



Maine School Administrative District #12
Forest Hills Consolidated School
Jackman & Moose River

ATTENTION VOTERS!

**NEW SCHOOL BUDGET APPROVAL PROCESS IS NOW IN PLACE
AS PER MAINE STATE LAW**

Introduction: With the passage of the regionalization law, also came the requirement that all school units within the state of Maine pass their budgets through the new BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM PROCESS beginning with the 2008-2009 budget cycle. Due to this new law, the process for passing school budgets has changed. **It is now a two-step process.** The first step is very similar to how it has been done in the past, however the second step is very different. Below is a summary of the process and what you as a voter should expect when going to your district budget meetings and to the polls this June to pass the school's budget.

STEP #1: DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING (June 5, 2008 7:00 p.m. @ Forest Hills High School Gymnasium)

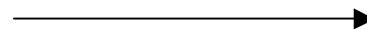
This step will be very similar to what you are used to in the past. The school's budget will be put before the voters in a district budget meeting style format. The only change will be that there are now 6 expenditure articles and 3 revenue articles as required by law. All articles will be voted upon by either a show of hands or by secret ballot. There is one revenue article that requires a secret ballot, while the rest do not.

This year's budget summary is as follows (chart below depicts each of the 6 expenditure articles):

<i>Article</i>	<i>07-08 Budgeted Amt.</i>	<i>08-09 Proposed</i>	<i>Difference () = less than</i>	<i>% of total budget</i>
<i>2.Instruction</i>	<i>\$1,267,637.61</i>	<i>\$1,249,910.61</i>	<i>(\$17,727.00)</i>	<i>53%</i>
<i>3.Instructional Support</i>	<i>\$295,523.27</i>	<i>\$275,553.97</i>	<i>(\$19,969.30)</i>	<i>12%</i>
<i>4.Leadership</i>	<i>\$283,876.83</i>	<i>\$286,270.03</i>	<i>\$2,393.20</i>	<i>12%</i>
<i>5.Operations</i>	<i>\$233,034.71</i>	<i>\$302,323.12</i>	<i>\$69,288.41</i>	<i>13%</i>
<i>6.Transportation</i>	<i>\$56,428.57</i>	<i>\$68,478.96</i>	<i>\$12,050.39</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>7.All other Commitments</i>	<i>\$111,786.36</i>	<i>\$154,627.58</i>	<i>\$42,841.22</i>	<i>7%</i>

The Expenditure Side of the budget totals \$2,356,909.74, UP by \$89,395.16 or 3.91%.

- Jackman's assessment for '08-'09 will increase by \$3,390.00 over last year's and Moose River's assessment for '08-'09 will increase by \$44,472.00 over last year's assessment.



Many of these expenditure increases are due to “fixed costs”. The chart below outlines the majority of increases found within the 2008-2009 proposed school budget:

Line Item	Increased amount	Notes
Instruction Retirement Costs	\$10,000.00	- Two teachers are retiring at the conclusion of this school year.
School Committee Services	\$7,300.00	- NEASC work
School Committee Services	\$30,000.00	- Consolidation Transition Costs
Operation of Building	\$35,678.00	- Increased fuel costs
Operation of Building	\$12,800.00	- Increased Electrical costs
Vehicle Operation Services	\$5,000.00	- Increased fuel costs
Debt Service	\$32,979.00	- 2006-2007 renovation project
Total	\$133,757.00	- Obviously, this figure is higher than the \$89,00.00 of actual overall increases. Other cuts were made in other lines to compensate for \$44,360.00 of these increases.

STEP #2: VALIDATION (June 10, 2008 @ Moose River & Jackman Municipal Buildings)

The second step comes after the District budget meeting approves a school budget. This second step is called a validation referendum. Basically, what happens is that the voters are asked to approve of the budget that was approved at the District Budget Meeting by voting at the polls on June 10 to do so. On the budget validation question, the voters will be asked to either vote “yes” or to vote “no”. There is no ability to change the budget figures at this vote. This can only be done at the District Budget Meeting phase. A summary of the budget that was approved at District Budget Meeting will be provided either in handout form, or posted in the polls, or both. The way the law forces us to word the question is very tricky, so please try not to get caught up in the wording. Simply put, here’s what your vote means:

- **A “YES” vote means you approve of the school budget that was passed at the District Budget Meeting.**
- **A “NO” vote means you do not approve of the school budget that was passed at the District Budget Meeting.**

If a majority of voters vote “yes” to approve the school’s budget than the budget has been both passed at Town meeting and “validated” by voters and is good to go.

If a majority of voters vote “no” to disapprove the school’s budget than the budget has been passed at the District Budget Meeting BUT NOT VALIDATED by voters and hence will need to be sent back to the school committee to adjust and to bring back through the process again. This cycle will continue until a budget has been BOTH passed by voters at District Budget Meeting AND validated by voters at a referendum.

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT VOTERS TRY TO GET OUT AND VOTE AT BOTH OF THESE MEETINGS (TOWN MEETING AND VALIDATION REFERENDUM)

