12:** To see what sum the District will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the District will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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:**

<b>Total Appropriated (by municipality):</b>	<b>Total Raised (and District assessments by municipality):</b>
Town of Brownfield: \$ 2,849,651.39	Town of Brownfield: \$ 1,419,524.33
Town of Denmark: \$ 1,629,810.72	Town of Denmark: \$ 1,512,957.03
Town of Fryeburg: \$ 6,569,590.04	Town of Fryeburg: \$ 2,992,690.00
Town of Lovell: \$ 1,847,022.90	Town of Lovell: \$ 1,765,683.14
Town of Stoneham: \$ 362,499.83	Town of Stoneham: \$ 340,127.31
Town of Stow: \$ 632,936.20	Town of Stow: \$ 379,820.17
Town of Sweden: \$ 493,402.52	Town of Sweden: \$ 458,403.58
<b>Total Appropriated:</b>	<b>Total Raised:</b>
<b>(Sum of above) \$ 14,384,913.60</b>	<b>(Sum of above) \$ 8,869,205.56</b>

*Explanation: The District's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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 District must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

**ARTICLE 13: (Written ballot required).** To see what sum the District will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$3,425,982.40**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$3,082,158.22**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board recommends \$3,425,982.40 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$3,082,158.22: The District has higher secondary private tuition costs than are recognized by the Essential Programs and Services funding model. The District also has higher special education costs than are recognized by the model and, due to the geographical size of the District, smaller class sizes and higher transportation costs than are recognized by the model.

*Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the District's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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 District budget for educational programs.*

#### **ARTICLE 14 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see what sum the District will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018 from the District's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, 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 \$18,851,510.00**

#### **ARTICLE 15 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS**

**ARTICLE 15:** 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 purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

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

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the District will appropriate **\$20,000.00** for adult education and raise **\$20,000.00** 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.

**ARTICLE 17 ESTABLISHES A NEW CAPITAL RESERVE FUND AND  
AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURE FROM THAT FUND**

**ARTICLE 17:** Shall the School Board be authorized to establish a new Capital Reserve Fund for renovations, improvements, and repairs; to transfer \$174,123.00 from the Capital Improvement Projects reserve fund to the new Capital Reserve Fund, as well as any additional state subsidy received as described in Article 18 below; and to expend up to \$225,000.00 from the new Capital Reserve Fund to finance the costs of a paving project at the New Suncook School?

**ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES THE DISPOSITION OF  
ANY ADDITIONAL STATE SUBSIDY RECEIVED**

**ARTICLE 18:** In the event that the District receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Board be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase the allocation of finances in the Minor Capital Projects reserve fund approved by the School Board?

Given under our hand this day, May 10, 2017 at Fryeburg, Maine.

Jane Williams \_\_\_\_\_

Paul Deane Hymon \_\_\_\_\_

John L. Jones \_\_\_\_\_

Mauri Sturven \_\_\_\_\_

Sharon LeBlanc \_\_\_\_\_

D. Sirel \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Melinda A. Parker \_\_\_\_\_

Linda Card \_\_\_\_\_

Lana K. Cury \_\_\_\_\_

Laurie Weston \_\_\_\_\_

Norma R. Snow \_\_\_\_\_

B. Steller \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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A majority of the School Board of Maine School Administrative District No. 72

A true copy of the Warrant, attest: Heather Sheehan  
Heather Sheehan, Resident  
Maine School Administrative District No. 72

## **Brownfield Denmark Elementary School 2016-2017 Highlights**

We have had a productive year at BDES. Our staff continues to work hard to support the educational and socio-emotional needs of our students. We have been implementing a new district writing curriculum and have seen a huge shift in students' writing stamina. Students have begun to be more excited about expressing their thoughts on paper. We have continued to tweak our math practices so students can fully understand the math they are learning. To develop students socio-emotional skills, we have initiated a Husky Pride program to recognize students daily for their positive behaviors and put into practice a program called MindUp with common school language and community building activities.

In addition to this hard work, we have enjoyed some other learning experiences. In the fall the students worked with our school psychologist and social worker in learning about differences. These experiences were followed by a visit from staff at the Cromwell Center in Portland who discussed disabilities awareness to help create a more inclusive school. In late fall we held our second Health Fair Day where we partnered with Memorial Hospital staff and 5-2-1-0 Maine to teach students about making good choices in their life activities. Our annual Career Day which will be held in late May will involve many local organizations teaching children about their professions. Lastly, the whole school will visit the Southworth Planetarium in Portland at the end of the school year to learn more about the solar system.

