

A Report From the Finance Committee

**John Lewis, Chair
MSAD #28 Finance Committee**

The development of the District budget is always a balancing act that recognizes our obligations to both our children and communities, now and in the future. This requires a long series of meetings with the goal of maintaining the quality of our schools, including curriculum, extra-curricular activities, and facilities, while keeping in mind the tax burden already on our towns.

Our proposed budget is extremely lean, with an overall increase of 2.54%, the lowest increase in recent memory. With the addition of the interest payment on the construction project for the RES K-4 campus, the increase is 4.07%.

In the Instruction line of the budget, Kindergarten was increased to full time, and staffing was decreased to respond to lower enrollments.

Operations & Maintenance will suffer heating oil increases from \$2.12 per gallon to \$3.00 per gallon. The effect of rising gasoline costs is reflected in the transportation line of the budget.

Additionally, we have increased our contribution towards Food Services without raising the cost of school lunches to alleviate some of the burden that the high costs of food places on the Department.

While costs increase, revenue has decreased. The subsidy we receive from the State of Maine for Special Education has been decreased by \$277,589.

The interest payment on the RES construction project is \$636,000, a significant amount of money, yet our proposed budget is still a very modest 4.07% increase over 2007-2008.

We believe that this proposed budget is a responsible compromise that balances the interests of instructional integrity, maintenance of physical facilities and concern for the tax burden on our towns.

**MSAD #28
2008-2009 Proposed Budget**

Budget Line	2007-2008 Budget	2008-2009 Requested Budget	Dollar Increase	Percent Increase
Instruction	\$6,576,478	\$6,750,688	\$174,210	2.65%
Support	\$873,146	\$909,606	\$36,460	4.18%
Leadership	\$917,233	\$956,775	\$39,542	4.31%
Operations	\$1,684,587	\$1,732,986	\$48,399	2.87%
Transportation	\$665,936	\$686,153	\$20,217	3.04%
Other Commitments	\$1,037,981	\$1,197,635	\$159,654	15.38%
Grand Total	\$11,755,361	\$12,233,843	\$478,482	4.07%

MSAD #28 Budget Revenue Sources	
Carry Over	\$378,000
Local Contribution	\$10,393,616
State Contribution	\$623,093
State Agency Client	\$421,134
Transportation	\$215,000
Other Revenue	\$203,000
Total	\$12,233,843

