



#Central Scoop RSU 16 News



April 2018

Dear Parents and Staff,

Thank you to all who attended our budget forum last week. The budget forum is an opportunity for our communities to learn about the budget, ask questions and provide the school board with feedback. The school board will be voting on the final budget to go before voters at their next meeting, May 14th. If you were unable to attend the Budget Forum, please read this newsletter to get informed about the budget.



The 2018-19 budget continues the RSU 16 Board goal to create a budget that is fiscally responsible and also helps us meet the goals of our Strategic Plan. **Providing competitive salaries for our staff** continues to be a top priority. This budget has increased the salary scale at 3% for a fifth year in a row.

According to Maine School Management Association, the average base salary for a teacher in Maine is \$34,102. RSU 16 is at \$34,000. The average top salary in Maine is \$57,378. RSU 16 top salary is \$55,000. As you can see, we are getting closer to the state average with recent contract negotiations. RSU 16 also provides the most competitive health insurance plan in the region so when that is considered, this budget brings us closer to reaching our goals. Thank you for supporting pay raises for our staff so we can **attract and retain strong teachers, support staff and bus drivers**.

Providing supports and programs for students is also a highlight of this proposal. Many of our budget items will increase **safety** for our students. This budget adds a Dean of Students at ESS and an Interventionist at MCS. Both of these positions will provide much needed supports for students displaying unhealthy behaviors. We have added a School Resource Officer that will provide daily security at PRHS/BWMS, as well as security at our elementary schools as needed. We will also have a part-time Drug and Alcohol Counselor at PRHS/BWMS.

Please join us at the **District Budget Vote on May 21st at 6:30pm at PRHS**. You must be present to vote. This vote sets the budget going forward to voters at the polls on June 12th. The budget can not be increased at this meeting, but it can be decreased. Please come and bring your neighbors and friends. Let's have a big show of support for this budget. See page two for these budget highlights and others!

Sincerely,

Tina Meserve

RSU 16 Budget Highlights

STAFF RAISES AND BENEFITS

With this budget our staff are getting much deserved raises. The average salary scale is up 3% for a total of \$271,894. Insurance cost are up \$224,589 and retirement costs are up \$3,884. The total increase for staff salaries and benefits is \$500,367.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION

The Department of Education has set a goal for districts to have 61% of costs going to direct instruction for students. RSU 16 is above that goal and currently has 64.59% going to direct instruction for students. I would like to note that the DOE does not include school counselors, nurses, instructional technology for students, in direct instruction so the percent is actually much higher when those are considered.

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

System administration (SA) is often the most criticized and least understood part of the budget. It is actually a very small percent of a district's budget. For RSU 16, SA is 2.7 % of the budget. That is below the State average of 3.1%.

In RSU 16, we have 5.25 people in system administration. We have 1 payroll clerk, 1 accounts payable, 1 business manager, 1 superintendent and 1 administrative assistant, .25 district registrar. Also in SA is the state required financial audit, legal fees and other superintendent, business office and school board associated costs. There are other people who have an office at Central Office but those positions do not fall under system administration per DOE guidelines.

The State funds system administration at \$135 per pupil. While it does not cover all the cost of this department, we do receive subsidy for this cost center.

If you want more information about our budget, go to our website, RSU 16.org. We have posted all the budget meeting videos, documents and resources for you to review.

WHAT ARE WE GETTING?

- Raises for our staff
- Drug and Alcohol Counselor
- Dean of Students (ESS)
- 1/2 French Teacher (PRHS)
- 2 Buses
- 6th Grade Teacher (MCS)
- Increase pay for substitutes
- Staff Professional Development
- School Resource Officer
- Academic and Behavioral Interventionists (MCS)
- Repairs and Maintenance of our facilities and grounds
- Security upgrades including security cameras

Parents: Join our efforts and support our school budget!

Students: If you are 18, don't forget that you can vote too!