



May 11, 2022

Greetings,

It has been another challenging school year trying to safely guide our staff and students through this pandemic. Even so, we have made great gains and have built up momentum to end the year strong and hit the ground running in 2022-2023. It's been great to see our students return to some normalcy and enjoy activities they have missed since COVID-19 showed up on our doorstep.

It has been a complex year to create a budget. The overlap of receiving federal COVID funds and post-pandemic state funding has left RSU 87 in a healthy place this year. We are on track to end the year financially strong, which has allowed us to fund some future budget priorities without having to add them to a school budget. Also, the State's commitment to fund education at 55% shifted some funding from the local towns to our school district. We were able to commit an additional \$200,000 directly into the budget to offset the increase to taxpayers, which is a very timely investment considering the district's cost increases in all areas due to the state of the current economy. The Board of Directors has approved a budget for the 2022-2023 school year that proposes a 4.73% increase.

I truly appreciate the support I have received from the Board of Directors, Town Managers, Boards of Selectmen, and all of the taxpayers in our communities. I'm proud to work in a community that is so supportive of their children's needs, and prioritize what's best for students! One thing learned from this pandemic is how important this time is in our students' lives. They truly are our future!

Our annual District Budget Meeting has been scheduled for 6:00 PM on Thursday, June 9, 2022, in the Caravel Middle School gymnasium, followed by a referendum vote in each town on Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Turner
RSU 87 Superintendent of Schools