

RSU21 SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025
BUSINESS MEETING 5:30 PM
Via Google Meets and In-Person
Kennebunk Elementary School Board Room A102

Google Meet joining info: Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ire-kcif-zqh>
Or dial: (US) +1 929-236-4448 PIN: 421 672 421#

I. CALL TO ORDER (ROLL CALL)

Directors: Leah Bares, Mandy Cummings, Bob Domine, Arianna Efstathiou, (Vice-Chair)
Britney Gerth, Rachel Kennedy-Smith, Brian McGrath, Megan Michaud, Abigail Spadone,
Lesley Stoeffler, (Chair) Matthew Stratford, and Kirstan Watson

II. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

- A. Motion to accept the FY26 Budget as presented.
- B. Warrant & Notice of Election Calling RSU 21 Budget Validation Referendum
- C. Warrant to Call Regional School Unit 21 Budget Meeting

A MOTION (2:48) was made to accept the above agenda adjustments.

Abigail Spadone made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (3:56) Jane Evelyn (4:55), Rebecca Read (8:14), Leslie Trentalange (10:48), Paula Reetz (11:59), Donna (15:36)

IV. CONTINUING BUSINESS (21:17)

- A. FY26 Proposed Budget Revisions

- 1. Reduce Board Legal Expenses by (\$50,000.00)

Reduction of \$50,000.00

A MOTION (23:04) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Megan Michaud made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

An AMENDMENT (24:00) was made to increase the reduction to \$75,000.00.

Bob Domine made the motion and Megan Michaud seconded.

Megan Michaud withdrew her second. Britney Gerth seconded the motion (30:06).

Vote: (33:12) Support: 1 (BD) Opposed: 11 Abstain: 0

MOTION FAILED

VOTE: (42:54) Support: 10 Opposed: 1 (LB) Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES (no LS)

- 2. Reduce Board Stipend (\$10 per meeting) by (\$4,320.00)

Reduction of \$4,320.00

A MOTION (43:24) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Megan Michaud made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: Support: 10 Opposed: 1 (BD) Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES (no LS)

- 3. Reduce Board Consulting by (\$7,500.00)

Reduction of \$7,500.00

A MOTION (47:58) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Abigale Spadone made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: Support: 11 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES (no LS)

- 4. Reduce Board Supplies by (\$3,000.00)

Reduction of \$3,000.00

A MOTION (50:31) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Bob Domine made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: Support: 11 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES (no LS)

5. Eliminate HR Job Advertising by (\$10,000.00)

No Reduction

A MOTION (52:55) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Kirstan Watson made the motion and Bob Domine seconded.

VOTE: (1:00:50) Support: 1 (LB) Opposed: 10 Abstain: 0

MOTION FAILED (no LS)

6. Reduce ADP Integration/Consulting by (\$36,220.00)

Reduction of \$13,780.00

A MOTION (1:01:32) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Kirstan Watson made the motion and Abigail Spadone seconded.

An AMENDMENT (1:07:29) was made to modify the reduction to \$13,780.00.

Bob Domine made the motion and Mandy Cummings seconded.

VOTE: (1:09:25) Support: 8 Opposed: 3 (BM, AS, KW) Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES (no LS)

VOTE: (1:14:02) Support: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES (no LS, RKS)

7. Eliminate Communications Specialist (\$94,947.00)

Reduction of \$94,947.00

A MOTION (1:14:44) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Kirstan Watson made the motion and Abigail Spadone seconded.

An AMENDMENT (1:48:00) was made to accept the recommendation to eliminate the Communications Specialist position but to have that elimination date effective as of November 1, 2025. This would create a savings of \$63,298.00.

Matt Stratford made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: (2:08:06) Support: 2 (MS, KW) Opposed: 7 Abstain: 0

MOTION FAILED (no BD, RKS, LS)

The VOTE was CALLED (1:58:05).

Bob Domine made the motion.

