



2022-23 BUDGET INSERT INSIDE
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Link-22

RSU 22 • Hampden • Newburgh • Winterport • Frankfort 24 Main Road North, Hampden, ME 04444 May 2022

RSU 22 Budget Meeting June 2; Referendum set for June 14

The RSU 22 School Board unanimously approved the proposed 2022-23 (FY23) budget on May 18 following public comment and discussion. The RSU 22 Budget Committee presented a line item budget totaling \$36,131,708.98 with a gross increase of 2.62% over the previous year.

The budget includes funding for Pre-K expansion with a new teacher, a .5 Gifted and Talented educational technician, a .5 Music teacher at Leroy Smith School, a .5 Elementary Literacy coach, a grant manager position, and funding for Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams and female ice hockey participation in a regional co-op team.

RSU 22 voters will vote on the budget at the District Budget Meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 2, at the Hampden Academy Gym.

The budget that is approved on June 2 will be voted on again in the District Budget Referendum on Tuesday, June 14. *(Please turn to page 2)*

Nick Raymond named RSU 22 Superintendent, effective July 1, as Regan Nickels accepts position in Washington state

The School Board of Regional School Unit 22 has announced the selection of Nicholas Raymond as its new Superintendent, effective July 1. Mr. Raymond currently serves as principal at Samuel L. Wagner Middle School in Winterport and will replace Superintendent Regan Nickels, who announced last month that she will be leaving at the end of the school year to serve as superintendent of Sequim School District in Sequim, Washington.

Originally from Eagle Lake, Mr. Raymond grew up in Bucksport and is a graduate of Bucksport High School. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, a Master of Education in Educational Leadership, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership all from the University of Maine.

Mr. Raymond began his career in education as a high school mathematics teacher in then-SAD 22 in 2003. From 2006-2011, he served as assistant principal/



Nick Raymond



Regan Nickels

athletic director at Ridge View Community School, formerly Dexter Middle School, in AOS 94. He *(Please turn to page 2)*

Work underway on 3rd floor build-out to Hampden Academy

Crews from Nickerson & O'Day have already begun work on the 3rd floor expansion at Hampden Academy, and the eight new classrooms could be ready for occupancy by spring 2023.

Mike Johannig of WBRC, the architects and engineers for the project, said Nickerson & O'Day has committed to completing the job by July 31, 2023, but the schedule they submitted envisions a substantial completion date as early as mid-February 2023.

The expansion will create space for a STEM floor with classrooms focused on Science, Math, and Computer Programming, as well as open space for new programs, such as the National Navy Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC, which is a precursor to NJROTC), a MakerSpace, and extra-curricular club eSports.

The project will cost \$1.99 million, all of which will be paid through federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding, with no local cost or repayment.

(Please turn to page 3)



The 3rd floor build-out project at Hampden Academy will construct eight classrooms in the yellow area.



Hillary Hoyt dressed as Tigger, her favorite book character, during Readathon celebration.

Hillary Hoyt receives \$25,000 Milken Educator Award

Winterport, ME — In a surprise assembly on April 12, Hillary Hoyt, a third grade teacher at Leroy H. Smith School, received a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award for her commitment to creativity in the classroom, focus on prioritizing children's individual needs to improve learning outcomes, and leadership both at her school and in her community.

Milken Educator Awards Vice President Stephanie Bishop and Maine Deputy Commissioner of Education Dan Chuhta surprised

Hoyt with the honor before cheering students, colleagues, state and local officials, and the media. Ms. Hoyt was one of only two educators in Maine and among more than 60 nationwide to receive the recognition during the 2021-2022 school year.

She is the first recipient awarded in the RSU 22 School District.

Hailed as the "Oscars of Teaching," the Milken Educator Awards are designed to celebrate and elevate the American teaching profession and inspire young, capable people to join it.

"Hillary Hoyt is a leader, both in her classroom and in her community, and she exemplifies the qualities of a Milken Educator: innovation, creativity and inspirational leadership," said Ms. Bishop, who herself is a 2001 Milken Educator from Virginia. "Her innovative approach to education is creating a pathway to success for each student in her classroom, and for that, we celebrate her here today."

The Milken Educator Award is not a lifetime achievement honor. Recipi *(Please turn to page 16)*

RSU 22 seeks more feedback from students, parents, staff, community members

RSU 22 would like to hear from you.

If you're a student, parent, employee, or community member, the school district would like to know what you're thinking, and the District Technology Team has designed a communications tool to make it easier for all concerned.

The district website and all school websites will include a graphic that announces "We want to hear from you."

The graphic explains that RSU 22 has launched a "feedback portal" and invites people to get start-

ed by clicking on the words, "LEARN MORE."

If you click on "LEARN MORE," you'll see a form which asks you to state your suggestion, compliment, criticism or idea in 2,000 characters or less, and then gives you 28 choices for who you would like to receive your message. (You can select a particular school, or a program like athletics, performing arts, technology, etc, or a general area like student achievement or teaching and learning.)

(Please turn to page 3)



Regan Nickels grateful for 17 years in RSU 22, says district has bright future

As of July 1st, current Superintendent, Regan Nickels, will return to Washington state, where she spent several years as a teacher and school administrator while her husband was stationed there in the United States Navy. After being contacted to apply through a search agency, Superintendent Nickels has accepted the position of Superintendent of Schools in Sequim, WA, about 50 miles northwest of Seattle near Olympic National Forest. She was not looking for any change but when the opportunity presented itself she found that she had to give

it serious consideration.

Ms. Nickels has been superintendent in RSU 22 for the past two years. Prior to that she served as Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations and as principal of both Reeds Brook and the George B. Weatherbee Schools.

During her leadership years at Reeds Brook, the school was named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Known for leading by example, Superintendent Nickels just completed her National Superintendent certification. It was a rigorous process which took two years. However, RSU 22 is committed to promoting best practice, and one proven vehicle to this end is National Board Teacher Certification (NBTC). Ms. Nickels felt that if NBTC was a worthy endeavor for teachers, then the parallel certification for superintendents was also important, which is why she chose to tackle it on top of leading a district through a pandemic.

Assistant Superintendent Christine Boone notes that National Certification is just one way in which Superintendent Nickels leads by example.

“Regan’s servant leadership style was an important factor in my choice to return to RSU 22,” Ms. Boone said. “I know that she would not ask anything of a colleague that she has not done, or would not do herself. I admire that and feel it is essential to leadership, especially today. It is just one reason why she will be so missed.”

Jen Cyr, Principal at Weatherbee School, told *Link-22* that Superintendent Nickels has been one of the most important professional influences on her administrative career.

“I have deep respect for her ability to thoughtfully listen to all sides, along with her calm presence, unwavering support of her team, and her steadfast focus on student achievement,” Ms. Cyr said. “RSU 22 has been the true beneficiary of her clear vision of excellence. It’s a testament to her tremendous leadership that her legacy will live on in the critical infrastructure she collaboratively built.”

Mrs. Nickels is grateful for the 17 years she spent serving RSU 22 and its communities and is proud of what has been accomplished throughout her years of service in different roles. She believes that the continued community investment, continued staff professional excellence, and continued transparent, collaborative approach will serve RSU 22 well, as it has since 1803.

“My service to RSU 22 has been very meaningful,” Ms. Nickels shares. “The students, families, staff and Board members with

whom I have worked have exemplified a commitment to and caring for public education that I will always cherish. This common commitment has allowed RSU 22 to grow and identify areas for both celebration

and improvement. It has been an honor to be part of this important work and lifestyle in RSU 22 for close to two decades. The future is bright across the district.”

RSU 22 Budget Meeting June 2; Referendum set for June 14

(Continued from page 1)

The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Skehan Recreational Center, Newburgh Elementary School/Community Building, Leroy H. Smith School, and Frankfort Town Office.

An open letter to town leadership and community members can be found on page 9 of this newspaper. A summary of the Budget, a copy of the warrant articles, and a sample ballot for the June 14 referendum can be found on pages 10-12.

Nick Raymond new RSU 22 Superintendent

(Continued from page 1)

returned to Hampden Academy in 2011 as athletic director and became assistant principal in 2012, following the retirement of longtime HA administrator David Greenier. He has served as principal at Samuel L. Wagner Middle School since July 2021.

Mr. Raymond is excited to begin his new role as the district’s top administrator. “RSU 22 has a long history of academic excellence. Our students, faculty and staff are committed to becoming the best they can be, and I am fortunate to be part of that journey. I’m passionate about our district and humbled to have the opportunity to lead such an incredible team,” he said.

The School Board looks forward to working with both Mr. Raymond and Ms. Nickels in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition.



Ryan Hafener, sophomore at Hampden Academy poses with Gov. Janet Mills (left) and State Sen. Stacey Guerin of Hampden after being nominated and approved as student trustee on the State Board of Education.

Riverside Adult Education

RSU 22, 26, 34

YES! We are open this summer!

Our academic services are tailored to your needs and schedule. All academic services are always free of charge to Maine residents.

Contact Rebecca Cross at rcross@rsu26.org for program information.

Academic Support and High School Completion

Build your foundational math and reading skills to enhance your job performance or achieve an academic life goal. You can work with a tutor one on one or join a class (location can be virtual or may be at a partner site). Earn your high school diploma through class work or by passing the HiSET test (formally the GED). Prepare for higher education career training or college with our experienced and encouraging staff. Whatever your academic goals may be, we are here to help you!

Maine College and Career Access

Our College Readiness and Support Program is designed to help students successfully prepare for college or the workforce. We help adult learners who are earning their high school diploma or their HiSET certificate successfully transition to college. We also help students who already have a diploma prepare for their college experience. We can even provide support if you’re already enrolled in college but need help finding your groove!

Interested in becoming a certified CNA or a Behavioral Health Professional?

Contact us to learn about these certificate programs, available at low or no cost.

Community Enrichment:

We still have many spring 2022 enrichment classes yet to begin! Check out our offerings at <https://orono-hampden.coursetorm.com/> Fall community enrichment catalogs will arrive via USPS in October 2022. Until then, check out ongoing courses through our *distance learning partners*:

Ed2Go (<https://www.ed2go.com/enrichment/>)

This fall, check out nearly 500 interactive personal enrichment online courses through our partnership with Ed2Go. All classes are instructor-led (via email), fit into convenient six-week formats, and are affordably priced. Popular courses include: Drawing for the Absolute Beginner, Photography Suit, Intro to Guitar, Alternative Medicine, Accounting, Microsoft, Cloud Computing, Security, Languages (Spanish, French, Sign Language) and many more. Browse the site for a full list of courses!

UGotClass (<https://lern.org/ugotclass-course-offerings/>)

Develop professional skills through certificate classes in an online course with UGotClass. Browse <https://lern.org/ugotclass-course-offerings/> for information on certificates and education in Business, Health, Human Resources, Management, Leadership, New Media, and more.



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Curriculum Office Update

By Mary Giard, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, RSU 22

Federal funds to support RSU 22 students and staff for 2022-2023

RSU 22 receives federal funds that bolster our district educational programs and professional development. Two of our schools receive Title I money. The funding formula for Title I programming is based on socioeconomic indicators, student achievement and need. In RSU 22, that money will be allocated for literacy teachers' positions at Smith, an after-school program at Samuel Wagner School, and a part time math tutor at Wagner school.
* * *

We also receive Title IIA funds that are dedicated to educator professional development. Funds will support projects in technology, teacher leadership initiatives, National Board certification work, curriculum and assessment work, equity work and content area training.
* * *

We are the recipients of a third federal grant, Title IV, as well. The funds have been and will be dedicated to technology, student health and well-being and other identified needs for the

2022-2023 school year. Title V monies are dedicated to student support and experiences in RSU 22.
* * *

Please direct any questions or comments to Mary Giard mgiard@rsu22.us



Mary Giard

RSU 22 participates in World Down Syndrome Day

Sponsored by the Equity in Education Committee, students and faculty across the district participated in World Down Syndrome Awareness Day on March 21, 2022.

Students learned about Down Syndrome. Many students and faculty participated in the 'Rock Your Socks' Day by wearing mismatched socks.

The mismatched socks represent chromosomes that are shaped like socks. People with Down Syndrome have an extra chromosome.



Worksheets and socks at McGraw School.



RSU 22 seeks more feedback from students, parents, staff, community members

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Savage says the form is targeted to various subject areas.

"You can pick a specific area—individual buildings, different departments, different program areas, and the message goes to the party directly involved," he says

In addition, the superintendent and assistant superintendent get a copy of every message so they can get a sense of the feedback coming into the district. This streamlines the process, connecting you to the individual who is best suited to respond

to your feedback while at the same time providing top-level oversight to see how the district is doing.

"We're hoping that this will increase communication within the district," Mr. Savage says. "We'd like people to have a way to reach out to us and let us know where we need to get better at."

The form was designed to give the user an opportunity to be anonymous. However, the technology team recommends that you provide your contact information if you would like the district to get back to

you. If you choose to be anonymous just place an email like *anonymous@gmail.com* in the "Contact Email" field that is required.
* * *

The idea for the new feedback portal was generated at a meeting of the School Board's Community Relations Committee meeting. Lester French is the chairperson and Mr. Savage is a standing member.

When a community member said that some people hesitated to use the former system to share ideas or concerns it was not anonymous, it

was explained that email addresses are collected so that the district is able to follow up and respond.

Upon further discussion, people said that not collecting the email may promote more feedback. As a result, Mr. Savage investigated and made adjustments to allow anonymity.

"For many years, we've had a mechanism to collect parent feedback," said Mr. Savage. "Hopefully this new system will further promote communication, even if we aren't able to let an anonymous communicator know that we did follow up."

Work underway on 3rd floor build-out at Hampden Academy

(Continued from page 1)

Hampden Academy has seen a 15.5% increase in enrollment in the past 10 years and now exceeds 800 students. In the spring of 2021, HA was the only RSU 22 building that wasn't able to return to full in-person instruction because there wasn't enough space.

