

## **A message from MSAD 35 MAINE**

### **Budget Update**

On May 6, 2020, after several budget workshops, the Superintendent presented the final budget to the School Board for their approval. The overall budget called for total expenditures \$32,315,730 or a 1.09% increase over the prior year.

The budget presented on May 6, 2020, calls for an overall tax assessment increase of 1.94%, with the same 1.94% tax assessment increase for both South Berwick and Eliot.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District's budget schedule and process have also been significantly altered. Originally, the District Budget Meeting was to be held on May 13, 2020, and the District Budget Validation Referendum was to be held on June 9, 2020.

Governor Mills has issued several executive orders which have changed our budget process. District Budget Meetings are not required this year due to Executive Order 56 which was issued on June 4, 2020. With the safety and well-being of our meeting participants at the forefront of our decision-making process, the District has elected to hold a remote public hearing rather than our in-person the District Budget meeting in accordance with Executive Order 56. This remote public hearing will be held on June 17, 2020, where the school board will hear and answer questions on the budget, but a formal District Budget Meeting will not be held on the 2020-2021 Budget.

The District Budget Validation Referendum will now be called the District Budget Referendum and will be held at the traditional voting places on July 14, 2020.

To participate in our Remote Public Hearing on the District Budget, the link to the meeting will be on the District's website at [www.rsu35.org](http://www.rsu35.org). The Remote Public Hearing will be held on June 17, 2020 at 7 pm.

We encourage everyone to attend the Remote Public Hearing on June 17, 2020, and to vote on the School Budget on July 14, 2020!