

New School Budget Approval Process Mandated by State of Maine

Beginning this year, all school district budgets must be approved by voters using a two-step approval process that includes both a budget meeting and a referendum. In addition, different warrant articles, other than those used by our communities in the past, must be used. The legally required new process is as follows:

Budget Meeting

- CSDs and SADs are required to hold a District Budget Meeting on the 3rd day, other than a Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday, prior to the scheduled referendum. This requirement means that MSAD #28 (K-8) will hold its Budget Meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Camden Hills Regional High School gymnasium. The Five Town CSD (9-12) will hold its Budget Meeting the same evening and at the same location, but its meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m.
- If the MSAD #28 Budget Meeting is not completed by the start of the Five Town CSD Budget Meeting, it will have to be suspended until 10:00 p.m.
- If the Five Town CSD Budget Meeting is not completed by 10:00 p.m., it will have to be suspended until after the MSAD #28 completes its meeting (probably close to 11:00 p.m.)
- Voters will be asked to approve the following six cost center warrant articles by a show of hands:
 - Kindergarten to Grade 8 instruction (MSAD #28) or Grade 9 – Grade 12 instruction (Five Town CSD)
 - Instructional support
 - Leadership
 - Operations
 - Transportation
 - Other Commitments
- Plus the following standard articles:
 - Additional Local
 - Total Budget

- The Five Town CSD voters will also be asked to approve the following additional warrant articles by a show of hands:
 - Vocational Education
 - Adult Education
 - Capital Improvement Account
- In both districts, voters will also be asked to approve by secret ballot an amount for additional local funds.

Referendum

- The referendum will be held as always on the State Referendum day on Tuesday, June 10, 2008.
- This year, at the polls, voters will be asked to approve only **ONE** warrant article: Do you approve the budget that was approved at the Budget Meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2008. This warrant article will **NOT** include any monetary figures.
- Results from the Budget Meeting with the approved amounts for voters to review will be posted at the polling sites, **NOT** in the polling booths.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots for the School Budget referendum can only be accepted at town offices from Friday, June 6 through Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

Note:

1. Next year the law changes slightly for CSDs and SADs by permitting more time between the Budget Meetings and Referendum and by requiring that we use eleven Cost Centers instead of six.
2. Because Appleton, Hope and Lincolnville are towns in a school union, voters will see slight differences between the Union 69 and Five Town CSD budget approval processes.

Budget Meetings
Thursday, June 5
Camden Hills Regional High School
Gymnasium
MSAD #28 @ 6:00 pm
Five Town CSD @ 8:00 pm

Referendum
Tuesday, June 10, 2008
One warrant article:
“Do you approve the budget that was approved at the Budget Meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2008?”