VOTE: Support: 2 (BD, AE) Opposed: 9 Abstain: 0

MOTION FAILED (no LS)

VOTE: (2:10:35) Support: 6 (BD, AE, BG, AS, MS, KW) Opposed: 5 (LB, MC, RKS, BM, MM)

MOTION CARRIES 500/401 (no LS)

Public Comment: Miriam Whitehouse (1:59:55), Leslie Trentalange (2:02:26), Paula Reetz (2:04:33)

8. Reduce/Eliminate Communication Purchased Services (\$6,295.00)

No Reduction

A MOTION (2:16:55) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Abigail Spadone made the motion and Bob Domine seconded.

VOTE: (2:23:38) Support: 2 (BD, KW) Opposed: 9 Abstain: 0

MOTION FAILED (no LS)

9. Superintendent Budget Reductions by (\$4,000.00)

Reduction of \$4,000.00

A MOTION (2:24:20) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Abigail Spadone made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: (2:28:12) Support: 10 Opposed: 1 (LB) Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES (no LS)

Public Comment: Jane Evelyn (2:27:12)

10. Assistant Superintendent Budget Reductions (\$11,000.00)

Reallocation of Half-Day Symposium Funds (\$30,000.00)

Reduction of \$19,000.00

A MOTION (2:28:48) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Abigail Spadone made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

An AMENDMENT (3:03:01) was made to eliminate funds that are designated for the half day Symposium in August 2025. This would increase the reduction to \$19,000.00.

Matt Stratford made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: (3:25:58) Support: 8 Opposed: 3 Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES (no LS)

A MOTION (3:27:38) was made to extend the meeting to 10:00 p.m.

Kirstan Watson made the motion and Matt Stratford seconded.

VOTE: Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

VOTE: (3:39:22) Support: 11 Opposed: 1 (MM) Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

Public Comment: Jane Evelyn (3:30:32), Paula Reetz (3:33:32)

Revote: Elimination of the Communications Specialist position.

A MOTION (3:48:15) was made to reconsider the elimination of the Communications Specialist position given that we now have the full board present.

Abigail Spadone made the motion and Leah Bares seconded.

VOTE: (3:57:40) Support: 5 (LB, MC, MM, AS, LS) Opposed: 7 Abstain: 0

MOTION FAILED 431/568

11. Eliminate IXL from Assistant Superintendent Budget (\$10,000.00)

No Reduction

A MOTION (3:59:46) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Lesley Stoeffler made the motion and Brian McGrath seconded.

VOTE: (4:04:45) Support: 1 (BD) Opposed: 11 Abstain: 0

MOTION FAILED

12. Eliminate Vacant Instruction & Assessment Officer Position (\$162,718)

Reduction of \$27,120.00

A MOTION (4:05:41) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.

Kirstan Watson made the motion and Brian McGrath seconded.

An AMENDMENT (4:29:04) was made to change this request from an elimination to a hiring of a vacant position that would begin no earlier than September 1, 2025.

Brian McGrath made the motion and Megan Michaud seconded.

The MOTION was WITHDRAWN. (4:31:26) by Brian McGrath and Megan Michaud.

An AMENDMENT (4:31:41) was made to change the language to: “prorated reinstatement of the vacant Instruction & Assessment Officer position”. The savings would be \$27,120.00.

Brian McGrath made the motion and Mandy Cummings seconded.

VOTE: (4:31:58) Support: 8 Opposed: 4 (BD, AE, BG, KW) Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

VOTE: (4:33:45) Support: 9 Opposed: 3 (BD, BG, KW) Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

Public Comment: Jane Evelyn (4:08:58)

A MOTION (4:35:40) was made to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m.

Mandy Cummings made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

Elimination of TNTP Services (\$25,000.00)

Reduction of \$25,000.00

A MOTION (4:43:11) was made to reduce a portion of the TNTP funding allocation that Serve the parents and the community.

Leah Bares made the motion and Megan Michaud seconded.

The MOTION was WITHDRAWN. (4:48:50) by Leah Bares and Megan Michaud.

A MOTION (4:48:50) was made to eliminate \$15,000 from the TNTP Survey.
Leah Bares made the motion and Megan Michaud seconded.
The MOTION was WITHDRAWN. (5:02:18) by Leah Bares and Megan Michaud.

