

In Support of Article 8

The Mascenic School Board is hoping that voters of the district will support Article 8 on the school district warrant. This article asks voters to recommend the withdrawal of the Mascenic Regional School District from School Administrative Unit No. 63.

Currently, the taxpayers of Greenville, Mason and New Ipswich provide funding for 58.53% of the budget for SAU 63. Projected costs to maintain a separate SAU for the Mascenic District reflect a minimal increase to the taxpayers of Greenville, Mason and New Ipswich considering the benefits to be gained. A superintendent and support staff will be able to address the needs of 1285 students and 228 employees, as compared to 2045 students and 378 employees currently. Two contracts, one for certified teachers and one for support staff will replace the seven that currently are the shared responsibility of the superintendent and assistant superintendent. One annual school district meeting, and all related responsibilities, will replace four (two official ballot formats and two traditional formats). It is clear to the School Board that a refined focus and single, unified vision and mission can only enhance the functions of the organization, and improve service to the students, staff and communities.

When SAU 63 was formed, the demands placed on the SAU staff were much less than they are today. No Child Left Behind, state mandated standardized testing, as well as the kindergarten mandate place overwhelming demands on an SAU staff that is already stretched thin. In addition, the Mascenic Regional School District is struggling to find solutions for its facility deficiencies.

In light of these imperatives the School Board unanimously supports the report put forth by the Mascenic Regional School District SAU Withdrawal Study Committee. It is the hope of the School Board that the current organizational issues, projected challenges identified above, along with the minimal extra cost will convince the Mascenic voters that the time has come to form our own SAU.