

**Warrant for Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) District Budget Meeting
(20-A M.R.S.A. §1482-A)**

To: Stacie Field, a resident of Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) composed of the Towns of Mechanic Falls, Minot, and Poland, in the State of Maine.

Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of each of the municipalities within Regional School Unit Sixteen (16), namely the Towns of Mechanic Falls, Minot, and Poland, qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the **Auditorium of Poland Regional High School**, 1457 Maine Street, Poland, Maine, in the said Town of Poland, on Tuesday, the 20th day of May, A.D. 2025 beginning at six PM to act on articles 1 through 20 of this warrant to wit:

ARTICLE 1A: To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11 AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

ARTICLE 1: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$11,470,109.00 for **Regular Instruction?**

ARTICLE 2: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$6,536,820.00 for **Special Education?**

ARTICLE 3: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$8,218.00 for **Career and Technical Education?**

ARTICLE 4: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$637,151.00 for **Other Instruction?**

ARTICLE 5: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$2,761,981.00 for **Student and Staff Support?**

ARTICLE 6: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$742,755.00 for **System Administration?**

ARTICLE 7: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$1,738,609.00 for **School Administration?**

ARTICLE 8: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$2,124,263.00 for **Transportation and Buses?**

ARTICLE 9: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$3,455,567.00 for **Facilities Maintenance?**

ARTICLE 10: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$401,608.00 for **Debt Service and Other Commitments?**

ARTICLE 11: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend \$8,579.00 for **All Other Expenditures?**

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Actions pursuant to Articles 12 through 14 must be taken by recorded vote

ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 14 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 12: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) appropriate \$22,821,542.00 for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) raise \$9,554,938.00 and assess the amounts set forth below as each municipality'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 in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688? (Recommend amounts set forth below):

Total appropriated (by municipality)	Total raised (district assessments by municipality)
<i>Poland</i> (\$10,769,486.00)	<i>Poland</i> (\$6,323,056.00)
<i>Mechanic Falls</i> (\$6,431,110.00)	<i>Mechanic Falls</i> (\$1,452,512.00)
<i>Minot</i> (\$5,620,946.00)	<i>Minot</i> (\$1,779,370.00)
<u>RSU 16 Total Appropriated (\$22,821,542.00)</u>	<u>RSU 16 Total Raised (\$9,554,938.00)</u>

Explanation: Regional School Unit Sixteen (16)'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 is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the district must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

ARTICLE 13: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) raise and appropriate \$401,608.00 for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the legislative body 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 school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12?

Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the district'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 voters or other legislative body.

ARTICLE 14: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) raise and appropriate \$5,342,022.00 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$4,852,169.00 as required to fund the budget recommended by the RSU 16 Board of Directors?

The RSU 16 Board of Directors recommends \$5,342,022.00 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$4,852,169.00. This amount is needed to cover costs of RSU 16 schools that the State's funding model does not recognize and has reduced/eliminated from the funding formula.

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Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above Regional School Unit Sixteen (16)'s local 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 that will help achieve RSU 16's budget for educational programs.

ARTICLE 15 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 15: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) authorize the RSU 16 Board of Directors to expend \$29,885,660.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 from Regional School Unit Sixteen (16)'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?

Explanation: A school administrative unit must include a summary article indicating the total annual budget for funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 in Regional School Unit Sixteen (16). The amount must be the gross budget of the school system. This article does not provide money unless the other articles are approved.

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

ARTICLE 16: To see if Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) will appropriate \$422,800.00 for Adult Education and raise \$130,000.00 as the local share for the year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of the Adult Education Program?

ARTICLES 17 - 18 TO RAISE AND AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

ARTICLE 17: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to raise \$543,000.00 for the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 18: Shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend up to \$600,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund?

ARTICLES 19 - 20 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 19: In the event that Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) receives more state education subsidy than amount included in its budget, shall the Board of Directors be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the Board of

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Directors, increase the allocation of finances in a reserve fund approved by the Board of Directors and/or decrease the local cost share expectation, as defined in Title 20-A, section 15671-A(1)(B), for local property taxpayers for funding public education as approved by the Board of Directors?

Recommended: Tax relief 100%, increased expenditures 0%, CIP Reserve 0%


Explanation: In 2016 the Legislature passed a bill that allows a school district to include an article in the warrant for its annual budget meeting that says in the event the district receives more state subsidy than expected, the Board of Directors can, without a special budget meeting and budget validation referendum: increase expenditures for school purposes in approved cost centers; decrease the local tax rate for education; or increase reserves. The law addresses the problem that typically happens every two years when the Legislature, late in the session, passes the state budget after districts have approved their budgets at the local level based on GPA estimates.

ARTICLE 20: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall Regional School Unit Sixteen (16) be authorized to expend funds that may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Given under our hands this 14th day of April, 2025:



Mary Martin, Chair



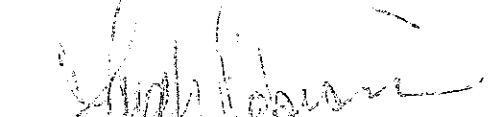
Christina DeSantis

Melanie Harvey



Randy Lautz

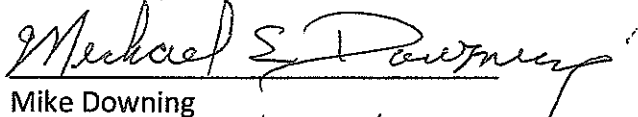
Joe Parent



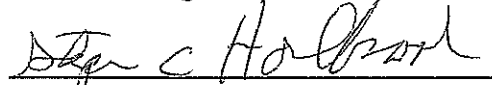
Sarah Robinson



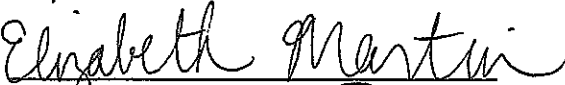
Patrick Irish, Vice Chair




Mike Downing




Stephen Holbrook



Elizabeth Martin



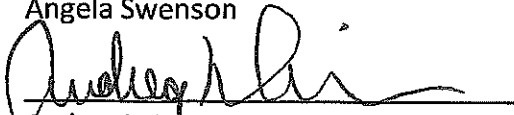
Emily Rinchich



Jessica Smith

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Angela Swenson



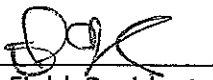
Andrea Winh



Steve Turner

A majority of the Board of Directors, Regional School Unit Sixteen (16)

ATTEST: A True Copy



Stacie Field, Resident
Regional School Unit Sixteen (16)