The original construction plans for Hampden Academy (2009) included structural and mechanical systems framing to accommodate the additional classroom space on the third floor.

Mike said the original construction plans included steel connection plates that would facilitate erection of the steel frame for the expansion.

During the weeks of May 9 and 16, Nickerson & O'Day crews removed portions of the roof around those areas and confirmed the presence of the steel and other existing components.

Mike said erection of the steel frame is crucial to the project.

"If they can get the steel frame completed and in place this summer, they'll be in good shape," he said.

HA Principal Bill Tracy says there are many needs for the additional space that the third-floor expansion will provide.

"The challenge now is that we're using every space that we have," he said. "We have special ed teachers

teaching classes out of conference rooms, and we expect to have 20 more special education students next year.

Mr. Tracy said the NNDCC program will start this fall, with 40 students signed up so far. The program will have to use shared classroom space and then find extra space for the color guard, uniforms, and after school activities and equipment.

The third floor expansion will also free up space for a new MakerSpace program.

"We've been sitting on MakerSpace equipment for a year—equipment that we've acquired through the Perloff Foundation and the Tibbetts Fund," Mr. Tracy said. "We're going to try to



Floor plan shows eight new classrooms from third-floor buildout at Hampden Academy.

get some use of it this year through partial use of a classroom, but we need space for graphic design, 3D printing, and laser engraving. We want to make

that part of our program, with students in charge, developing post-high-school career skills."

National Honor Society raises \$1,874 for HA food cupboard during March Madness

The National Honor Society at Hampden Academy sponsored a Coin Drive during March Madness Week and raised \$1,874.32 for the school's food cupboard.

The food cupboard, which is located in the HA guidance office, provides food, clothing, and other assistance to students who need it on a confidential, as-needed basis.

"We wanted the money we raised to stay internal, to help students at HA," said Luke Field, a senior member of the NHS.

"We also wanted to promote

school spirit by encouraging competition between the classes," he said. "The goal was to see which class could get the most points during the competition."

Coins and currency had different point values. Nickels and dimes had negative values—if a nickel and a dime were dropped into a class' basket, that class' total would be reduced by 15 points. All other coins and currency—pennies, quarters, half-dollars, and dollar bills—had positive values.

When the week was over, the

seniors had the highest point total, followed by the juniors, sophomores, and freshmen in that order.

"The seniors were more organized and motivated than the other classes," said Danielle Johnson, science teacher and NHS advisor.

Luke said some of the classes accumulated a lot of negative points.

"The seniors and juniors didn't want the younger classes to win, so they dumped a lot of nickels and dimes into their buckets," he said. "There was a lot of class competition and enthusiasm, which was nice."

Carly Philbrook selected to receive 2022 HA Principal's Award

Carly Philbrook of Winterport, a senior at Hampden Academy, has been selected to receive the 2022 Principal's Award. The award, sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association, is given in recognition of a high school senior's academic achievement and citizenship.



"Carly has been a consistently hard working, high performing, positive role model at our school," said

HA Principal Bill Tracy. "Over the last 4 years she has demonstrated her strong character and commitment to her education. I am grateful to be able to honor her efforts and her impressive career at Hampden Academy."

Carly, Principal Tracy and other award winners and their principals had the opportunity to participate in a Live Virtual Scholarship Drawing Event on Friday, April 1. Ten \$1,000 scholarships were drawn in the names of former Maine principals and MPA Executive Directors: Horace O. McGowan, Richard W. Tyler, and Richard A. Durost.

HAMPDEN ACADEMY
Bill Tracy, Principal
862-3791



The Principal's Award is presented in more than 100 Maine public and private high schools by member principals of the MPA, the professional association which represents Maine's school administrators.

Hampden Academy

Hampden Academy will hold its graduation exercises at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, June 12, 2022. Tickets are required for admission to graduation. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m.

HA Drama Club asks audience to decide ending of 'The Big Bad Musical'

The Hampden Academy Drama Club brought audience participation to a new level with their series of five performances of *The Big Bad Musical*, a musical trial of the Big Bad Wolf.

In *The Big Bad Musical*, the Big Bad Wolf's various victims—the Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, and the Boy Who Cried Wolf—bring a class action lawsuit in which they sue the Big Bad Wolf for damages. The lawyer for the plaintiffs is the Fairy Godmother; the lawyer for the defendant is the Evil Stepmother.

As the play unfolds, the victims get a chance to tell their stories, but the audience finds out that things aren't as black and white—good and evil—

as they originally appeared, and the audience has to decide whether the Big Bad Wolf is guilty or not guilty.

The audience at four of the performances—Smith and Wagner on Thursday morning, Reeds Brook 6th grade on Thursday afternoon, McGraw on Friday morning, and the public on Saturday—decided that the Big Bad Wolf was not guilty.

During Friday afternoon's performance, Weatherbee students said the Big Bad Wolf was guilty and owed damages.

The cast was prepared for either



Scene from 'The Big Bad Musical'

verdict, as they had rehearsed two different endings, depending on the verdict.

The Big Bad Musical was directed by English teacher and Drama Club advisor Jenn Guare. She was assisted by two student directors—Emma Campbell, a senior, music director; and Chris Chiappone, a junior, choreographer.

Ms. Guare said the cast was excited to be able to go back to regular on-stage, in-person performances. Masking with clear masks was optional (but would have been required for students

who were under quarantine).

The Cast: Big Bad Wolf, Alexis Scott; Sidney Grimm, Chris Chiappone; Fairy Godmother, Sophie Robinson; Little Red Riding Hood, Abby Scott; Grandmother Hood, Cayden Fournier; Little Pig 1, Madi Baude; Little Pig 2, Emma Campbell; Little Pig 3, Gracie Farrar; Bill Woodcutter, Benet Moholland; Shepherd, Jordan Peterson; Boy Who Cried Wolf, Christopher Barrett; Judge Wise Old Woman, Josie Gilmore; Evil Stepmother, Lily Woodside; Miss Muffit, Tori Boyorak; Bailiff, Conner Kielba-

sa; the Wolfettes, Charlotte Beckwith, Niya Hink, and Hannah Orr.

The Ensemble: Jackson Langille, Hayley Palmer, Lucas Pattershall, Soren Peterson, and Genna Walther.

The Crew: Emma Campbell, music direction; Chris Chiappone, choreography; Rebecca Graham, costuming and backstage management; Frankie Hansen, hair and makeup; costuming and program design; Brady Lane, sound; Sky Manhart, hair and makeup; Virginia Manning, lights and set construction; Ava Paradis, costuming and backstage management.

4 from HA earn Gold, Silver medals in State SkillsUSA competition

Four Hampden Academy seniors who are taking CTE (career and technical education) courses at United Technologies Center in Bangor, earned medals in the statewide SkillsUSA competition, which was held March 18 at UTC.

The students and their medals are:

- Joshua Carter, Gold Medal, Plumbing.
- Josh Gates, Gold Medal, 3D Visualization and Animation.
- Hunter Pinkham, Gold Medal, Electrical Construction Wiring.
- Jessie Everhart, Silver Medal, Interactive App and Game Design.

As gold medalists, Joshua, Josh, and Hunter are eligible to compete in the national SkillsUSA competition, which will be held in Atlanta in July.

Joshua, who is in the Plumbing and Heating program at UTC, earned his gold medal in the Plumbing competition by doing a rough in for a sink and toilet, along with all of the waste pipes, vent pipes, and water lines. After graduation, Joshua will be putting his plumbing and heating studies to work as a heating technician for Dead River Company.



Hunter Pinkham



Jessie Everhart



Joshua Carter



Josh Gates

Josh, who is in the Visual and Audio Production class at UTC, earned his gold medal with a student from Brewer High School. Together, they had four hours to make a short animation based on a prompt that was provided by SkillsUSA. This fall, Josh will be continuing his studies at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia.

Hunter, who is in the Electrical Connectivity program at UTC, earned

his gold medal by wiring up a panel and some outlets. Hunter says he will be attending Eastern Maine Community College in the fall and probably doing some kind of electrical work as well. He says several people have expressed interest in hiring him.

Jessie, who is in the Digital Arts and Software Development program at UTC, worked with a partner from Orono High School to develop

a family-friendly game which had kids throwing snowballs at each other. Jessie will probably attend college in the fall but is undecided about a career path.

Overall, UTC students did very well in the statewide SkillsUSA competition, winning a total of 8 Gold Medals, 15 Silver Medals, and 4 Bronze Medals.

HAMPDEN ACADEMY CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATION SPEAKERS



VALEDICTORY ADDRESS—Carly Philbrook will deliver the valedictory address. Carly is the daughter of Alden and Nicolle Philbrook of Winterport. While at Hampden Academy Carly participated in National Honor Society and Destination Imagination. Carly was also named Student of the Quarter in 2020. Carly started an online bagel business with her twin sister to help fundraise for the South Africa Service-Learning trip that was sadly canceled. In her spare time Carly enjoys reading, gardening, and baking. Carly plans to attend the University of Maine Orono for Secondary Education, most likely with a concentration in math or history.



SALUTATORY ADDRESS—Amelia Plant, daughter of Christopher and Patricia Plant of Hampden, will deliver the salutatory address. While at Hampden Academy Amelia participated in four years of Varsity Field Hockey, Student Council, Spanish Club, Wind Ensemble, and Leadership/Mentors. Amelia also participated in Outdoor Track, Jazz Band, Math Team, and volunteered with the Big Brother/Big Sister school program, the Hampden Food Cupboard, and as a Writing Center Tutor while attending Hampden Academy. Amelia was a member of both the National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society her junior and senior year. Amelia was awarded the Maine Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish in grade 12, and both the Society of Women Engineers Book Award, and the Princeton Maine Alumni Book Award in grade 11. Outside of school, Amelia participated in the Bangor Symphony Youth Orchestra and did some political canvassing work during the



HONOR ESSAYIST—JoHannah Philbrook, daughter of Alden and Nicolle Philbrook of Winterport, is the Honor Essayist for the Hampden Academy Class of 2022. While at Hampden Academy, JoHannah participated in National Honor Society and Destination Imagination. JoHannah was a National Merit Scholar Finalist. During high school JoHannah and her twin sister started a bagel company, called Bagel Basket. In her spare time, JoHannah enjoys reading, baking, and doing puzzles. JoHannah plans to attend Husson University to study Forensic Science next year.

2020 election season. In her spare time, Amelia enjoys reading, skiing, spending time outdoors, sudoku and shopping. Amelia plans to study biomedical engineering in the fall at the University of Connecticut.

HA Civil Rights Team meeting with advisories to hear concerns

The Civil Rights Team at Hampden Academy has been meeting with advisories to address concerns about students using hateful language in school.

The language issue was highlighted in responses to a survey conducted by the Civil Rights Team last year.

“This is an important part of our school culture,” says Heidi Harris, social studies teacher and Civil Rights Team advisor. “Everyone doesn’t have to be best friends, but they should respect each other.”

She says the team is working with the freshman advisory classes, which meet every Wednesday.

The students in the advisory sessions have been talking about respect—what respect looks like, what it sounds like.

Then they’re asked to think about different scenarios, such as: if you heard your friend using hateful language, what would you do? That often leads to further discussion.

Civil Rights Team members may also talk about the history of some of the biased language and where it comes from. “We believe that sometimes people say things out of ignorance, not realizing what the words mean,” says Ms. Harris.

Ms. Harris says about 10 students on the Civil Rights Team have been attending the meetings, but with 40 advisory groups, they can’t attend them all.

To address this, the Civil Rights Team has prepared written instructions for the teachers to help them work with the advisory classes.



Hampden Academy Civil Rights Team members

“We’re trying to make the process student-led as much as possible,” Ms. Harris says. “If a Civil Rights Team student is in the group, great—if not, the teacher can fill in.”

So far, the reaction to the advisory class discussions has been mostly positive.

“A lot of people recognize the issue—hateful language in the

hallways at Hampden Academy—and they don’t want that to be happening here,” Ms. Harris says. “They want HA to be a place where everybody feels welcome.”

She says the Civil Rights Team is hoping to change minds, but they know that’s really hard.

“Maybe we can at least get people to think before they speak,” she says.

Student representatives to RSU 22 Board lead Drop-in Student Focus Groups

The two student representatives on the RSU 22 Board of Directors led a pair of Drop-in Student Focus Groups in March to give Hampden Academy students an opportunity to voice their opinions on different issues that are happening around the school.

The focus groups were held in the Black Box (music hallway), for two hours each on consecutive days. The first session, on March 29, was held during periods 1 and 2, from 8:30 to 10:30. The second session, on March 30, was held during periods 3 and 4, from noon to 2 p.m.

Students were invited to get a pass from their teacher to attend one of the sessions or to come from study hall.

The focus groups were organized by the Student School Board Representatives, Stephanie Clisham, who served

as moderator, and Jacob Brown.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Regan Nickels, Assistant Superintendent Christine Boone, HA Principal Bill Tracy, and Assistant Principal Ryan Crane.

Students expressed their views on a variety of topics, including:

- School culture and climate
- Weighted grades
- Dress code—with some students would like midriffs allowed, at least to some extent, while others would like to wear hoods and hats in school.
- The disconnect between the grade levels in HA because Covid has limited the amount of interaction between students.
- Rigor of classroom work, which varies between courses and teachers.
- Vaping, which has become

more common in HA bathrooms.

- Class schedules, which prevent some students from taking courses because of scheduling conflicts.

Hampden Academy Principal Bill Tracy said the focus groups provided students who had questions or concerns the ability to express them.

Hampden Academy Wind Ensemble teams up with Nokomis musicians to raise money for Ukraine war victims

The Hampden Academy Wind Ensemble performed with the Nokomis Wind and Percussion Ensemble at a Concert for Ukraine on Thursday, April 7, at the HA Performing Arts Center.

The concert raised more than \$1,800 for war victims in Ukraine.