BDES parents and the community have been involved in BDES in many ways this year. They have joined us for student performances such as the Talent Show and Music Program. In addition, they have participated in the Open House and the Mother's Day Tea Party. During January, the community came together to help us support children with Lymphoma and Leukemia by raising monies through a program called Pennies for Patients. We raised a total of \$1,195.35.

Despite being a small group, the PTO has worked to provide us with support in many ways this year. They put together a book fair so teachers could purchase books for their classroom. They organized an auction for fundraising purposes. The monies raised will be used for providing end-of-the-year prizes, for improving the school playground and grounds, purchasing a membership to Ruth's Reusable Resources and providing several field trips for students. Lastly, we collaborated with the Masons on two programs this year. One was a continuation of our Bikes for Books Program where we will give away 12 bikes at the end of the school year for reading. We also began an incentive program to reward students for learning their math facts. As students practiced their facts, they earned tickets for a drawing to go skiing, skating or snow tubing. We were able to give away prizes to 10 students this year.

Overall, it's been a positive and constructive year. We are already planning for next year.

## **Charles A Snow School 2016-2017 Highlights**

All teachers engaged in professional development to learn research based intervention strategies, practiced them in the classroom, and used a structured reflection form to report the outcomes. Teachers benefitted from the opportunity to take time to reflect on their instructional practices in a structured format.

A significant improvement in student behavior was due to several initiatives. First, the school adopted a mindfulness curriculum which helped students reflect and talk about their own behaviors and behaviors of others. This was well received by students as it provided them with common language to express their feelings. Second, we adopted the Peaceful Playground model of creating zones for the playground. This created spaces for activities and helped create consistent expectations for playground play. Finally, the staff developed a school-wide vision that was reflective of classrooms visions and expectations. This school-wide effort helped maintain consistent goals and expectations throughout the school and can be carried forward into the new building.

Parent connections were fostered through a number of activities and initiatives. Parents were invited to monthly award assemblies. Additional activities included Author's Tea, Reader's Theater, State Fair, Iditarod, career month, parent readers, science presentation, Kindergarten literacy night, Veteran's Day, and Grandparents Day. Additionally, the PTA hosted many events after school and began the new WatchDog program which promotes men volunteering in our school. Many teachers incorporated Classroom Dojo as a communication tool that parents can use from their phones. In addition, parents of kindergarten students were provided guidance on developing a vision statement for their child. These vision statements will follow the students as they grow to help keep parents and teachers on the same page. Families with food insecure students received weekly food "back packs".

Greater community connections were created through the following activities: community service club fundraising for charity, community service club and Kindergarten visitation to nursing home, reaching to new (and old) parents to increase involvement in classroom, and connections with local thrift store to provide clothing for needy families.

## **New Suncook Elementary School 2016-2017 Highlights**

Kindness has been our school-wide theme this year at New Suncook. Building on the work we began last year, we are teaching students brain-based strategies for helping them to be focused and ready to learn when they are in school. We have had a "kindness chain" in our school this year where students, staff or community can add a link to record an act of kindness.

We are grateful for the support we receive from families throughout the year. We have many volunteers in classrooms and at activities like our Silent Auction, Santa's Workshop, Alternative Learning Day and our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) night. Families have also been extremely supportive attending our music performances, Jumprope for Heart and writing celebrations that have been held throughout the year.

Academically, students have made strong growth in reading and writing which are both taught in a workshop model. Students participate in a "mini-lesson" as a whole group then have the opportunity to read and/or write about topics with individual or small group conferences for feedback and further coaching from the teacher. They have read and written narrative, informational and opinion pieces and presented their analysis and learning in a variety of authentic situations. Their engagement and growth has been exciting to see. In math, students have focused on developing both their conceptual knowledge and efficiency in computation and problem solving. The problems students work on are often complex and multi-step, better reflecting more authentic uses of math in our daily lives. Students have also had goals related to learning basic math facts. As goals are met, students have been able to put their names in a jar for a weekly prize drawing. The prizes have been board games students can take home to play with their families. The games were purchased thanks to the support of the Lovell Masons.