A MOTION (5:02:36) was made to eliminate the total cost of the TNTP service/survey.
Rachel Kennedy-Smith made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.
VOTE: (5:05:42) Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES

- 15. Move .2FTE Funding from General Fund over to Title I (\$21,515.00)
- 29. Savings from KHS Door Lock Project Completed with FY25 Funds (\$80,000.00)
Reduction of \$101,515.00

A MOTION (5:09:02) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.
Matt Stratford made the motion and Mandy Cummings seconded.
VOTE: (5:10:26) Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES

- 16. Reduce Regular Education Contingency (\$50,000.00)
- 17. Reduce Special Services Contingency (\$100,000.00)
- 18. Reduce Special Services Out of District Placement (\$115,000.00)
Reduction of \$207,500.00

A MOTION (5:13:05) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.
Lesley Stoeffler made the motion and Brian McGrath seconded.

An AMENDMENT (5:20:02) was made to accept lines 16 and 17 (not line 18).
Megan Michaud made the motion and Mandy Cummings seconded
The AMENDMENT was WITHDRAWN (5:25:06) by Megan Michaud and Mandy Cummings.

An AMENDMENT (5:25:06) was made to accept lines 16, 17, and half of line 18. Line 18 would provide a \$57,500.00 reduction.
Megan Michaud made the motion and Mandy Cummings seconded.
VOTE: (5:25:30) Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES

VOTE: (5:26:08) Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES

- 28. Postpone KES Roof Replacement or Pay from Capital Reserves (\$250,000.00)
Reduction of \$250,000.00
- Reinstate Capital Reserve Funding \$100,000.00
Addition of (\$100,000.00)

A MOTION (5:27:22) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.
Rachel Kennedy-Smith made the motion and Mandy Cummings seconded.

An AMENDMENT (5:40:02) was made to reduce the reduction to \$125,000.00.
Bob Domine made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.
The AMENDMENT was WITHDRAWN (5:46:54) by Bob Domine and Kirstan Watson.

An AMENDMENT (5:44:17/5:47:06) was made to remove the above budget reduction from Article 9 and separately increase the transfer to the Capital Reserve to \$200,000.00. The Capital Reserve increase is \$100,000.00. This project will instead be paid out of Capital Reserve funds as opposed to the general fund.
Mandy Cummings made the motion and Rachel Kennedy-Smith seconded.
VOTE: (5:48:39) Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES

VOTE: (5:49:19) Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES

A MOTION (5:51:08) was made to extend the meeting to 12:30 p.m.
Kirstan Watson made the motion and Megan Michaud seconded.
VOTE: Support: 11 Opposed: 1 (MC) Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES

26. Reduce Bus Repairs & Maintenance from Sale of Old Bus (\$10,000.00)
27. Revise Estimated Fuel Cost for Transportation (\$20,000.00)
30. Use Capital Reserve to Fund District Match for Generator (\$35,000.00)
Reduction of \$65,000.00

A MOTION (5:52:20) was made to accept lines 26 and 27 as budget reductions.
Megan Michaud made the motion and Brian McGrath seconded.

An AMENDMENT (5:52:53) was made to also include line 30 as a budget reduction.
Lesley Stoeffler made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: (5:54:30) Support: 11 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1 (BD)

Reason for abstention: This director was not clear on the amendment.

MOTION CARRIES

VOTE: (5:59:04) Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

31. Postpone 7th Grade Furniture Replacement (2nd half) (\$47,500.00)
No Reduction

A MOTION (5:59:43) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.
Rachel Kennedy-Smith made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: (6:03:43) Support: 2 (BD, RKS) Opposed: 10 Abstain: 0

MOTION FAILED

32. Eliminate Vacant Custodial Position (\$53,394.00)
No Reduction

A MOTION (6:04:49) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.
Lesley Stoeffler made the motion and Bob Domine seconded.

VOTE: (6:10:46) Support: 5 Opposed: 7 (MC, BG, RKS, BM, AS, MS, KW) Abstain: 0

MOTION FAILED

22. Postpone/Reduce Interactive Board Replacement (\$160,000.00)
Reduction of \$60,000.00

A MOTION (6:11:34) was made to reduce the above item by \$60,000.00 (not \$160,000.00).
Leah Bares made the motion and Mandy Cummings seconded.