The concert was organized by Pat Michaud, director of bands at HA,

and Dean Neal, director of music at Nokomis Regional High in Newport.

The funds are being distributed via a Sasha Zaburdaeva, director of the Bangor Symphony Youth Orchestra. Sasha is from Russia but has family in Ukraine.

Mr. Neal was a student of Mr. Michaud at Hampden Academy in 1988.

Kai Ksnyiak retiring after 17 years at HA

Kai Ksnyiak, who has been the alternative education teacher at Hampden Academy for the past 17 years, will retire June 30.

Ms. Ksnyiak has been teaching since 2002, starting with two years at Mount View High School and one year at Camden-Rockport High School.



Previously, she held a variety of jobs in the private sector, including bookkeeping for construction companies, teaching computer construction accounting to contractors, landscape designing, and as a publicist.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Ms. Ksnyiak graduated from Penn State University and then moved to California, where she lived for 17 years. In California, she worked for a heart attack research project, TV Guide, and in a hospital as an EKG technician.

She moved to Maine in 1999. "My family just wanted to move east," she said. "My ex-husband and I wanted to be closer to the coast, and we loved Maine."

Ms. Ksnyiak lives in Old Town. She currently works part-time at the Old Town Public Library, and she plans to increase her hours there after retirement. She also does some work for Spencer's Ice Cream, which makes and sells premium homemade ice cream in Bradley, and for a tree farm in Orrington.

She has two children, a son and a daughter. Her daughter has Down syndrome.

Shawn Kimball retiring after 29 years teaching, 14 years at HA

Shawn Kimball, who has taught science at Hampden Academy for the past 14 years, will be retiring at the end of the school year.

Mr. Kimball has been teaching for 29 years. He started at Hermon Middle School, where he taught 7th and 8th grade science for 13 years. He then taught 9th grade physical science at Central High School in Corinth for a year, followed by a year as technology integrator at the K-8 school in Glenburn.



At Hampden Academy, he has taught freshman science, computer science, and earth science. He has also served as technology integrator, helping teachers learn to use technology.

Mr. Kimball doesn't have any specific plans for retirement, but he says he still wants to serve others in the community somehow. He also plans to do some camping and spend time with his grandchildren.

He and his wife Peggy live in Levant. They have a son and a daughter and three grandchildren, ages 2, 5, and 8.

HA chess team wins on-line tourney, gets Silver in state team championship

The sport of chess is really taking off at Hampden Academy. In the past two years our chess club, for years mainly instructive in nature, has become a fantastically competitive chess team.

The 2022 team played to a State Championship in the Maine Online Scholastic Chess League. This consisted of eight weeks of round robin play followed by a single-elimination tournament.

They then took the silver medal at the State of Maine Scholastic Team Championship in Lewiston in March.

"Whether virtually or in person, these student athletes show up ready to play," said HA Chess Coach, Sam Manhart. "They take the game, and their camaraderie, very seriously."

In addition to posting strong tournament performances, H.A. has also created a dedicated space for chess. One of the library conference rooms has been transformed into the HA Chess Lounge. With multiple



From left: Amblen Isenhour, Josh Lorenzo, Avery Richard, Colin McKay, Calvin White (Capt.), and Felix Moran. Not present when photo was taken: Zachary Wilson and Cayden Genever.

chess sets, timers, and chess books, the chess lounge affords anyone in our school the opportunity to play, and if the chess lounge is full, our library has also invested in portable chess sets that it lends to students.

"The next move is for Hampden Academy to start hosting state championship chess tournaments, allowing the Maine chess community to enjoy our outstanding facilities," said Mr. Manhart.

HA will host its first statewide tournament on National Chess Day, Oct. 8, 2022.

4 HA ensembles earn Silver awards at State Jazz Festival

Four ensembles from Hampden Academy performed at the State Jazz Festival March 19 at the Hampden Academy Performing Arts Center.

The groups included two jazz combos—one led by Pat Michaud and one led by Andy Laidman—the R&B Project, and the HA Jazz Ensemble.

All four groups received Silver awards, indicating a score between 90 and 95. The actual scores ranged from 92 to 94.

Mr. Michaud said the performance scores were better than he expected because of the pandemic, which resulted in many student being unable to attend school and, consequently, not being available for rehearsals.

"We had everyone at rehearsal maybe three times," he said.

The soloists from HA all received superior ratings, but two of them stood out.

Guitarist Owen Field received two outstanding musicianship awards, one for his solo with the jazz combo, and one for his solo with the jazz ensemble.

Jon Fenders, who played trombone and bassoon, received the Dale Huff Outstanding Musicianship Award. Only one Dale Huff award is given for performances during the morning

program, and one in the afternoon.

Four other HA musicians received 1 ratings for superior musicianship. They were Anthony Cole, baritone sax; Will Airey, trumpet; Stella Fox, drums; and Max Ross, bass.

Mr. Michaud said all three pieces played by the HA Jazz Ensemble

Pat Michaud retiring after 36 years as HA music teacher, band director

Pat Michaud, who has taught music at Hampden Academy for the past 36 years, will be retiring at the end of the school year.

"The thing I'm looking forward to most is not having a bell dictate what I do next," he said.

Mr. Michaud was brought up in Madawaska and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education at the University of Maine in 1983. He studied trumpet with Don Stratton. Before

were written by Maine composers.

One of them—"You Can't Take that Away from Me"—was composed by Jim McNeely of Owls Head, one of the leading jazz composers in the world today.

The other two were "Nightingale Sang on Berkeley Square" by R. K. Kaley, and "Soon," arranged by Craig Skeffington.

coming to HA in 1986, he taught for two years at SAD 21 in Dixfield.

He lives in Hampden with his wife of 35 years, Jesse James Michaud. They have three children, Rachel, Renée, and Jacob.

Mr. Michaud says his retirement plans include practicing his trumpet—his primary instrument—4 to 5 hours a day.

"I'm going to spend a lot of time with my horns," he said. "I'm buying two brand new ones—top of the shelf instruments—and I'm going to play a lot more."

He also may do some work as an agent for bands that want to play in Maine. He currently manages his own band—Maine Street R&B Review—and will spend a lot of time marketing it.



Voices Unlimited on stage.

Voices Unlimited earns Gold award at MMEA Vocal Jazz, Show Choir Festival

The Hampden Academy show choir, Voices Unlimited, under the direction of Heidi Corliss earned a Gold award at the MMEA Vocal Jazz and Show Choir Festival April 2 in Millinocket.

Reeds Brook Middle School also received a Gold award, and Wagner Middle School earned a Silver award.

Show choirs that receive a score of 95 or more out of 100 earn a Gold Rating, while a Silver rating represents a score of 90 to 95. The three

RSU 22 schools all scored within 1.3 points of each other.

Two members of Voices Unlimited—Emma Campbell and Sophia Robinson—received Outstanding Musicianship awards for their solos.

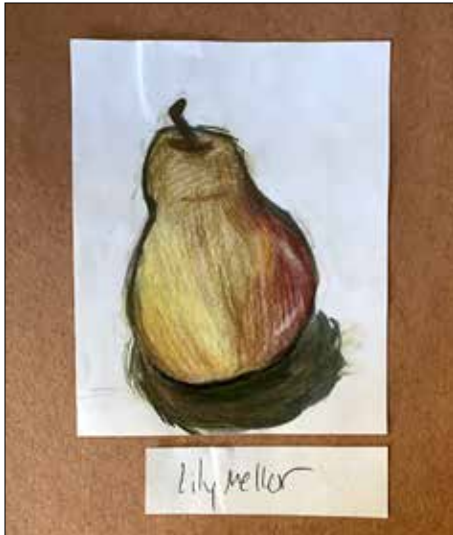
The Voices Unlimited performance for the festival included music from Broadway shows, such as "Waitress," "Lion King," "Smokey Joe's Café," "Finding Neverland," "Hamilton," "Wicked," and "Spamalot."



Sophia Robinson and Emma Campbell won Outstanding Musicianship Awards for their solos at the MMEA State Vocal Jazz/Show Choir Festival On April 2.



"Cardinal in Snow," by Riley McKnight, Grade 7—GOLD KEY



"Pear Study," by Lily Curry, Grade 8—SILVER KEY



"Dragon Mama & Baby," by Ainsley Melia, Grade 8—HONORABLE MENTION

Reeds Brook students win Gold Key, 2 Silver Keys, 9 Honorable Mentions at Scholastic Art Awards Competition

By Deborah DeQuattro
Visual Arts teacher
Reeds Brook Middle School
Wonderful things have been happening in Visual Arts at Reeds Brook Middle School!

The 10th century artist, Henri Matisse, said "Creativity takes courage," and he was right! Courage is what I see in my classroom as students engage, observe, stretch and explore, reflect and revise.

I am always impressed by the growth I see in the students' work, their visual voice, and their habits of learning in art.

It's especially gratifying when

their efforts are celebrated by others. We recently submitted 21 works of art to the annual Scholastic Art Awards Competition for Grades 7 & 8. All submissions will be given a Scholastic Art Teacher Recognition Award for being chosen to submit, and eleven pieces were singled out by the judges for our Maine region.

Reeds Brook students received one Gold Key, two Silver Keys, and nine Honorable Mention Certificates.

- Riley McKnight, grade 7, received a Gold Key for her *Cardinal in Snow* painting. Riley's Gold Key was entered into the National



Competition in New York City to compete in the 8th grade painting category.

- Lily Curry, grade 8, received a Silver Key for *Pear Study*.
- Ainsley Melia, grade 8, received an honorable mention for her artwork, *Dragon Mama & Baby*.

You may view our Scholastic Art Award winning work on our Facebook

page or search "AitH Youth Art Month Student Exhibit 2022" on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

Additional artwork from 6th, 7th, and 8th grades may be seen in the Art in the Heart Virtual Exhibit celebrating Youth Art Month. Keep a lookout for more artwork on Facebook and, as always, thank you for supporting the Visual Arts at Reeds Brook Middle School.



Dumpster Fire Rock Band



RBMS Jazz Band

Reeds Brook Show Choir earns Gold Award at state festival; Jazz Band earns Silver

The RBMS Music Department has been quite busy and has had much to look forward to this spring!

The Reeds Brook Jazz Band and Show Choir had very successful performances at the MMEA State Jazz Festivals.

The RBMS Jazz Band under the direction of Mrs. Rebecca Mallory performed at the MMEA State Jazz Festival on March 18th. They scored a silver medal rating (one point from gold) and were the highest-scoring middle school jazz band in the state!

Jack French, Beckham Rand, Jacob Fanjoy, and Trew Thomas all received outstanding achievement awards ("1" ratings) for their solos.

In addition, Trew and Jacob were recognized with Outstanding Musicianship awards (2 of 5 awarded)!

The RBMS Show Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Heidi Corliss, performed "At The Beach" at the MMEA state show choir festival on April 2nd, and they earned GOLD!!! They were AMAZING!!! The show choir was also the highest scoring middle school show choir in the state!

Show Choir members are: Aubrey Benson, Liliana Christiansen, Molly Cowan, Ahlyza Dunham, Jacob Fanjoy,



RBMS Show Choir "At The Beach"

Dakota Fenders, Quinn Fleming, Payton Guerrete, Alexis Hamel, Tanner Hanscom, Sarah Haskell, Liliana Holmes,, Samantha Houghton, Maia Johnson, Caylyn Kroll, Karlee Kroll, Ainsley Melia, Anna Napolillo, Brooke Porter, Payton Porter, Jessica Sass, Lydiah Shaw, Alleigh Stansauk, Abryanna Stillman, Peyton Stillman, Lily Tripp, Evelyn Tyler, Abigail Whitcomb, and Abrey White. Congratulations to our jazz and show choir musicians!

* * *

The Rock Band Club "Dumpster Fire" concluded their season with a concert on April 14th. Mrs. Mallory would like to thank Little Kids Rock for sponsoring such a wonderful modern

band experience for our students, and she's very proud of what the students learned and accomplished this year.

* * *

On April 29th and 30th, about 36 Reeds Brook students had the honor of representing RBMS at the MMEA District 5 Honors Festivals for band and chorus, which were hosted by Stearns High School in Millinocket on April 29th and 30th.

The festival drew students from schools as far south as Searsport and north as Millinocket. Students rehearsed together and offered concerts for family and friends in the evening. Congratulations to all involved!

* * *



RBMS Jazz Band (Receiving a clinic from Dr. Dan Barrett)

The RBMS music department featured the band and chorus at their Spring Concert on May 12th, at 6:30 pm in the Hampden Academy Performing Arts Center. On May 24th RBMS held its spring Carnival fundraiser for the music department. Students, parents, and friends enjoyed games, food, and music for all ages from 4-6 pm at RBMS.

The Carnival is the big fundraiser of the year that helps support our programming. Thank you to all those that have sponsored our RSU22 Music shirts and who are helping with the carnival. The community support for music in our district is very much appreciated!

Reeds Brook Chess Team wins 1st place in Grand Prix Chess League

The Chess Club at Reeds Brook Middle School is thriving. The Rebel team had great attendance for the 2021-22 season and team members looked forward to “chess day.”

The Rebels concluded their 2021-2022 season by playing in the Maine Scholastic Individual Tournament on March 19, 2022.

At the conclusion of the tournament, the Rebels were awarded the first place trophy for the Maine Scholastic Grand Prix Chess League.

The Rebels earned 84.5 points with their closest opponent at 59.5 points. These points are awarded, based on our top 5 scorers of the season. They earn a point by winning a game. A draw counts as a half point.

The Maine Scholastic Grand Prix Chess season starts at the beginning of October, on National Chess Day, and lasts until mid March. The Reeds Brook team attended all tournaments in the schedule and the two state tournaments at the end of the season. They competed from Buxton to Aurora and many places in between.

Besides attending every tournament, the Reeds Brook chess players practiced diligently.

On almost every Saturday, when they didn't have tournaments, they held a 2 1/2 hour practice at Reeds Brook with members of the Weatherbee chess team. They also played on *chess.com* during the week.

