

February 6, 2008

Dear Residents of MSAD #56:

Districts across the state are faced with consolidation, declining enrollments, and loss of state funding through Essential Programs and Services (EPS). Both the declining enrollments and less money from the State for education place the burden of funding education on the local taxpayers.

At this time MSAD #56 is looking at an estimated loss of \$109,247 in disadvantaged funding, an estimated loss of \$125,701 in systems administration, an estimated loss of \$12,324 in transportation, an estimated loss of \$40,481 in operations/maintenance, an estimated loss of between \$26,109 and \$52,217 in Special Education and an estimated loss of \$100,000 in Medicaid funding for an estimated total loss of \$413,862 to \$439,970.

Faced with a need for \$1,800,000 in additional local funds this past year, I can only predict we will be faced with a need for \$2,000,000 in additional local funds for next year.

We are faced with the challenge of reducing the budget and need your input. Knowing the burden this estimated increase will place on our taxpayers, we are holding a public hearing on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at the Searsport District High/Middle School Cafetorium at 6:30 pm.

This is a very important opportunity for people to be a part of the process and give input on ways to reduce next year's district budget.

Thank you and we hope to see all of you there.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Szewc
Superintendent of Schools

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