

# Directions



The four communities of M.S.A.D. No. 75 are united in our dedication to develop confident, life-long learners. It is our mission to work together to ensure a community of fluent learners, critical thinkers and creative contributors to our society.

*From the Desk of Mike Wilhelm*

**March 2008**

## ***Message from the Superintendent***

If you have been watching the news you should be aware that the Governor is attempting to close a \$200 million budget gap by reducing state subsidy for schools. This week we learned that our State subsidy for next year will be reduced by almost \$1million. On top of this, we will lose \$300,000 in Medicaid reimbursement because of changes in federal regulations. Also, we will not be able to use \$400,000 of fund balance as revenue. We have recently presented to the Board a “maintenance of effort” budget that is a 3.19% increase over the current year, or \$1.2 million. If you combine the increase with the lost funding you will see a budget gap of almost \$3 million, which would have to be filled with an increase in local contribution to cover our budget increases. For comparison purposes, last year we asked the Towns to contribute an additional \$812,400, because we received level funding from the State. In these difficult economic times, we cannot ask the local taxpayers to bear a \$3 million increase.

Consequently, we need to reduce the current budget to reach a level that can be supported by the communities. We have begun that process and must look at all aspects of the budget to find the kinds of savings that will get us to that point. We will be guided by our District mission and goals. Clearly the education of our children is our *raison d'être* and the highest priority.

I am working with all District departments to identify savings. As we move forward, we will keep you abreast of decisions that are made.

The **School Finance Committee** is meeting on **Monday evening, March 10, 2008** and **Monday, March 24** to consider options for reducing the budget.

These meetings will begin at **6:00 p.m.** and are held in **Room 201 at Mt. Ararat High School.**

### **Three public hearings will be held:**

- March 31 - West Harpswell School at 7:00 p.m.
- April 1 - Bowdoin Central School at 7:00 p.m.
- April 3 at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Board meeting in Room 201 at Mt. Ararat High School.

**Article V** of the Negotiated Agreement between the Merrymeeting Teachers Association and the M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors explains the reduction-in-force process for teachers. It asks teachers who feel their job may be vulnerable to fill out a Qualification Portfolio and submit it to the Superintendent by April 1. It is the analysis of this portfolio that determines what positions a teacher will be eligible to fill if that teacher's position is eliminated.

**Article XI** of the Negotiated Agreement between the Merrymeeting Employees Association and the M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors outlines the reduction-in-force provisions for the support staff. District employees should familiarize themselves with these provisions.

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## **Consolidation**

The Lisbon/M.S.A.D. No. 75 Reorganization Planning Committee has continued to meet and is finishing up its work on the plan to consolidate the two school systems. At this point, most of the State's requirements of the Plan have been addressed.

Two public meetings will be held on **March 15, 2008 - one at 10:00 a.m. in Lisbon at the Lisbon Community School and one at 1:00 p.m. at the Orion Performing Arts Center at our middle school.** The particulars of the Plan will be explained and input will be sought regarding them. If you are a District resident, your input would be appreciated. If you are not, you are welcome to attend to learn how the plan would affect the school system, have your questions answered and thoughts considered. We will also be providing a pamphlet that will explain the Plan. The State expects our proposal by the end of March. Once it is vetted by the Commissioner, another public meeting will be held in anticipation of the referendum vote on **June 10.**

★ Perfect Attendance for February 2008 ★

*We want to recognize members of the Merrymeeting Employees Association who maintained perfect attendance for the month of February. This is 62% of this group.*