Michael Dudley, President of



Front row (l. to r.): Kalani Kokotovich, Alex Adams, Riley Richardson, Christian Zhang, and Harrison Seavey. Rear: Adam McClure, Coach Bishop, and Lilly Tripp. Riley is holding the Middle School 1st Place Maine Scholastic Grand Prix Chess Trophy.

Maine Scholastic Chess, honored both the Reeds Brook and Weatherbee teams at the awards presentation. He said that the RSU 22 teams were an example of how chess teams should operate because we were the only two teams that attended all the tournaments.

One of the many life lessons our players learned from chess was that hard work and great attendance pay off.

* * *

The 2021-22 Reeds Brook Middle School Rebels Chess Team members are: Eddie LaRoche, Lucien Paradis, Alex Adams, Harrison Seavey, Riley Richardson, Kalani Kokotovich, Lilly Tripp,



Lilly Tripp and Eddie LaRoche of RBMS concentrate.

Lily Ducas, Christian Zhang, Adam McClure, and Callan Hafford.

Out of 102 total middle school players in Maine, the top 5 Reeds Brook Grand Prix scorers were: Christian



Alex Adams and Adam McClure hold the Rebels' 2nd place trophy for the Maine Scholastic Team Chess Tournament in Lewiston.

Zhang, 1st with 25 points; Riley Richardson, tied for 4th with 16.5 points; Lilly Tripp, 5th with 15 points; Eddie LaRoche, 6th with 14.5 points; and Alex Adams, 7th with 13.5 points.

* * *

The flagship tournaments of Scholastic Chess are the Maine State Scholastic Team and Individual tournaments, which are held at the end of the season in March. The Reeds Brook teams took second place in the State Team tournament.

Reeds Brook hosts MathCOUNTS; Jack French advances to state competition

Reeds Brook Middle School hosted the Eastern Chapter Competition for MathCOUNTS on February 17. Nine RBMS mathletes entered the competition, and one of them, Jack French, advanced to the state competition, which was held on March 31.

Competing against the top mathletes in the entire state, Jack earned 35th place.

Audrey Cliff, the MathCOUNTS coach at Reeds Brook, hosted team practices after school



RBMS Mathletes at MathCOUNTS competition.



Jack French

on Mondays in December and January.

The Mathcounts competition includes three rounds:

First, a Sprint Round that focuses on speed and accuracy. Students have 40 minutes to complete 30 math problems without a calculator.

Second, a Target Round that focuses on problem-solving and mathematical reasoning. Students receive four pairs of problems and have six minutes to complete each pair, assuming the use of a calculator.

Third, a Team Round that focuses on problem-solving and collaboration. Groups of four students have 20 minutes to complete ten math problems, assuming the use of a calculator.

Ms. Cliff says MathCOUNTS provides real challenges for middle school contestants.

“The questions are really tough,” she says. “They’re not straightforward computation; rather, they are application-based. These are challenges the students don’t usually see in the regular classroom. This is what makes MathCOUNTS such a great opportunity for the students who participate in it.”

The Chapter MathCOUNTS participants were: Christian Zhang and Samantha Houghton, 6th grade; Bodie Peterson, Cade Downer, Charlie MacDonald, Lucas Fachiol, Malak Abdelsalam, Phoebe Strong, and Riley McKnight, 7th grade; and Jack E. French, 8th grade.

Reeds Brook, Edythe Dyer Libraries bring Manga Club to students

By Amy Clement

Last fall, Edythe Dyer youth librarian Mary Beckett and Carrie Levesque, a local mom and instructor for the University of North Carolina Greensboro, were hoping to start an after school club for students interested in manga (Japanese comic books).

After only one or two kids showed up, they thought about scrapping the idea altogether, as it seemed there was little interest.

But Reeds Brook Middle School librarian Amy Clement, who had heard about their efforts, knew there were many students interested in manga and Japanese anime at the middle school. Mrs. Clement contacted Ms. Beckett and Ms. Levesque and invited them to hold the club at RBMS library after school on Fridays.

More than 20 students signed up and have been enjoying conversations and activities centered around manga and anime since late January! These activities have included drawing, crafts, and cooking traditional Japanese snacks.





June 2022: School District Budget Process

- **DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING — Thursday, June 2, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Hampden Academy Gymnasium**
- **DISTRICT BUDGET REFERENDUM — Tuesday, June 14, 2022 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
 - Skehan Recreational Center, Hampden
 - Leroy H. Smith School, Winterport
 - Newburgh Elementary School/Community Building
 - Frankfort Town Office

Open Letter to the Citizens of RSU 22

* * *

* * *

On May 18, 2022 the RSU 22 Board of Directors unanimously ratified a proposed school budget for FY 2022-2023 in the amount of \$36,131,708.98, which represents a 2.62% increase (\$922,550.97) over last year.

The proposed FY 2022-2023 budget has been developed to prioritize immediate and future needs for our students, staff and organization. The recently approved five-year RSU 22 Strategic Plan focuses on several areas of district growth which the proposed budget addresses.

Students will be the winners in this latest funding effort due to the focus on student achievement and foundational skill development.

Very importantly, the *budget development process also prioritized a funding model to offset local taxation*. Through forwarding an FY 22 taxpayer credit from an increased state share of education funding and effectively using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant funds, the budget has come together to better meet student needs but also realize conservative increases in two towns and local reductions in two towns.

The district has met its responsibility to prioritize student needs yet also be attentive to taxpayer relief.

* * *

Each town will see a local increase of less than 2.6% even though real estate valuations rose considerably in each community by 2%-6%. The following dedication of funds has reduced local shares along with a mil rate reduction to 7.10:

- \$736,458.66—Tax credit to towns due to increase in 2021-22 state subsidy share
- \$650,000—Dedication of unallocated fund balance to offset local taxation
- \$750,000—Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief grant funds supporting new services

* * *

The following local shares are proposed to support the FY 22-23 school budget, with town assessments changed in accordance with the chart below:

It is essential that school budget goals and expenditures align with the mission of what is best for students. Goals for both the budget and ESSER grant fund expenditures that are new for FY 23 include (specific projects that are funded through ESSER are marked with an asterisk*):

- **Academic Excellence and Achievement:** Pre-K expansion at Newburgh Center, Newburgh Center (new teacher), .5 Music teacher at Smith School, .5 Gifted and Talented Educational Technician, Homework Club Advisor, Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Girls Ice Hockey Co-op participation, contracted social worker* at Hampden Academy and other schools, Navy Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC)* established related to JROTC

- **Foundational Skills:** .5 Elementary Literacy Coach, Math Interventionist/Coach* at Weatherbee School, .5 Math Teacher* at Reeds Brook, .2 Speech and Language services increase*, Title I and ESSER grant funding continue to support Smith and Wagner schools in this category

- **Support Services:** .7 FTE registered nurse increase* (.4 McGraw, .2 Reeds Brook, .1 Newburgh Pre-K, Health Aid 15 hours per week* at Smith and Wagner Schools, increase of .4 District Health, Wellness and School Safety Coordinator* services

- **Operational Excellence:** Grant Manager position to identify and manage identification of new revenue streams for sustainable districtwide and school funding and to maximize the management of the influx of grant funds to RSU 22.

- **Professional Excellence:** additional funds beyond the \$150,000 annually dedicated to National Board Certification for teachers and tuition reimbursement efforts

As you are likely aware since all budget meetings are public and recordings archived at https://www.rsu22.us/budget_information, RSU 22 established the pathway to funding many goals and priorities for students and simultaneously realizing taxpayer stability through effective and evaluative budget processes.

In addition to a state subsidy increase of \$135,077 and increases to revenue such as federal E-rate project reimbursement, RSU 22 benefitted from a Maine Bond Bank refinance of Hampden Academy debt service and a steady projection of regional tuition students continuing to seek Hampden Academy as their high school of choice.

These revenue streams, in addition to use of ESSER grant funding and the FY 23 credit to towns (The Governor increased the state share of subsidy in July of 2021 after RSU 22's budget was completed; the \$736,458.66 amount of offset has been credited to the RSU 22 towns in the proposed FY 23 budget) have all come together to provide a win-win budget for students, staff and our communities.

In regard to reserve fund dedications, proposed transfers from the district's unallocated fund balance will include the following:

- Capital Reserve Fund dedication of \$375,000 for facility safety and security improvements, preventative maintenance projects, playground upgrade needs, district drainage projects and more,

- A Capital Reserve Fund dedication of \$265,824 from unallocated fund balances for a one-time payment to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank related to the local School Revolving Renovation Fund share for Phase 1 of Reeds Brook Middle School envelope repair project.

- Athletic Facility Capital Reserve Fund dedication in the amount of \$150,000 related to proactive savings for the eventual athletic turf replacement and turf retaining wall reconditioning,

- Technology Reserve Fund dedication of \$50,000 for upcoming district-wide accounting software transition and district technology needs, and

- Fuel Cost Stabilization Reserve Account dedication of \$50,000 to address potential fuel cost escalations.

* * *

- An in-person District Budget Meeting will be held at Hampden Academy on Thursday June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. The referendum vote will occur on Tuesday June 14th at polling locations designated by each town.

Changes in Town Assessments

	2022 Assessment	2023 Assessment	Budget \$ Change	Budget % Change
Hampden	\$7,640,921.91	\$7,650,402.04	\$9,480.13	0.12%
Winterport	\$3,159,319.39	\$3,140,868.31	(\$18,451.08)	-0.58%
Newburgh	\$1,292,569.18	\$1,322,479.94	\$29,910.76	2.31%
Frankfort	\$1,029,797.66	\$1,006,647.97	(\$23,149.69)	-2.25%
Total	\$13,122,608.14	\$13,120,398.26	(\$2,209.87)	-0.02%

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11 AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES
(Explanations of variances are noted below each article.)

Article 1: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **REGULAR INSTRUCTION** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$13,147,060.99**

Explanation: The Regular Instruction account includes expenses related to classroom teaching and learning, such as salaries for teachers, substitutes, and paraprofessionals, and classroom instructional materials and supplies. Also included are expenses related to Alternative Education, English Language Learners (ELL), and Gifted & Talented Programs.

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2021-22</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2022-23</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Article 1 – Regular Instruction	\$12,828,845.34	\$13,147,060.99	\$318,215.65
Subtotal Elementary	\$5,583,190.11	\$5,694,684.65	\$111,494.54
Subtotal Secondary	\$4,021,128.59	\$4,097,946.60	\$76,818.01
Subtotal VHS	\$36,047.20	\$36,047.20	\$0.00
Subtotal K-2	\$2,271,256.54	2,301,191.46	\$29,934.92
Subtotal Pre-K Program	\$438,283.22	\$539,935.79	\$101,652.57
Subtotal ELL	\$14,265.40	\$15,492.73	\$1,227.33
Subtotal Alternative Education	\$153,276.35	\$172,966.03	\$19,689.68
Subtotal Gifted & Talented	\$311,397.93	\$288,796.53	(\$22,601.40)
Total Article 1 Regular Instruction	\$12,828,845.34	\$13,147,060.99	\$318,215.65

Total Variance:

\$318,215.65

- Increase in teacher salaries
- Increase in ed tech salaries
- Increase in tutor salaries
- Increase in benefits to teachers
- Decrease in ed tech benefits
- Increase in tuition reimbursement
- Increase in copier service/supply
- Decrease in technology lease
- New software accounts
- Decrease in copier lease
- Increase in E-books
- Increase in equipment, non-cap
- Increase in books/periodicals
- Increase in contracted services
- Increase in supplies
- Decrease in dues and fees
- Increase in on-line learning fees

Article 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTION** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$7,423,297.75**

Explanation: The Special Education Instruction account includes expenses for direct support of Special Education Programs.

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2021-22</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2022-23</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Article 2 – Special Education Instruction	\$7,129,414.03	\$7,423,297.75	\$293,883.72
Subtotal Resource	\$2,920,004.69	\$2,945,657.25	\$25,652.56
Subtotal Summer Special Education Program	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Self Contained Classroom	\$2,558,906.38	\$2,811,251.11	\$252,344.73
Subtotal Hospital/Homebound	\$31,500.00	\$27,000.00	(\$4,500.00)
Subtotal Social Work	\$147,035.97	\$166,341.26	\$19,305.29
Subtotal Student Psych Services	\$233,823.93	\$242,925.03	\$9,101.10
Subtotal Speech & Language Services	\$486,963.52	\$509,346.28	\$22,382.76
Subtotal Student Occupational Therapy Services	\$183,288.31	\$190,717.17	\$7,428.86
Subtotal Student Audiology Services	\$87,158.34	\$71,163.48	(\$15,994.86)
Subtotal Student Physical Therapy Services	\$72,500.00	\$72,500.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Student Adapted Physical Education Services	\$51,437.07	\$53,619.90	\$2,182.83
Subtotal Special Education Administration	\$356,795.82	\$332,776.27	\$24,019.55
Total Article 2 Special Education	\$7,129,414.03	\$7,423,297.75	\$293,883.72

Total Variance:

\$293,883.72

- Resource Classroom:
 - Increase in teacher salaries
 - Increase in ed tech salaries
 - Increase in tuition reimbursement
- Self-contained Classroom:
 - Decrease in sub salaries
 - Increase in self-contained teacher benefits
 - Decrease in ed tech benefits
 - Decrease in ed tech retirement
 - Increase in out of district placement tuition
 - Decrease in social work benefits
 - Increase in speech/language benefits
 - Increase in audiology benefits

Article 3: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTION** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends \$0

Explanation: The Career and Technical Education account includes all expenses directly related to the Career and Cooperative Education Programs.

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2021-22</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2022-23</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Article 3 – Career and Technical Education	\$0	\$0	\$0
Career and Technical Education	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Variance:			\$0

Article 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **OTHER INSTRUCTION** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,044,687.49**

Explanation: The Other Instruction account includes expenses for Co-Curricular, Extra-Curricular, and Summer School Programs.