Students have continued to learn about their world through science and social studies. This year we had a Current Events class for second through fifth graders. Students have had opportunities to read, debate and create projects reflecting current happenings both locally and globally. In addition, students have learned about Maine and American history during regular social studies classes with our fourth and fifth grade students doing an overnight field trip to Plimouth Plantation and the next day visiting Lexington and Concord. In science we have continued our partnership with Tin Mountain with each grade level working on an ecological or natural history unit. In addition, students have worked on physical and earth science units as well as an engineering unit in grades 4/5.

We have continued our strong community ties with the Lovell Library and Lovell Rec. The building has been used almost everyday for afterschool activities organized by Lovell Rec. for both children and adults. In addition, we have also continued to offer counseling for students four days a week at the school through an outside provider. This has been an extremely beneficial service for students and their families in supporting mental health needs.

We have worked hard to support the school climate and growth of our students academically, socially and emotionally. We appreciate your support in helping to provide a supportive and challenging learning environment for our students.



## Molly Ockett Middle School 2016-17 Highlights

### **Staff works tirelessly incorporating learner centered strategies to support students in their academic and social well-being:**

**Appreciations:** It has been another very, very busy school year. Students and staff alike have been wonderfully flexible with schedule changes and the unexpected events that come with a building project nearing completion. Everyone's sincerity and helpfulness has been greatly appreciated in moving forward keeping our students positively engaged.

**In the Classroom:** In addition to classroom learning, students participated in hands-on opportunities at Tin Mountain, Lake Region Agricultural Career Fair, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, University of Maine at Orono STEM Careers for Girls, University of Southern Maine information and campus tour and many others as they focused on grade level standards. Students presented their learning in the Science Fair Night. 8<sup>th</sup> grade will host the Annual Decades Film Festival and continued a project based learning experience with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

**Maine Environmental Science Academy (MESA):** Studies focused on water with many local outings providing experiential learning in STEM. MESA hosted and worked with many local scientists and community partners including Tin Mountain, Naturalists from Bryant Pond, Greater Lovell Land Trust, the National Weather Bureau in Gray, Pie Tree Orchard, Green Mountain Conservation Group, to name but a few. Their accomplishments included a well-attended Family Engineering Night, Speech Night, Ossipee Town Hall presentations, and much more as seen on their comprehensive website: <https://sites.google.com/a/msad72.org/mesa/>

**Student Assemblies:** The school as a whole came together quarterly to recognize students for their achievements in attendance, school work habits, academics, Unified Arts achievements and to showcase their art and musical talents. Each month, teams chose "Students of the Month" - those who rose to contribute in a positive fashion to their academics, school and community. Our Rotary Citizen of the Month, together with their parents and family, were invited to join the Fryeburg Rotary Club as a guest for breakfast and were honored with a certificate of achievement and gift card to purchase a book. These students demonstrated outstanding character traits.

**Advisory Groups:** Students and teachers alike participated in morning Advisory fostering meaningful connections and contributing to a positive school climate. Activities involved movement, discussions, competition, art, tracking of assignments and goal setting in this small daily group meeting.

**JumpRope:** Reports were used school-wide to communicate student academic and work habit progress. The parents' portal was available throughout the year, enabling both students and their parents to logon and view progress. Next year we are hoping to go paperless!

**Response to Intervention (RtI):** Through assessments and classroom observations teachers identified students struggling in ELA, math and study skills and fine-tuned their instruction strategies to close the achievement gap of these students.

**Clubs, Sports and Activities:** More than half of our students participated in athletics this year including soccer, field hockey, cross-country, basketball, Nordic skiing, and alpine skiing, baseball, softball, and track and field. Students had the opportunity to participate in Early Act, Student Council, Art Club and Yearbook. The music program provided students with the opportunity to learn instrumental music, sing in chorus, showcase their skills in band and MOJO, audition at the prestigious District II Honors Instrumental and Choral Music Festivals and perform for audiences at school and in the community. Actors had the opportunity to perform this spring in "School House Rock Live! Jr." with students involved and singing educational tunes from the popular children's show. Our P.T.A. hosted a friendly, but slightly competitive, Turkey Trot getting students and staff running before the holidays. Students participated and many qualified for the school Geo and Spelling Bee. Two 8th graders represented us at the regional bees. We were proud of their performances!