Ahlers, Georgia	DeSimio, Jared	Justice, Pamela	Reid, Ellen
Alexander, Kristy	Desjardins, Theresa	Kerber, Philip	Reinheimer, Susan
Alexander, Wayne	Dickinson, Linda	Krouse-Kazanovicz, Wendy	Rice, Marie
Allard, Dorothy	Dickinson, Ronald	Lajoie, Debra	Sanders, Donald
Allen, Darlene	Donahue, Shirley	Laliberte, Sarah	Sawyer, Beverly
Allen, John	Dubreuil, David	Lamarre, Lorraine	Schwaab, Susan
Allen, Linda	Duda, Joyce	Lamarre, Marsha	Seigars, Bruce
Allen, Shirley	Dudley, Dana	Lambert, John	Simmons, Angelina
Anderson, Ella	Durant, Robert	Lambert, Nancy	Sinclair, Lucinda
Anderson, Whitney	Ellis, Lonie Laffely	Lamoreau, Jeannene	Skelton, Jeremy
Armillotti, David	Farnsworth, Patricia	Lapointe, Samantha	Skelton, Linda
Babbitt, Katharine	Faucher, James	Larrabee, Judith	Skold, Walter
Bailey, Jane	Ferris, Susan	Lavender, Hope	Smith, Kim
Barton, Cheryl	Flaig, Donald P.	Leclerc, Patricia	Ste. George, Sandra Lee
Beaulieu, Brenda	Frank, Colleen	Levasseur, Vaughn	Stratton, Patricia
Bisson, Tina	French-Smith, Connie	Little, Elizabeth	Surette, Evelyn
Black Jr, Arthur	Galietta, Stephanie	MacDonald, Susan	Tanguay, Kimberly
Boyle, Lisa	Gary, Beverly	MacNaught, Jeff	Temple, Linda
Brawn, Guy	Gibson, Christina	Marshall, Catherine	Thibodeau, Karen
Breault, Simeon	Grim, Donna	May-McGrath, Elizabeth	Thompson, Rebecca
Brewer, Eric	Gross, Janice	Mayo, Jennifer	Timblin, Shirley
Brewer, Shereen	Haddock, Rachel	Mayo, Lindsay	Treworgy, Janet
Broughton, Theresa	Hagan, Cynthia	McGowen, Winifred	Trudell, Tracee
Brown, Kathleen	Hall, Diane	McKenney, Ryan	Vaillancourt, Muriel
Bryant, Johanna	Haskell, John Michael	Mellen, Martha	Varberakis, Stephanie
Byras, Deborah	Hatch, David	Minchin, Stephen	Veno, Steven
Caouette, Donald	Hathaway, Jean	Mitchell, Joanne	Vermette, Michele
Card, Cheryl	Hathorne, Pierrette	Monroe, ChristieLynn	Wagg, Deborah
Card, Sherianne	Hauser, Sue	Morris, Jeffrey	Walker, Joann
Carroll, Amy	Hess, David	Munsey, Mark	Wallace, Elizabeth
Chonko, John	Hilton, Joan	Munsey, Randall	Wironen, Robyn
Cobb, Patricia	Holman, Belinda	Oliver, Marlene	Wolcott, Monique
Coffin, Theresa	Hutchins, Jona	Page, Melanie	Worthing, Sarah
Congdon, Colleen	Jackson, Deborah	Perry, Shannon	Wright, Candace
Cromwell, Denise	Jerosch, Anita	Pierce, Jane	York, Kayla
Daigle, Lynne	Johns, Stacy	Potts, Ana	York, Theresa
Davenport, Philip	Johnson Jr, David	Pulk, Gene	Young, Robin
DeMars, Tammy	Johnson, Jennifer	Pulsifer, Susan	
Demers, Josephine	Johnson, Natalie	Radulski, Paula	

March 2008 Nutrition Tips

**Chicken and turkey will fill you up but not make you sleepy.**

Lean protein like chicken or turkey, do not contain simple sugars that can raise your blood sugar levels and then make you feel sleepy. The high protein content will make you feel full longer and give you energy will into the afternoon.

**More and more people do not have strong bones.** The number of people with weak bones is steadily increasing in this country. One of the easiest ways to help build strong bones is to get enough calcium and vitamin D in your diet. Low fat dairy products are the best source and you should aim for 3 – 4 servings a day.

**Get some vitamin C with your lunch.** Eating foods rich in vitamin C, such as tomatoes, green peppers, and oranges, provides a double boost. Your body will enjoy the immune boosting effects and it will also be able to absorb more of the iron in the protein foods you eat to give you more energy.

**Bananas can help if you eat a food high in sodium.** Many foods we enjoy are high in sodium, a mineral found in salt that can make you very thirsty. Bananas contain a mineral called potassium that can help counter balance the effects of sodium.

**If Friday is pizza day for you, remember to think green.**

Eating pizza type products is tasty and fun but often vegetables are ignored. Try to always add some kind of green vegetable to your pizza such as peppers, broccoli, or spinach. If you don't like that, have a salad with your pizza.

Winter...brrr...

It has been a snowy winter which has made life difficult in some respects. We very much appreciate the work of our custodians and grounds crew who have arrived at school at 3:30 a.m. to ensure the schools were cleared so that we could open. We also appreciate the careful driving of our bus drivers who have brought the students safely to school while navigating slippery and snowy roads.

**We have now taken five snow days which puts the last day of school on Thursday, June 19, 2008.**