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2021-22</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2022-23</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Article 4 – Other Instruction	\$982,249.58	\$1,044,687.49	\$62,437.91
Subtotal Summer School	\$3,203.10	\$3,203.10	\$0.00
Subtotal Elem. Co-Curricular	\$73,037.00	\$76,968.60	\$3,931.60
Subtotal Secondary Co-Curricular	\$134,803.60	\$121,792.42	(\$13,011.18)
Subtotal Graduation	\$4,750.00	\$8,800.00	\$4,050.00
Subtotal Elementary Extra-Curricular	\$183,939.73	\$188,514.05	\$4,574.32

Subtotal Secondary Extra-Curricular	\$582,516.15	\$645,409.32	\$62,893.17
Total Article 4	\$982,249.58	\$1,044,687.49	\$62,437.91

Total Variance:

\$62,437.91

- Increase in negotiated ERP value for stipend
- Increases for LaCrosse coaches
- Increases in officials/mileage
- Increases in equipment and transportation due to possible inclusion of LaCrosse
- Increase due to female ice hockey co-op

Article 5: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **STUDENT AND STAFF SUPPORT** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$3,221,712.05**

Explanation: The Student and Staff Support account includes expenses for student support services (intervention, guidance, health, library services and instructional technology) as well as staff support services (improvement of instruction, instructional staff training and student assessment).

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2021-22</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2022-23</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Article 5 – Student and Staff Support	\$2,973,653.41	\$3,221,712.05	\$248,058.64
Subtotal Student Guidance Services	\$746,737.27	\$783,116.09	\$36,378.82
Subtotal Student Health Services	\$452,266.56	\$486,172.80	\$33,906.24
Subtotal Instructional-Related Technology	\$827,601.58	\$836,694.10	\$9,092.52
Subtotal Charter School Commission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Section 504	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Other Student Support	\$60,060.00	\$62,500.00	\$2,440.00
Subtotal Intervention	\$55,583.55	\$58,069.82	\$2,486.27
Subtotal Improvement of Instruction	\$298,920.70	\$412,604.06	\$113,683.36
Subtotal Instructional Staff Training	\$98,043.15	\$99,442.77	\$1,399.62
Subtotal Library Services	\$333,225.28	\$391,111.63	\$57,886.35
Subtotal Assessment	\$101,215.32	\$92,000.78	(\$9,214.54)
Total Article 5	\$2,973,653.41	\$3,221,712.05	\$248,058.64

Total Variance:

\$248,058.64

- Increase in negotiated salaries
- Increase in health benefits to full-time nursing staff
- E-Rate projects at McGraw, Smith, and Weatherbee for broadband and network improvement
- Reduction of summer technician, reduction in printer maintenance of account and tech related supplies/
- maintenance in district
- Increase for a .5 FTE literacy coach and benefits
- Increase in curriculum supplies
- Decrease in dues/fees
- Increase in employee health insurance coverage
- Decrease in database costs
- Decrease in NWEA fees due to the State paying the majority of the testing fees cost

Article 6: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,071,118.47**

Explanation: The System Administration account includes expenses for the Board of Directors, the Office of the Superintendent, and Business Office functions.

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2021-22</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2022-23</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Article 6 – System Administration	\$917,405.48	\$1,071,118.47	\$153,712.99
Subtotal Board of Directors	\$128,576.43	\$150,276.41	\$21,699.98
Subtotal Staff Relations/Negotiations	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
Subtotal Executive Administration	\$499,213.97	\$542,629.82	\$43,415.85
Subtotal Central Office Fiscal	\$259,615.08	\$348,212.24	\$88,597.16
Total Article 6	\$917,405.48	\$1,071,118.47	\$153,712.99

Total Variance:

\$153,712.99

- Board of Directors:
 - Decrease due to streaming meetings in house rather than contracted
 - Increased legal services
 - Increase in Professional Liability Insurance
 - Increase in salaries
 - National Board Cert for assistant superintendent
 - New grant manager and communications specialist hours and associated benefits
 - Decrease in health insurance
 - E-Rate contractor costs

Article 7: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,657,072.05**

Explanation: The School Administration account includes expenses for the direction and management of individual schools.

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2021-22</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2022-23</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Article 7 – School Administration	\$1,603,888.97	\$1,657,072.05	\$53,183.08
Subtotal School Administration	\$1,603,888.97	\$1,657,072.05	\$53,183.08
Total Article 7	\$1,603,888.97	\$1,657,072.05	\$53,183.08

Total Variance:

\$53,183.08

- Decrease in principal salaries
- Increase in admin assistant salaries
- Increase in principal benefits
- Increase in clerical/admin asst benefits
- Increase in professional credits – administration
- Decrease in telephone costs
- Increase in dues and fees

ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 14 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

Article 8: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **TRANSPORTATION AND BUSES** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$1,564,813.37**

Explanation: The Transportation account includes expenses for the transportation contract, fuel, and special education transportation services.

	Budget 2021-22	Proposed 2022-23	Variance
Article 8 – Transportation and Buses	\$1,436,279.07	\$1,564,813.37	\$128,534.30
Subtotal Student Transport.	\$1,421,279.07	\$1,539,813.37	\$118,534.30
Subtotal Special Education			
Out of District Expense	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$10,000.00
Total Article 8	\$1,436,279.07	\$1,564,813.37	\$128,534.30

Total Variance: \$128,534.30

- Increase in auto insurance
- Increase in Gas/Diesel costs
- Increased cost of vehicle purchase
- Increase in Special Education Out of District Transportation

Article 9: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$4,199,513.37**

Explanation: The Facilities Maintenance account includes maintenance of physical plant and grounds, minor capital construction projects, insurance, utilities, equipment, and supplies.

	Budget 2021-22	Proposed 2022-23	Variance
Article 9 – Facilities Maintenance	\$3,855,422.94	\$4,199,513.37	\$344,090.43
Subtotal Operation of Buildings	\$1,156,284.76	\$1,347,167.10	\$190,882.34
Subtotal Care of Buildings	\$1,160,450.36	\$1,377,022.40	\$216,572.04
Subtotal Maintenance of Buildings	\$961,799.65	\$970,088.96	\$8,289.31
Subtotal Capital Renew & Renovation	\$531,888.17	\$460,234.91	(\$71,653.26)
Subtotal Architectural & Engineering	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Total Article 9	\$3,855,422.94	\$4,199,513.37	\$344,090.43

Total Variance: \$344,090.43

- Increase in property insurance
- Increase in electricity costs
- Increase in fuel costs
- Increase in salaries
- Increase in benefits
- Increase in contracted services
- Increase in equipment replacement
- Increase in contracted services, maintenance
- Increase in repair & maintenance vehicles (non-student vehicles)
- Decrease in principal payment repair bond

Article 10: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **DEBT SERVICE AND OTHER COMMITMENTS** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$2,802,433.44**

Explanation: The Debt Service account includes expenses for state approved capital debt obligations.

	Budget 2021-22	Proposed 2022-23	Variance
Article 10 – Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$3,481,999.19	\$2,802,433.44	(\$679,565.75)
1000-0000-5100-583100-900			
Debt Service, Principal	\$2,410,767.31	\$2,411,821.81	\$1,054.50
1000-0000-5100-583200-900			
Debt Service, Interest	\$1,071,231.88	\$390,611.63	(\$680,620.25)
Total Article 10 - Debt Service	\$3,481,999.19	\$2,802,433.44	(\$679,565.75)

Total Variance: (\$679,565.75)

- Increase in principal, decrease in interest (Frankfort)
- Decrease in Maine Municipal Bond Bank interest rate for HA due to refinancing

Article 11: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for **ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES** for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Board of Directors recommends **\$0**

Explanation: The All Other Expenditures account includes expenses for the food service operations.

	Budget 2021-22	Proposed 2022-2023	Variance
Article 11 – All Other Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0
Food Service Transfer	\$0	\$0	\$0

Total Variance: \$0

- Support of School Nutrition Program

Article 12: State/Local Essential Programs and Services (EPS) Funding Allocation. To see what sum the Regional School Unit 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 Regional School Unit 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:**

Total appropriated (by municipality):

Town of Frankfort:	\$2,117,971.10
Town of Hampden:.....	\$16,572,440.57
Town of Newburgh:	\$3,187,336.35
Town of Winterport:	\$7,434,270.71
RSU Total Appropriated (sum of above)	\$29,312,018.73

Total raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality):

Town of Frankfort:	\$656,868.34
Town of Hampden:.....	\$4,994,850.00
Town of Newburgh:	\$854,248.34
Town of Winterport:	\$2,035,451.66
RSU Total Raised (sum of above):	\$8,541,418.34

Explanation: The Regional School Unit'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 Regional School Unit must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

Article 13: Appropriation for Non-state-funded Debt Service Allocation. 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 kindergarten to grade 12. **School Board Recommends \$493,888.07**

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: Appropriation of Additional Local Funds (Written ballot required.) To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$4,821,550.50**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend \$4,821,550.50**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends \$4,821,550.50, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$4,821,550.50. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: EPS does not fully support all of the necessary costs of a comprehensive pre-K-12 educational program, such as (1) athletics/co-curricular program costs; (2) transportation for the athletics/co-curricular program; (3) special education costs; (4) facilities maintenance; and (5) supplies and equipment.

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 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: Total School Budget Summary. To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 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, 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 \$36,131,708.98**

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

Article 16: To see if Regional School Unit No. 22 will appropriate **\$72,048.17** for adult education and raise **\$28,382.96** 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.

Board of Directors recommends an appropriation of **\$72,048.17** with a local share of **\$28,382.96**

ARTICLE 17 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

Article 17: 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?

ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Article 18: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$375,000** from available year-end fund balances to the RSU's previously established Capital Reserve Fund and to expend up to **\$475,000** from the Capital Reserve Fund to fund capital projects in the RSU including the following:

- (i) Addressing the district wide security audit recommendations and implementation for safety upgrades (i.e. camera surveillance improvements, key card access points, auto-locks and re-keying, other safety and security measures for buildings and portables).
- (ii) Smith School Americans With Disabilities Act project River-wing end door replacement and ADA access ramp,
- (iii) Wagner Middle School sidewalk paver replacement and building masonry repairs,
- (iv) Window/door/flooring replacements/upgrades (i.e. various classroom window replacements at Wagner and Reeds Brook Middle Schools, foyer glass replacement at RBMS , exterior door replacements at HA gymnasium, McGraw and Wagner kitchens, Reeds Brook Door 222 and Wagner Door 137, flooring replacement at Reeds Brook cafeteria and library, Smith School cafeteria, Weatherbee library),
- (v) Hampden Academy retaining wall and drainage improvement at the Athletic Turf,
- (vi) Reeds Brook Middle School retaining wall replacement and handrail installation,
- (vii) Improvement of elementary recess fields and drainage and playground/ equipment upgrades,
- (viii) HA Performing Arts Center maintenance and repair of lighting, balcony ADA compliance and rigging inspection,
- (ix) Compressor and/or heat pump replacement,
- (x) Drainage and inlet repairs at Hampden Academy and Weatherbee School, inlet vacuuming districtwide
- (xi) Pre-K classroom code upgrades at Newburgh Pre-K Center,
- (xii) Stage curtain replacements at both middle schools and locker room bench replacement at Wagner School,
- (xiii) 3% art refurbish at Wagner School,
- (xiv) Various district paving repair and patching projects,
- (xv) District fencing replacements (i.e. bleacher fencing, HA practice football field, damaged fencing)
- (xvi) Addressing various plumbing, electrical, heating and roofing issues district-wide
- (xvii) Maintenance vehicle fleet replacement purchase

ARTICLE 19 AUTHORIZES FUNDING THE LOCAL PORTION OF A SCHOOL REVOLVING RENOVATION FUND PROJECT WITH CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

Article 19: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer **\$265,824** from available year-end fund balances to the RSU's previously established Capital Reserve Fund and to expend up to **\$265,824** from the Capital Reserve Fund for a one-time payment to cover the local share of an exterior masonry repair project at Reeds Brook Middle School. The balance of the project costs will be funded by a \$620,256 grant through the State's School Revolving Renovation Fund (SRRF) program.

ARTICLE 20 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Article 20: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer **\$150,000** from available year-end fund balances to the School Athletic Facility Capital Reserve Fund and to expend up to **\$100,000** from said reserve fund for the purpose of maintaining the RSU's multi-purpose athletic field and maintaining other Regional School Unit athletic facilities?

ARTICLE 21 ESTABLISHES AND AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE TECHNOLOGY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Article 21: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer **\$50,000** from year-end available fund balances to the previously established Technology Reserve Fund and to expend up to **\$100,000** from said reserve fund to acquire technology and transition to new District-wide accounting software?

ARTICLE 22 ESTABLISHES AND TRANSFERS FUNDS TO FUEL COST STABILIZATION FUND

Article 22: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to **\$50,000** to the fuel cost stabilization fund from year end available fund balances?

Statutory Disclosure Statement relating to Fuel Cost Stabilization Fund: The fuel cost stabilization fund balance is currently \$100,000. If this article is approved as written, the fuel cost stabilization fund balance will be \$150,000. The amount used from the fuel cost stabilization fund in the last three years through the date this Article was prepared is as follows:

Fiscal year 2022-2023:	\$0
Fiscal year 2021-2022:	\$0
Fiscal year 2020-2021:	\$0

ARTICLE 23 AUTHORIZES THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUDGET

Article 23: Shall the United Technologies Center/Region 4 career and technical education operating budget as approved by the cooperative board for the year beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 be approved in the amount of **\$3,682,608.18**?

ARTICLE 24 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET FOR THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL REGION AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

Article 24: Shall the United Technologies Center/Region 4 approve a budget for adult education in the amount of **\$318,528.80** for the year beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its adult education program and shall Regional School Unit No. 22 raise **\$7,617.04** as its share of the adult education budget?

