

**Budget Committee Minutes**  
**March 29, 2023**  
**4:00 p.m., Hampden Academy - Library**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Telephone/email</b>
Nick Raymond	RSU 22, Superintendent	862-3255/nraymond@rsu22.us
Trish Hayes	RSU 22, District Accountant	862-3255/thayes@rsu22.us
Rob Frank	RSU 22 Board, Budget Committee Chair	862-3255/rfrank@rsu22.us
Jessica Barnes	RSU 22 Board, Budget Committee Member	862-3255/jbarnes@rsu22.us
Allan Gordon - Absent	RSU 22 Board, Budget Committee Member	862-3255/agordon@rsu22.us
Stacey Haskell	RSU 22 Board, Budget Committee Member	862-3255/shaskell@rsu22.us
Will Seavey	RSU 22 Board, Budget Committee Member	862-3255/wseavey@rsu22.us
<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone/email</b>
Attendees	Nate Savage, Faye Anderson, John Holmes, Rebecca Cross	
Board of Directors	RSU 22	Contact Info on district website

New Business:           Article 6 Central Office Administration  
                                   Article 7 School Administration  
                                   Article 15 Adult Education

Other:                     Next meeting:  
                                   April 5th Articles 4, 5 & 9 (Other Instruction-Athletics/Co-Curricular, Staff &  
                                   Student Support, Facilities

<b>Meeting History</b>		
3/16	Background (Budget process and background, calendar, dates, etc.) Preliminary ED 279, state valuation Articles 8, 10, 11 (Transportation, Debt Service, School Nutrition)	
3/29	Articles 6, 7, 15 (Central Office Administration, School Administration, and Adult Education)	
4/5	Articles 4, 5 9 (Other Instruction/Athletics/Co-Curricular), Staff and Student Support, Facilities Maintenance)	
4/12	Articles 1 and 2 (Regular Education and Special Education Instruction),	
4/25	Article Revisions and Updates	
5/3	Final Budget Presentation to the Board of Directors - Time to be determined	
5/10	Board of Directors Ratification of Budget	

5/31	Public Budget Forum	
6/8	District Budget Meeting, 7:00 pm, Hampden Academy Gym	
6/13	Budget Referendum Validation Vote at polling locations	

Article Number	Article Name	Notes
3/16/23	FY 24 Budget Process Introduction Opening Remarks	<p>Superintendent Raymond opened the meeting. Allan Gordan nominated Rob Frank as committee chair and seconded by Jessica Barnes. The Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve Rob Frank as committee chair.</p> <p>Superintendent Raymond explained the budget process and the schedule for meetings. The next budget meeting will be March 29th. Facilities, Article 9, will be moved to April 5. School Administration, Article 7, will replace Article 9 on 3/29. Articles will be reviewed as each comes up on the schedule, then a total review of the entire budget will be held on 5/3/23.</p> <p>Superintendent Raymond passed out the agenda for this meeting and a copy of the ED-279 for FY24 which he reviewed by section with the committee. Superintendent Raymond explained the changes in the ratios for teachers have returned to “normal”. For the years of COVID, the ratios were adjusted to buffer the loss of students across the state.</p>
Article 8	Transportation	<p>Article 8 was reviewed. The transportation salary and benefits portion of the budget is for the van which transports Glenburn tuition students. Cyr Bus is the bulk of the cost in the budget. The largest cost is to transport students to/from school. Additional costs are to transport students to the Newburgh school. This expense was previously paid by the Pre-K expansion grant, but will need to come into the FY24 local budget. We are estimating a 30% increase in gas/diesel. We will lock in at the best price. Largest increases are in the special education out of district transportation. The projected increase is \$115,000. Additional in-district costs are budgeted for FY24 and must be tracked separately according to DOE.</p>
Article 10	Debt Service	<p>Superintendent Raymond reviewed and explained the debt service Article. There is a 3.37% increase for FY24. Mr. Gordon explained the reason why Frankfort’s debt is included in the RSU 22 debt service. When Frankfort joined RSU 22, the State made</p>

		the district responsible for the remaining debt of Frankfort’s share of RSU 20’s debt.
Article 11	Other expenditures, including School Nutrition	Moved Article 11 to the first presentation. Kathy Kittridge explained how the food service program gets its funding - mostly from the state and federal governments and from students for a la carte purchases. Food purchasing is supplemented by the state. Staff of 23 with 10 staff members considered full-time. Pretty much a self sustaining program. Extra funding from the USDA due to the high cost of food has been appreciated during these times. Faye asked what is the impact of the free lunch and breakfast? Has had a positive impact on the funding. Superintendent Raymond pointed out that the local budget doesn’t support the food service financially. Superintendent Raymond praised Kathy for the excellent job she does.
		The meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm.
3/29/23	Opening Remarks	<p>Rob Frank opened the meeting at 4:01 p.m. Introduced the agenda for this meeting with a minor adjustment for update of ED-279. Will Seavey motioned and seconded by Stacey Haskell, to approve the Budget minutes from the March 16th meeting. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 16, 2023..</p> <p>Adjustment to the agenda. The ED-279 was updated on 3.28.23 because of an adjustment made by Maine DOE. The Bangor Daily New’s headline is a little deceiving. There is no additional funding available to schools. The State of Maine will increase their percentage of support, however, the mil rate was decreased for each of the four towns in RSU 22. The total amount the district will receive remains the same as the projected figures on the January 25, 2023 ED-279.</p> <p>Adult Education, Article 15, was moved to the top of the agenda.</p>
Article 15	Adult Education	Rebecca Cross was present and discussed with the committee the RSU 22 adult education program. The program is a partnership with RSU 26 and RSU 34 under the name of Riverside Adult Education. Ms. Cross shared a presentation which provided an overview of the program as a whole and RSU 22’s. RSU 22’s roster was 2 students in 2019 and today has grown to 12 diploma students. Ms. Cross thanked the board for the support that allows her program to support these students suffering from the life

		<p>challenges that caused them to drop out of school. Rebecca explained the different options available to the students to complete their high school education.</p>
Article 6	Central Office Administration	<p>Article 6 - Superintendent Raymond introduced Article 6, System Administration. Two categories in System Administration. In years past the Assistant Superintendent's expenses were in the Fiscal/Business Office, that is no longer the case since the Assistant Superintendent's duties have changed.</p> <p>The Board of Directors category was reviewed.</p> <p>The Executive Administration category was reviewed and variances explained by Superintendent Raymond.</p> <p>The Fiscal category was reviewed and variances explained.</p> <p>Will Seavey questioned the increase in board liability and whether it is consistent with other school districts. Superintendent Raymond explained that all lines of insurance are seeing increases of this degree.</p>
Article 7	School Administration	<p>Superintendent Raymond explained changes in some lines with the article. For example, in Article 7 the Professional Credits have been decreased in FY24 because our current administration has obtained their desired degree status (some doctorate). There is a proposed change within Hampden Academy's administrative assistants proposed positions for FY24. One position will be reduced due to a resignation, with the remaining four positions expanding to 40 hours per week. With the change there is only a loss of 13 hours per week and should not impact the workflow or services offered. Superintendent Raymond reminded the committee that we are currently in negotiations with the support staff, so we may have to come back later to revise the hourly rates of pay. Mr. Seavey asked about the budgeted amount for legal fees for FY24. Superintendent Raymond provided an explanation.</p>
		<p>The next budget committee meeting is April 5, 2023. Article 4, 5, 9 will be reviewed.</p> <p>Stacey Haskell motioned, seconded by Jessica Barnes, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 p.m.</p>