VOTE: (6:14:12) Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIES

33. Reduce Support to School Nutrition Program (\$25,000.00)
No Reduction

A MOTION (6:15:16) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.
Rachel Kennedy-Smith made the motion and Lesley Stoeffler seconded.

VOTE: (6:20:07) Support: 0 Opposed: 12 Abstain: 0

MOTION FAILED

24. Reduce Tech Services (Chronos, USCell, BrainPop, Ed Puzzle & Meraki) (\$41,700.00)
Reduction of \$15,000.00

A MOTION (6:21:26) was made to accept the above recommended budget reduction.
Megan Michaud made the motion and Lesley Stoeffler seconded.

The MOTION was WITHDRAWN (6:26:48) by Megan Michaud and Lesley Stoeffler.

A MOTION (6:27:16) was made to reduce this line item by \$15,000.00 (not \$41,700.00).
Megan Michaud made the motion and Lesley Stoeffler seconded.

VOTE: (6:36:26) Support: 9 Opposed: 3 (MC, BG, MS) Abstain: 0

MOTION CARRIED

- Reduce Human Resources (\$80,000.00) and Finance (\$50,000.00) Department Budgets
No Reduction

A MOTION (6:37:48) was made to eliminate \$50,000.00 from the Finance Department and \$80,000.00 from the Human Resources Department. These eliminations would be facilitated by the directors in the respective departments in any way they see fit.
Bob Domine made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.

VOTE: (6:53:55) Support: 1 (BD) Opposed: 11 Abstain: 0
MOTION FAILED

A MOTION (6:54:45) was made to extend the meeting to 1:00 a.m.
Kirstan Watson made the motion and Megan Michaud seconded.
VOTE: Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES

Moving Funds from the Designated Fund Balance
No Reductions

A MOTION (6:55:45/7:03:51) was made to bring \$175,000.00 forward from the designated fund balance.
Rachel Kennedy-Smith made the motion and Bob Domine seconded.
VOTE: (7:10:00) Support: 3 (BD, BG, RKS) Opposed: 8 Abstain: 0
MOTION FAILED (no AE)
Public Comment: Jane Evelyn (7:08:46)

No board action was taken on the following suggested reductions:

- 13. Eliminate Vacant Teaching Position (\$93,865.00)**
- 14. Shift Gifted & Talented / Design Teacher Back to the Classroom (\$107,685.00)**
- 19. Eliminate New Substance Abuse Counselor (Vacant) \$103,104.00)**
- 20. Reduce Testing Fees for PSAT/SAT (Parent Pay or Scholarship) (\$8,500.00)**
- 21. Reduce Testing Fees for A/P Exams (Parent Pay or Scholarship) (\$17,850.00)**
- 23. Postpone/Reduce Computers for Admin & Art (\$32,000.00)**
- 25. Eliminate New Float Nurse (Vacant) (\$93,534.00)**

B. Motion to accept the FY26 Budget as presented.

A MOTION (7:12:28) was made to accept the FY26 Budget as presented.
Mandy Cummings made the motion and Megan Michaud seconded.
VOTE: Support: 10 Opposed: 1 (BD) Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES (no AE)

C. [Warrant & Notice of Election Calling RSU 21 Budget Validation Referendum](#)

MOTION: (7:13:54) I move that the Vote entitled, “Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Validation Referendum,” be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.
Mandy Cummings made the motion and Kirstan Watson seconded.
VOTE: Support: 11 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES (no AE)

D. [Warrant to Call Regional School Unit 21 Budget Meeting](#)

MOTION: (7:15:11) I move that the Vote entitled, “Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for The Budget Meeting and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted,” be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this Meeting. Kirstan Watson made the motion and Megan Michaud seconded.
VOTE: Support: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
MOTION CARRIES

- V. ADJOURNMENT (7:18:51)**
The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 a.m. without objection.

NEXT MEETING: July 14, 2025 (6:00 PM) Special Meeting (Executive Session)

RESOURCES:

- [School Board Attendee Welcome](#)
- [Anatomy of a School Board Meeting](#)
- [RSU 21 School Board Norms](#)
- [RSU 21 School Board Policy](#) site

INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION:

- Sign up to receive [RSU 21 Community News](#)

- [MSMA "Bills We're Watching"](#)