DISTRICT BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Skehan Recreational Center, Hampden
Newburgh Elementary School/Community Building
Leroy H. Smith School, Winterport
Frankfort Town Office**

After the 2022-23 budget is adopted at the June 2 District Budget Meeting, district citizens will then have the opportunity to vote at the polls on June 14 on the following questions:

A sample of the June 14 ballot is outlined below:

SAMPLE BALLOT	STATE OF MAINE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 22 REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE TOWN OF HAMPDEN JUNE 14, 2022	SAMPLE BALLOT
_____ Chair of the School Board		

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:

Vote "yes" or "no" by making a cross (X) or check mark (✓) in the square of your choice at the left of each Question.

Yes	No	Question 1: Do you favor approving the Regional School Unit No. 22 budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the latest Regional School Unit budget meeting?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Yes	No	Question 2: Do you wish to continue the budget validation referendum process in Regional School Unit No. 22 for an additional three years?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

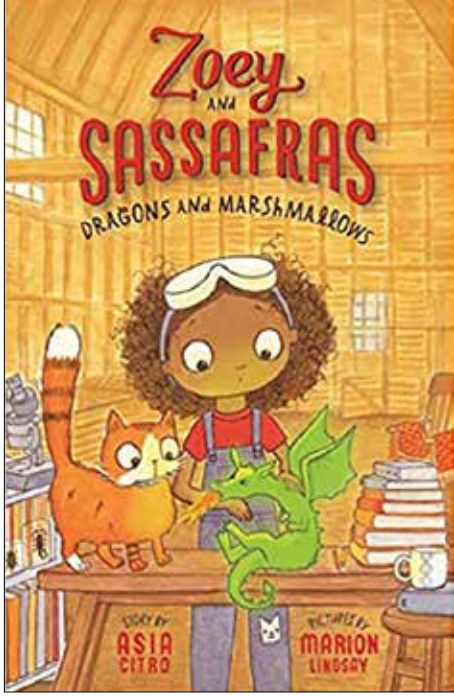
INFORMATIONAL NOTE ON QUESTION 2:

A "YES" vote will require Regional School Unit No. 22 to continue to conduct a referendum to validate its annual school budget for the next three years.

A "NO" vote will discontinue the budget validation referendum for at least three years and provide instead that the annual school budget shall be finally adopted at a meeting of the voters of Regional School Unit No. 22.

Students, parents, staff at McGraw complete 'One School One Book' project

Students, parents, and staff members at Earl C. McGraw School have completed a "One School One Book" project that has left close to a thousand people familiar with the Zoey and her innovative science experiments as described in *Dragons and Marshmallows*



and *Marshmallows*, by Asia Citro. McGraw School Principal Jennifer Nickerson sent a letter and slideshow about the project to McGraw parents, asking them to make time to read the book with their children.

"Reading aloud at home is valuable because it better prepares your child to be an effective reader," she said. "It is also a fun, worthwhile family activity."

Ms. Nickerson said the One School One Book project was designed to build "a community of readers" at McGraw.

"Everyone—students, parents, teachers, even administrative staff—followed along together reading the book," she said. "Each day, students watched a video recording of someone in our community reading a portion of the book and introducing new vocabulary words."

Those videos were posted on the school's Facebook page and on Seesaw, so students and parents could watch them together at home.

The book was divided into 10 sections, so the One School One Book project stretched out over two weeks.



EARL C. MCGRAW SCHOOL
Jennifer Nickerson, Principal, 862-3830



Fire Lieutenant Matt Thomas.



Police Chief Chris Bailey.

Guest readers included Police Chief Chris Bailey, who read to the kids from his cruiser, and Fire Lieutenant/Paramedic Matt Thomas, who read from his fire truck.

The conclusion of the One School

One Book project was celebrated with a family literacy night at McGraw on Thursday, May 26, when all of the students were able to bring home their copies of *Dragons and Marshmallows*.



Sea Dogs Most Improved Students—Grade 1



Sea Dogs Most Improved Students—Kindergarten



Sea Dogs Most Improved Students—Grade 2

28 from McGraw receive Sea Dogs Most Improved Student Awards

McGraw staff nominated 28 students this year for the Sea Dogs Most Improved Student Awards, and the winners were recognized at the All-School Share on April 15th.

Parents/Guardians were invited to the assembly to see their child

get the certificate and a big "Paws Up" from the school.

It is important to note that this selection process is not based solely on academic achievement, and that factors such as development or improvement in behavioral and social

aspects should also be considered. Students received a complimentary ticket to a game.

At the Sea Dogs game against Harrisburg on Sunday, May 22nd, students were honored on the field in a special ceremony prior to the

game (weather permitting), and each student's name appeared on the center field message board.

Congratulations to all the students who were recognized for their hard work this year!

McGraw staff, students, celebrate March Madness with 'Read to Me' books

McGraw staff and students had an interesting challenge to help them get through the March Madness and the first two weeks of April.

They had to determine the best book out of 16 titles that were on the EPIC digital reading platform. Eight of the books were fiction, and eight were non-fiction. All were "Read to Me" books so that all students could access them.

All four grade levels (Pre-K, K, 1, and 2) were given two books a week, and each class voted for the one they liked best.

The votes were tallied each week until Friday, April 15, and McGraw's All-School-

Share, when the top fiction and top non-fiction books were announced.

The fiction titles that the students listened to were: *Goodnight Moon*, *Happy Birthday, Little Hoo!*, *Five Little Monkeys*, *Sheep in a Jeep*, *Frog and Toad are Friends*, *Curious George*, *Nothing Happens in This Book*, and *Pete the Cat and the Pizza Party*. The non-fiction titles were: *Kittens*, *Safari*, *What's the Weather in Spring?*, *Earth, Bugs & Beetles*, *Earth's Changing*

Surface, and *Maps are Flat*.

The fiction winner was *Happy Birthday, Little Hoo!*, while the nonfiction winner was *Kittens*. At the end of the event, *Kittens* came out on top as the overall winner.

Love for Ukraine Fundraiser

On Monday, April 4th, at our morning virtual announcements, we kicked off our fundraiser to support Ukrainian refugees.

One of our core values is "Be Respectful and Kind," and this was a wonderful opportunity

to practice this. We had a blue and yellow bucket to collect coins for the Ukraine refugees. The bucket was held by Mrs. Erickson each morning as students arrived and then remained by the office during the day. 100% of the amount raised goes right to the families!

We wore blue and yellow on April 15th to celebrate the end of the fun-



Mrs. Erickson and some McGraw students take part in the big reveal of how much was raised during our fundraiser.

draiser and revealed our final total at the All-School Share. We raised \$1,520!

There was so much kindness and love shown over these two weeks. Thank you for your support. Because of everyone's generosity, we will be able to sponsor 60 families.

Thank you also to Mrs. Erickson for organizing this opportunity.



RSU 22 Kindergarten 2022-23 School Year Registration

Students are eligible for kindergarten if they will be five years old on or before October 15, 2022

Parents may register eligible students in the town they reside:

Hampden/Newburgh – Earl C. McGraw School, 20 Main Rd. North, Hampden

Winterport/Frankfort- Leroy H. Smith School, 319 South Main St., Winterport

At the time of registration, parents must provide the child's state issued birth certificate (not hospital issued), current immunization records, two forms of proof of residency and a small photograph.

Applications are available online at mcgraw.rsu22.us or smith.rsu22.us. or can be picked up at the schools.

RSU 22 Pre-K 2022-23 School Year Registration

Students are eligible for Pre-K if they will be four years old on or before October 15, 2022

Hampden/Newburgh residents may apply online at RSU22.us or email Dawn Moore (dmoore@rsu22.us) for an application.

Winterport/Frankfort residents: Please contact Melissa Fisk at 505-1076 for an application.

Academic Showcase brings art exhibits to Wagner cafeteria, building hallways

Wagner Middle School held its traditional Academic Showcase on April 5, along with an art show featuring student works that were on display in the cafeteria and throughout the building.

The full-school event was the first to be held since the Covid-19

pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the 5th grade Maine Day project in March 2020.

Principal Nicholas Raymond said the turnout for this year's Academic Showcase was "fantastic."

Depending on the grade level, families were able to view student work



WAGNER MIDDLE SCHOOL
Nicholas Raymond, Principal, 223-4309

ranging from individual projects and assignments to full grade-level projects.

"Our students were very proud to show off their work to everyone they could," Mr. Raymond said. "Many families told us how appreciative they were of the event and how nice it was for them to enter into the building to take part in such a nice and well organized night. Our goals for the evening were to have our students show pride

and excitement in their academics, as well as to provide an opportunity for parents to come in for a stress-free, self-paced event, where they could see all the work that our students have put in this year."

Based on feedback from staff, Mr. Raymond estimated that well over half of the entire student body attended the event with their families.

"All in all, the event was a success and we're hoping to only build upon that for next year," he said.



The Academic Showcase takes over the Wagner Cafeteria

Wagner chess team wins Penobscot Valley tourney

The Wagner Middle School chess team had an outstanding season competing in the Penobscot Valley Middle League.

The team finished the regular season in 4th place but they won the tournament, which was held at Glenburn School in February.

Wagner faced the No. 1 seed, undefeated Glenburn, in the opening round of the tournament. Wagner had lost to Glenburn twice during the regular season, by two points (out of 50) each time. But this time was different. After two rounds (tournament matches consist of three rounds), Glenburn was ahead by two points. But Wagner had a fantastic final round and wound up winning by two points.

The Clippers faced Orono in the championship round, and defeated them by two points.

Parent volunteer coaches Scott Cuddy and Kate Merritt said all of the team members did really well. "I don't want to name any one kid," Scott said. "Everyone got at least one win, which was huge. Several players had two or three wins—it was a total team effort to win the tournament."



Wagner Chess Team at PVML (from left): Harrison Burnham, Asa Wentworth, and Finnegan Cuddy.



The Wagner Chess Team outside of the Glenburn School after they captured the PVML Championship. From left: Franklin McKnight, Brendan Bowie, Sarah Sweeney, Finnegan Cuddy, Parent Volunteer Coach Kate Merritt, Christopher Burnett, Harrison Burnham, and Asa Wentworth.



The Wagner Chess Team at State meet (l. to r.)—Sarah Sweeney, Finnegan Cuddy, Franklin McKnight, Christopher Burnett, Harrison Burnham, Asa Wentworth, and Sawyer Castro.

Art students in Winterport display works at Waterfall Art Gallery

The Art students of Winterport have been involved with several opportunities to show off their artwork.

Throughout the year students are able to display completed works throughout the halls of Smith School and Wagner Middle School, but Spring brings special events that showcase student artworks.

Starting in March, students were featured in the Waterfall Arts Gallery's annual "Young Artists Gallery Takeover." This is a Waldo County event for all students pre-K through high school, where the gallery is filled with art work from these age groups.

Traditionally there is one open house for all schools, but this year each school had the chance to put on their own open house reception.

Smith and Wagner had an open house on March 11, and we had a great turn out for this event. The next event was a virtual art event put on by the Art in the Heart but because in-person exhibits are usually preferred, announcements were sent to families to let them know these works would (also) be part of the Smith and Wagner open house reception at Waterfall Arts Gallery.

The next big opportunity for art students at Wagner came on April 5, when they were included in the Academic Showcase. Every student had



Visitors to the Waterfall Arts Gallery during the reception for Wagner and Smith School artists.



Evie Turner displays artwork at Wagner's Academic Showcase.



Elijah Patterson showing his work at the Waterfall Arts Gallery

the opportunity to present their work; even works that were not completed were available for students to show their works in progress.



Izzy Krummel at Wagner's Academic Showcase.



Cypress Crowe displays artwork at the Academic Showcase.

Wagner Student Council raises \$1,388 through 'Pennies for Paws' coin drive

For its community service project, Wagner Student Council hosted a coin drive called "Pennies for Paws."

Each grade level competed against each other to raise the most money to benefit the Bangor Humane Society. The result was a tremendous outpouring of support, with the Student Council raising a total of \$1,388.63.

Fifth graders led the way with over \$500 raised; their reward was an ice cream party that took place mid-April.

All funds went directly to the Bangor Humane Society to benefit the health and wellness of the ani-

mals there.

A group of Student Council members were able to present a big check to represent the funds raised, as well as some additional donated items, to Kathryn Ravenscraft, Director of Development at Bangor Humane Society.

Student Council members presenting the check were President Hannah Spahr, Communications Director Alice Knapp, Addie Davis, and Izzy Krummel.

After the presentation, the students toured the building and spent a bit of time visiting the animals who are waiting for their forever homes.



Student Council members Alice Knapp (Communication Director), Hannah Spahr (President), Addie Davis, and Izzy Krummel present a check for \$1,388.63 to Kathryn Ravenscraft, Director of Development at Bangor Humane Society.



The Wagner Jazz Band.



The Wagner Jazz Band performing on stage.

Wagner Jazz Band, Show Choir earn Silver awards at MMEA festivals

After a 3 year hiatus from live state competitions, the Wagner Jazz Band and Show Choir have had the opportunity to participate in the MMEA's State Jazz Festival again this year.

With incredible obstacles, such as performing outside only, putting instruments in bags with hand slots, slotted masks, bell covers, and performing 6 feet apart, it is such a relief to be back to normal.

The Wagner Jazz Band competed at the MMEA State Jazz Festival at Hampden Academy on February 18. They performed a Latin, Swing, and Fusion piece which included many soloists. Four student soloists earned Superior solo awards for their work, including:

- Franklin McKnight, 6th grade, alto sax
- Caleb Shaw, 7th grade, alto sax
- Sawyer Castro-Long, 7th grade, trumpet
- Jericho Smith, 8th grade, trumpet)

In addition to these awards, Franklin McKnight's solo performance earned him one of the five Outstanding Musicianship Awards for the afternoon sessions, a very esteemed award.

In any given year, there would be 32 to 40 middle school jazz bands performing at the state level. Clearly, Covid has left a mark, as there were only 14 middle school groups scheduled to perform this year.

Wagner Middle School has been blessed to have a dedicated and skilled music staff and a hard-working and forethinking staff and administration to keep the Music Department moving forward over these last 3 years.

Three RSU 22 groups—the Wagner Jazz Band and the Reeds Brook and Hampden Academy jazz groups—earned Silver distinctions at the festival. This represents attain-



Franklin McKnight received one of five Outstanding Musicianship Awards for his solo.

ing a score of 90-94 out of 100 points. No Gold distinctions were awarded at the middle school level, indicating that the RSU 22 Jazz Program obtained excellent results with their determined and dedicated students.

Wagner Jazz Band members: flute - Charity Parks; saxes - Franklin McKnight, Caleb Shaw, Caroline Gerry, Joel Brinz, and Kolby Hardy; trumpets - Sawyer Castro-Long, Jericho Smith, Gus Gustafson, and Mason Worden; trombone - Zebulon Rogers and Zoelle Raymond; rhythm section - Alex Frank (piano), Sylvia Ruge (keyboard bass), Hayden Wilbur (drums), and Silas Adamo (drums).

Show Choir:

The Wagner Show Choir was excited to get back to performing this year after not competing at the MMEA State Jazz Festival for three years.



The Wagner Show Choir in their Tick Tock shirts.

Their show, called Tick Tock, featured songs about time, including the 1950's song, "Rock Around the Clock"; a well-received 1980's version of the Judds' song, "Grandpa"; and concluding with a recently released song, "It's Time."

With their clock-adorned black t-shirts, they showed their singing and choreography skills to the judges at Stearns High School in Millinocket on April 2.

The show featured only one soloist, Mason Worden, grade-6. His solo performance garnered a Superior rating distinction.

Wagner Show Choir members are Harrison Burnham, Ryann Carlisle, Romeo Chabre, Leann Foster, Caroline Gerry, Joey Goode, Jayden Jewell, Annie Jordan, Franklin McKnight, Samantha Megno, Dresden Sherwood, Hannah Thompson, Charlotte Welch, and Mason Worden.

Incredibly, the two RSU 22 middle school vocal music programs were able to attain some of the highest scores for this festival.

Usually, there are up to 16 middle school show choirs involved. This year only 9 middle school show choirs performed. The Wagner Middle School Show Choir earned a Silver distinction, scoring within a point of a Gold distinction.

What is most amazing is that due to the smaller number of groups, all three RSU 22 show choirs ended up in the same performance space, with the same judges and on the same day, earning scores within 1.3 points of each other—with Reeds Brook and Hampden Academy earning a Gold ratings and Wagner earning a Silver rating. This was a great indicator of the musical excellence and consistency across the district.

* * *

Congratulations to both the Jazz Band and the Show Choir on their determination and excellence, representing themselves, Wagner Middle School, and our district.

Both groups are directed by Dana F. Ross, and choreography design for the Show Choir was created with help from Stephanie Erb.



The Milken Educator Award includes a cash prize. But how much? Students hold up cards representing the amount. When Maine Department of Education Deputy Commissioner Dan Chuhta holds up a third zero, the children start to whisper to each other. That makes \$25,000!



Milken Educator Awards Vice President Stephanie Bishop (right) congratulates Hillary Hoyt. "Hillary is a leader, both in her classroom and in her community," she said.

Hillary Hoyt receives \$25,000 Milken Educator Award

(Continued from page 1)

ents are heralded while early to mid-career for what they have achieved—and for the promise of what they will accomplish given the resources and opportunities inherent in the Award.

"Hillary Hoyt's passion and dedication to her students, school, and community is truly awe inspiring," said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin. "Her interdisciplinary teaching approach engages and excites her students and fosters a love of learning. Hillary is a trusted mentor and a leader in sharing her innovation and creativity with other educators. She also finds ways to support students and families beyond her classroom, whether as a dance instructor or providing free books to children over the summer. The Maine Department of Education is so proud to join the Milken Family

Deborah Collins to retire

Ms. Deborah Collins will retire at the end of this school year. She has spent 40 years in the field of education, the last 23 years with RSU 22.

Her initial duties for RSU 22 included teaching special education at Weatherbee, Newburgh, and McGraw. For the past six years, she has focused her knowledge and skills in systematic reading instruction to support literacy interventions at both Smith and McGraw.



Originally from Connecticut, Ms. Collins received her Bachelor's degree from Southern Connecticut State University and her Master's degree from the University of Maine.

Her first teaching position was in Gorham, NH. She moved to Maine in 1986 and has taught in Fryeburg, Warren, Bangor, and Frankfort, and also at the Montessori School in Bangor.

She lives in Hampden with her husband Dr. Christopher Healy. Their son, Ian Heyse, and his partner, Annick McIntosh, are expecting their first child in September. Deb is looking forward to spending time with her new grandchild.

Retirement, according to Ms. Collins, will provide her boundless opportunities for new adventures, some of which include traveling abroad, exploring our beautiful state of Maine and taking up spelunking.

Foundation and the entire RSU 22 community in honoring Hillary with this well-deserved recognition."

A spokesman for the Milken Foundation praised Ms. Hoyt for her commitment to creativity, her focus on the individual needs of her students, her service as a mentor, and her enthusiasm for extracurricular activities.

- **Commitment to Creativity:** Ms. Hoyt's unique lessons help her third graders build skills for their future success. During her "Million-Dollar Project," students learned about financing and interest rates as they took out "loans" to buy a house and car, save for college, and fund their day-to-day expenses.

Ms. Hoyt set up a section of her classroom as a winter wonderland where students could earn time in the ice rink, ice shack and snow mountain by demonstrating good citizenship, according to expectations the children developed together.

Ms. Hoyt also goes to great lengths to hold students' interest, whether by dressing as a dinosaur when leading a unit on prehistoric life or transforming her room into the sea, with students as jellyfish.

On the day when she received the Milken award, she was dressed as Tigger as part of Smith School's Readathon celebration and book character day—when everyone celebrates all the incredible reading the students have done by dressing up as their favorite book character!

- **Prioritizes Children's Individual Needs:** Ms. Hoyt's lessons stress innovation, collaboration and independent thinking, encouraging students to tap their imaginations even as they learn important executive functioning skills. She does whatever is necessary to prioritize children's learning needs.

Ms. Hoyt digs through data to track student progress, making quick plans to differentiate and reteach those who need extra help, and adding enrichment for those who are ready for more.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Hoyt has flipped her classroom and incorporated new technology, including Flipgrid, Jamboard, Google Classroom and video production. Her students continuously demonstrate growth on state assessments and learn to love education.

- **Serves as Mentor, Leader:** Ms. Hoyt is the elementary science teacher leader for RSU 22 and has served on district and school



LEROY H. SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Dawn Moore, Principal, 223-4282

committees for math, writing and reading, as well as a state committee writing ELA standards.

She mentors student teachers and has worked with colleagues to make a series of math videos in preparation for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Ms. Hoyt has attended the summer teacher academy at Schoodic Institute, worked on science curriculum with the University of Maine's RISE Center, and published lessons on the Maine Department of Education's MOOSE platform, which offers asynchronous learning modules for educators, students and families. She also delivered a lesson on weather and natural disasters for The Learning Space, a collaboration between educators and Maine Public Television aimed at students who lack internet access.

- **Enthusiasm for Extracurriculars:** A leader in the Leroy H. Smith community, Ms. Hoyt provides free books to students each summer through a partnership with Literacy Volunteers of Maine and Darling's Ice Cream for a Cause. Her class designs a table based on an author they are studying for the annual Literacy Tea of Bangor.

Ms. Hoyt played an integral part in WinterKids, which promoted

winter outdoor activities for families, and chaired the school's Family Fun Night. Outside of school, she teaches cheer and dance to college students and children, including Girl Scouts working on their dance badges.

- **"We find you. You don't find us!"** Unlike most teacher recognition programs, the Milken Educator Awards initiative has no formal nomination or application process. Candidates are sourced through a confidential selection process and then reviewed by blue ribbon panels in each state. The most exceptional candidates are recommended for the award, with final selection made by the Milken Family Foundation. The \$25,000 cash award is unrestricted. Recipients have used the money in diverse ways. For instance, some have spent the funds on their children's or their own continuing education, financing dream field trips, establishing scholarships, and even adopting children.

Ms. Hoyt is the first recipient to receive the award while serving as a teacher in RSU 22. However, Mary Giard, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for RSU 22, was a Milken Award winner in 1992 when she was teaching first grade at Abraham Lincoln School in Bangor.



WINTERKIDS AWARD—Smith School students gather around as the school receives the Bronze Award for WinterKids 2022—and a check for \$5,000.



Glow Party Celebration for the Read-a-thon success

Smith School's 4-week Read-a-thon a success

Do you enjoy reading?
Students at Leroy H. Smith school sure do!

From March 14th to April 7th students participated in an annual Read-a-thon event!

During this time students collected pledges from sponsors in order to raise money for Smith School. At the same time, they could also earn a chance to win a new bike!

The bikes were generously donated by members of Howard Lodge #69 of Winterport. For every ten minutes of reading, students received a ticket for the bike drawing! During this month of reading, students read a combined total of 75,796 minutes!

Students raised \$2,700 dollars in pledges from sponsors to help their school. Not only did Howard Lodge donate the bikes, they also made a generous donation of \$1,500 for us to use to get students what they

need. We can't thank them enough for their generosity!

At the end of the Read-A-Thon, students had the opportunity to dress as their favorite book character for a day! It was fun to see what characters and costumes students came up with. Many staff members all joined in the fun.

* * *

At a fun whole-school assembly before April break, two student names from each grade were drawn at random to win a new bike! During this exciting event all students were rewarded with a chance to celebrate their success with a glow party! Students were all given glow bracelets and had the opportunity to participate in a whole-school Dance Freeze game as well as have some fun with glow balloons.

It was a great way to celebrate all of their amazing reading during the month!



Members of Howard Lodge#69 present bikes to student winners



A few book character costumes

What has Smith School been up to?

Whew!

What a year!

Smith School staff and families have successfully nearly completed a full, in-person year of school.

We are so proud of our staff and community for working together to provide an enriching education while keeping everyone safe. A big shout out to ALL staff and families for their efforts, diligence, and patience.

This year, grant funding allowed us to provide outdoor spaces for learning and fun, more cafeteria tables for spacing and safety, and items to support hands on learning with individual materials.

Our students persevered through the year with grace and compassion. Smith School is proud to be who we are!

We are excited (and hopeful) to have parental involvement skyrocket next year as we open up for volunteering, mentoring, and events.

* * *

In **TECHNOLOGY** class, students have been using ChatterPix on their iPads to make things in nature come to life... making eve trees sing and the flowers talk and they can do it under the comfort of the new outdoor classroom area!

* * *

KINDERGARTEN learned all about plants! They learned about the parts of a plant, what a plant needs to survive and the life cycle of a plant. They even planted their own grass seed and are having fun watching it grow!

* * *

FIRST GRADERS have been busy learning about and writing poems! We have learned about many types of poems, including: Acrostic, Shape, Free Verse, Rebus, What am I?, Color, and Sight Word poems. Students have had fun hearing and trying out each type of poem!

We have also learned about a variety of poetry features, such as: Line Breaks, Repeated Lines/Words, and Onomatopoeia.

First and second graders in Mrs. Kenney's reading group have been practicing spelling



their sight words. Words were written in shaving cream on the tables. Such fun!

* * *

SECOND GRADERS are learning about the parts of a plant and what a plant needs to grow. They germinated a green bean seed and finally planted it into soil. They sure do have green thumbs!

* * *

THIRD GRADERS recently learned about weather and climate. They learned about natural disasters and how they can use the engineering process to help solve problems caused by these disasters.

* * *

FOURTH GRADERS have been learning how to read and write poetry. They have learned how to create haiku, tanka, cinquain, and riddle poems. The students have put all their hard work into creating a "Poet Tree!"

They also made Geometry Projects! They choose between making a Geometry City out of any materials they wanted, making a Geometry Board Game with questions cards with various levels of difficulty, writing a Geometry Story, recording a Geometry Video, or coming up with their own idea to share all of the vocabulary they had learned.

Weatherbee 4th grader's Revolutionary War essay honors Abigail Adams for 'advising her husband with confidence'



GEORGE B. WEATHERBEE SCHOOL
Jennifer Cyr, Principal
862-3254

By Grace Hallett, 4th grade Weatherbee School

In fourth grade at Weatherbee, we have been learning about the Revolutionary War. I personally loved this unit, so I will share some of the things we did in this article.

We had a mentor text called *Liberty: How the Revolutionary War Began*. Almost every day, we would listen to a section of this book.

My favorite section was "Women At War." It told about how women were involved in the revolution.

As we listened, we did something called a sketch note. A sketch note is when we draw and write what we are thinking about during that section. Then, when we meet with Mrs. Randall, we all share our sketch notes to help our understanding.

We also chose our favorite sketch notes and we hung them up on the bulletin board outside our classroom.

* * *

We also wrote down a bunch of important things that happened during the revolution, and we chose our favorite top three events or people. Then Mrs. Randall chose one of them for us to research, and she gave me Benjamin Franklin. Then, we made a Google slide where we could store all of our information about our topic. We researched with tons of books!

Our unit connected to our next writing unit. We are writing an informational book about our Revolutionary War topic. For example, I am now writing an informational book about Benjamin Franklin. We took a few more notes using the kid-safe search engine Kiddle. We added those notes to our Google slides for some more information. Once we had enough information, we started writing our informational books.

Then, our reading unit again connected to something else. My reading GT (gifted and talented) unit had a section called Women of the Revolutionary War, where we had to choose one important woman from the revolution, research her, and do three things: a wanted poster, a thought bubble, and a

Rally, Mohawks!

British carried 40,000 pounds of tea.

people selling tea may bankrupt soon. Fewer people are buying it.

The people dumped loose tea overboard.

Groups of colonists dressed up as Indians.

There was a song about the Boston Tea Party.

Who: Groups of colonists, British redcoats attacking American colonists.

Where: Redcoats sailed across the ocean, where the Boston Tea party took place in.

When: December 16 1773 British redcoats sailed to Boston Harbor.

"newspaper article"

I chose Abigail Adams. I think she is awesome because she advised her husband with confidence!

Our unit has been awesome, and

it's probably my favorite unit ever! We had tons of connections, and it was really cool! I hope this article showed you that this unit is awesome, and that you believe that too!

Sketching History

Loabster backs

The drums they were drumming No one like loabster backs on redcoats had family with them in battles redcoats were called loabster back cause of their uniform

redcoats were under paid had to have clean clothes had to have clean boots or they would be whipped Smelled very bad cause the animal grease they put on

They made there family come there Wifes had to cook or wash wounded men

- Sorry
- redcoats outfits looked good but it didn't feel good

Weatherbee celebrates Maine Day with Lynn Plourde, Chris Van Dusen

Children's author Lynn Plourde kicked off our Maine Day celebration on Friday, March 11th and engaged students in creating their own Maine story.

Lynn is a native Mainer who frequently uses her home state for inspiration when writing, including her book, *Happy Birthday, Maine!* This was particularly poignant as she was scheduled to be our keynote speaker in 2019. Due to the pandemic, we had to postpone the event. Students enjoyed their interactive sessions with our accom-



plished author.

We continued our 202nd celebra-

tion on Maine's birthday, which featured a Maine-themed scavenger

hunt, grade level presentations from the Schoodic Education Association on ecosystems, amphibians, and Acadia's top ten.

Students participated in a live presentation with author and illustrator, Chris Van Dusen, and many students contributed to our very own "Maine's Got Talent" show entitled, "Just a Kid From Maine."

We are so grateful to our volunteers from Hampden Academy, Home Depot, and wonderful parents who made the day such a success.

3rd graders write to Hampden town officials

In Torrie Nightingale's third grade class, one of the Social Studies units focuses on Civics and Government. As a part of this unit, students learned about the different departments that make up their local government.

Students learned about the Mayor and City Council, City Clerk, City Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works, The Public Library, Planning Department, The Fire Department, and the Police Department.

As part of their learning, they read about the responsibilities and duties of each department and then wrote letters to members of each department to share what they learned and ask questions!

As of mid-May, students had received responses from Mayor Ivan McPike, the Town Manager, Town Clerk, the Fire and Police Departments, the Edythe Dyer Community Library, and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Town of Hampden
106 Western Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444



Phone: (207) 862-3034
Fax: (207) 862-5067
Email: mcpiketowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov

Dear

Thank you for your letter asking about my job as the Mayor of Hampden.

The Mayor is a councilor that is elected by the town council every year. You can be the Mayor as long as the council will elect you. The Mayor is the person responsible for running the council meetings.

The councilors are responsible for making the laws for our town. Most of our laws are called ordinances. The budget is first developed by the town workers and then presented to the council. It is the council responsibility to make any changes and then pass it as law. Our town does have a lawyer that we use as necessary. Our lawyer works in Bangor and is available when needed.

I hope this explains the town government and what the Mayor does.

Sincerely yours

Ivan McPike
Mayor



'Girls on the Run' at Weatherbee

Girls on the Run (GOTR) is a program for girls in grades 3 to 5 that integrates physical activity and running with discussions aimed to build each girl's social, emotional, and physical skills.

The team practices two-times per week for eight weeks. While training for a season-ending 5K, GOTR's ultimate goal is to help girls recognize and embrace their inner strength.

If you want to learn more about the Girls on the Run program please visit: girlsontherunmaine.org

Weatherbee team wins Maine Scholastic Grand Prix Chess trophy

The Chess Clubs at George B. Weatherbee School has done very well this year, winning the first place trophy for elementary schools in the Maine Scholastic Grand Prix Chess League.

The Bobcats earned 61.5 points for the season, with their closest opponent at 26.5 points. These points are awarded, based on our top 5 scorers of the season. They earn a point by winning a game. A draw counts as a half point.

The Maine Scholastic Grand Prix Chess season starts at the beginning of October, on National Chess Day, and lasts until mid March. Both the Weatherbee and Reeds Brook chess teams attended all tournaments in the schedule, along with two state tourneys at the end of the season.

Besides attending every tournament, the Weatherbee chess players practiced diligently. On almost every Saturday, when they didn't have tournaments, both the Weatherbee and Reeds Brook chess teams went to Reeds Brook for 2½ hour practice sessions. They also played on [chess.com](https://www.chess.com) during the week.

Michael Dudley, President of Maine Scholastic Chess, said the two RSU 22 teams were an example of how chess teams should operate because they were the only two teams that attended all the tournaments.

* * *

The 2021-22 Weatherbee School Bobcats Chess Team members were: Avery Zhang, Eli-



L to R, in front: Harrison Pennell, Derrick Johnson, Braddock Stansauk, Laith Abdelsalam, Eli Marquis, Erika Synder, Elijah Amon, Avery Zhang. Rear: Michael Dudley (president of Maine Scholastic Chess), Coach David Bishop.



Coach Bishop receiving the 1st place trophy for the Elementary K-5, Maine Scholastic Grand Prix League. (holding back the tears)

jah Amon, Owen Barnes, Grayson Bailey, Laith Abdelsalam, Erika Snyder, Braddock Stansauk, Harrison Pennell, Derrick Johnson, Ryan Acosta, Eli Marquis, and Owen Isenhour. The top five scorers on a team determine the team score.

Out of 85 elementary school players in Maine, the top 5 Weatherbee Grand Prix scorers were: Avery Zhang, 1st with 18 points; Braddock Stansauk, 4th with 14 points; Grayson Bailey, 7th with 10.5 points; Owen Isenhour, 8th with 10 points; and Laith Abdelsalam, 9th with 9 points.

Derrick Johnson did not get entered into the database for the Grand Prix Scoring, although he had 19 points.



Weatherbee's Avery Zhang, up a piece in the middle game.



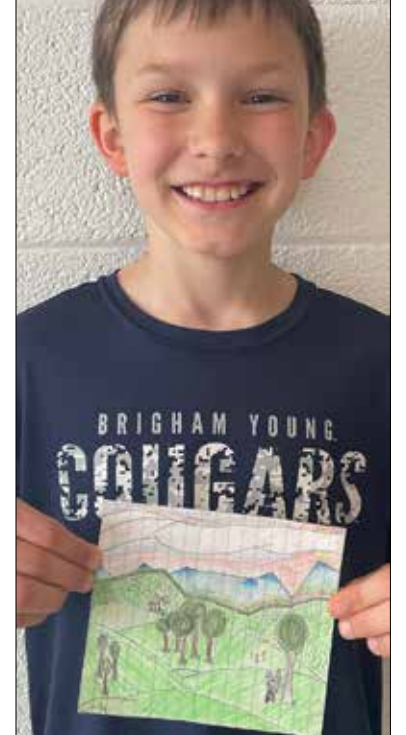
Allyson Clement - African elephant population.



Sage Bailey - The change in wolf population in Yellowstone National Park.



Kelsey Ball - A work in progress, depicts the increase in Wildfires in CA



Zachary Valentine - Reports black bear and moose harvests in Maine from 2010-2021.



Bella Dean - Tells the story of the increase in reports of marine mammal disease as our oceans become more and more unhealthy.

Weatherbee 5th graders combine math, science, art with Artist and Science Communicator Jill Pelto

Fifth Graders at Weatherbee had the wonderful opportunity to meet virtually with Artist & Science Communicator Jill Pelto.

Jill combines her love of science with art to "tell the story" of important environmental issues. Jill studied Science at the University of Maine, has conducted research in places like Antarctica and the Falkland Islands, and now lives in Washington state. She frequently shares her process with students throughout Maine, and also worked with Ms. Richardson in 2018.

Prior to Jill's visit, Ms. Richardson and Ms. Marvin worked collaboratively to develop and introduce a cross-curricular project based on Jill's

work. Fifth graders learned how to interpret various data and graphs, conduct research on topics of personal interest and concern, collect their own data, and then use that data to create graphs/art that illustrate environmental problems and changes over time.

Students researched topics such as coral bleaching, sea rise in Maine coastal waters, the increase of wildfires in California, changes in the Maine lobster industry, and many more. This multi-week project culminated in a museum walk and art exhibition for the entire Weatherbee community.

This collaboration gave students the opportunity to apply math, science, and art in a unique and creative new way! The results are amazing!



Jill Pelto working on the Rainbow Glacier, Mt. Baker, WA, with the North Cascade Glacier Climate Project



Summer Meals

We plan to offer dine in free meals at Leroy H. Smith School during the summer.

The meals will be served in July in conjunction with summer school.

Details will be coming out in end of the year school newsletters and will be available on the school nutrition section of the RSU 22 school website.

Farm to School Initiatives

School Nutrition continues to increase local purchasing and has utilized all the local food funds available to us.

George B. Weatherbee school featured a Maine menu for lunch. The students enjoyed homemade Maine beef stew and a delicious wild Maine blueberry cobbler.



Maine DOE

Farm-to-School Cook-off

Chef Brian Ross and Hampden Academy Senior Becca Demmons came in first place in the regional cook off and second place in the Department of Education School Nutrition Farm to School Cook-off on April 26 in Augusta.

The local challenge ingredients were buckwheat flour, which was utilized in a Dutch-boy pancake for a breakfast meal, and Maine beets, which were utilized in a beet pesto pasta for the lunch meal.

School Year 2022-2023: Free Meals

School meals for all are funded for next school year. This means breakfast and lunch are part of a student's school day at no charge.

Applications for free and reduced meals still need to be filled out to help with the funding.



DROP EVERYTHING AND READ—In observance of Drop Everything and Read Day (April 12th), Samantha Anderson's 5th grade class built forts for independent reading!

School Gardens and Orchard

By Brittany Layman

Spring is in full swing and that means the school gardens are coming to life. Last Fall students from the Hampden Academy Key Club added yellow tulip bulbs to our Hope Garden located at Reeds Brook Middle School. The tulips are beginning to bloom and are beautiful. The Hope Garden was planted to bring awareness to youth mental health. If you would like to know about the Yellow Tulip Project please visit www.theyellowtulipproject.org.

We are excited to finally have our new greenhouse at the Leroy Smith School up and running. Three large raised beds are being installed and the greenhouse will host cucumbers, green peppers, melons and cut flowers this summer. The garden club, under the supervision of Mrs. Patterson is going to help with the planting and the students are very excited to use this new outdoor space.

Our orchards, across the district, are doing

incredibly well and we are looking forward to the harvest of peaches, pears, and apples. Mr. Plaisted, PE teacher at Weatherbee, and his students worked hard this winter pruning the apple trees. We hope that this will improve the yield and Mr. Plaisted will have plenty of apples to use for his cider press in the fall.

A very special thank you to our garden supporters: Erickson's Hardware, Coast of Maine Organic Products, ReTreeUs and Maine Agriculture in the Classroom. Without their financial support we wouldn't have the thriving school garden program we have now. To continue to grow our program we are looking for volunteers to water, weed and maintain our garden spaces in Hampden and Winterport. If you are interested in helping out or would like to learn more please reach out to Brittany Layman via email at blayman@rsu22.us or visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RSU22garden>.

Together we can grow great minds!

School Health and Safety

The 2022-2023 year will bring a renewed focus on student and staff wellbeing along with enhancements to our Comprehensive School Safety Plan. We will build upon our current framework to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students to learn.

In an effort to improve a sense of belonging for our military connected students RSU 22 will begin pursuing the Purple Star Designation through the Maine Department of Education. The Purple Star School Program is designed to help schools respond to the educational and social emotional challenges military connected children face during their transition to a new school or during times of deployment and keep them on track to be college, workforce and life

ready. We will work with partners from the Maine National Guard and the Family Readiness Program to offer resources and professional development to our school community. We are excited to begin this journey.

As the 2021-2022 school year draws to a close I want to thank the RSU 22 community for their commitment to the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and community as large. I would also like to thank the Health Services team for their dedication to the success of RSU 22 over the last 2 years. It took a strong team to navigate the twists and turns. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

— Brittany Layman, RN

Health and Wellness Coordinator

Hampden Academy Students Go to Orlando for the Special Olympics USA Games

By Andrea Lee

There is more excitement in the world of Special Olympics for our students and community of RSU 22!

The 2022 Special Olympics USA Games are taking place in Orlando, Florida, this June. The Special Olympics USA Games will unite more than 5,500 athletes and coaches from all 50 states and the Caribbean. About 125,000 spectators will attend one of the country's most cherished sporting events.

We all have reasons to shine. For Special Olympics athletes, one of those reasons is the love of sport. Special Olympics athletes display remarkable abilities not only on the field, but also in all areas of life. By celebrating their dedication and perseverance, we become champions for a more inclusive world.

The state of Maine is sending a delegation of 48 people consisting of athletes, coaches, unified partners, caddies and more. RSU 22 will be rep-

resented with both students and staff as well as former students and community members.

The current students representing Hampden Academy are juniors, Benjamin Kristal and Selina Turgeon, along with their mentor, community member Andrea Turgeon. This group will be focused on the Youth Leadership aspect of the games.

Andrea Lee, PE and Adapted Physical Education teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School, will be attending the games with sophomore Evan King, a student at Hampden Academy, along with Charlie Austin, a sophomore at Brunswick High School, for the US Youth Ambassador program.

Other members of the RSU 22 community are Eric McVay and Caitlyn Gunn, who will compete in athletics; Cailynn Goss and Colby Gott, who will compete in swimming; and Mrs. Lee's husband, Brian Lee, who will serve as Head Golf coach.

You can follow along with the USA games by downloading the 2022 USA Games app.