

# S.O.S. SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS VOTE YES! on RSU 18 Referendum for School Improvements

## Warrant Question for RSU 18 Referendum on School Improvements and Renovations

**Question 1:** Do you favor authorizing the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 18 (the "RSU") to issue bonds or notes in the name of the RSU in an amount not to exceed \$13,900,000 to construct, renovate, improve, repair, and equip RSU school facilities on a system-wide basis (the "Project"), which Project, subject to availability of Project funds, will include the RSU facilities and major categories of work set forth below

Project Budget by RSU Facility	Budget Estimate
Atwood Primary School	\$1,416,924
Belgrade Central School	\$778,136
China Middle School	\$2,118,672
China Primary School	\$347,894
James H. Bean Elementary School	\$291,014
Messalonskee High School	\$897,504
Messalonskee Middle School	\$135,115
Williams Elementary School	\$2,281,768
Transportation and other District Facilities	\$1,732,973
Messalonskee Athletic Complex	\$3,900,000
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$13,900,000</b>

### Project Budget By Major Work Category

Major Work Category	Budget Estimate
Fire Safety/Fire Marshall Report	\$398,165
Nutrition, including major kitchen equipment	\$195,041
Heating controls, infrastructure, boilers, etc.	\$1,675,000
Gym expansion (China Middle School); gym repair; repurposing and reconfiguring interior spaces; masonry work	\$4,250,000
Lighting; electrical; fixtures	\$475,000
Pavement and parking lots	\$683,000
Windows; ventilation unit, air quality	\$430,000
Roofs	\$584,000
Athletic complex	\$3,900,000
Other	\$1,309,794
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$13,900,000</b>

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Why do we need \$13.9 million dollars for our schools?** Doing nothing is no longer an option - We need to put money into our facilities across the district, in every town.

**How did this number come about?** This bond came out of two years of work completed by the facilities committee and also addresses remaining items from the Fire Marshall's report. This is the least costly option presented by the committee, and keeps elementary schools in their towns honoring how much our towns' value local control. Other, more costly options included consolidating elementary schools or building one super school.

**How did our facilities needs get so large so quickly?** Over the last decade and half, to ensure budgets were passed, deferred maintenance items were cut from the operating budget. The district is at a point where all of our buildings have things that must be fixed.

**Why now?** As demonstrated in the Fire Marshall's report, across the district we have issues (leaking roofs, heating infrastructure past their lifecycles, windows and doors no longer in code, etc.) that can no longer go unaddressed and would likely cost more to address in a crisis (such as failure).

**What does this mean for the future?** Trying to address these issues through our operating budget has not worked. A bond allows us to address outstanding key safety and accessibility issues across the district. Going forward, developing a strategic maintenance plan will allow RSU18 to include ongoing maintenance in future operating budgets.

### How much will this cost taxpayers?

<b>\$13.9 million Investment: Cost by town</b> (per \$100,000 assessed value)		
	Annual	Monthly
Belgrade	\$39.60	\$3.30
China	\$49.10	\$4.09
Oakland	\$43.48	\$3.62
Rome	\$38.48	\$3.21
Sidney	\$49.21	\$4.10

Estimated Based on 9/27/17 rates)

**Why is the athletic complex included?** The athletic complex has been an identified community need for decades. See opposite for more details.

# VOTE YES!

STRONG ▸ STUDENTS | COMMUNITY | FUTURE  
**MESSALONSKEE**  
 ATHLETIC COMPLEX RENOVATION PROJECT

On RSU 18 Referendum  
**NOVEMBER 7**



**Why is this just coming up as a need for the school?**

The athletic complex has been an identified need since the 1990s. There have been several plans for a new facility, but none have resulted in a design or cost. This year, All Sports Boosters invested in an engineer study and design process that resulted in a formal design and budget. Boosters worked through the school board committee structure to bring to the voters.

**Why do we need a new facility?** Physical education classes can no longer use the track or grass field. Varsity teams who used to call Veteran’s Field home have not had a game at MHS in two years. The field hockey field is no longer regulation. The track team, the largest of all teams at MHS, has not had a home game since the mid-80s. Messalonskee is currently the only Class A school with a track team that does not have a track facility at their high school.

Fully accessible pathways and new bleacher section will enable spectators and participants with mobility issues to have full access to the athletic complex.

**Why turf?** A turf field will quadruple the number of use hours of the field (which a grass field cannot do). 4 sports (6 teams) will be accommodated by one field (football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse). Turf fields require less maintenance than grass fields because you avoid applying pesticides, overseeding or patching, aerating, etc. (average maintenance cost of turf is \$3,100 per year).

**What is wrong with our teams practicing at other locations that have facilities?** In the spring over 150 student athletes transport themselves and teammates in private vehicles around central Maine. Students who do not have transportation of their own are limited in participation. To address these accessibility and safety issues, the school would have to purchase 4-5 new buses, drivers, insurance, etc. to provide dedicated transportation for these sports.

**How will this benefit our communities?** A facility like this will provide community members of all ages from across the district a safe place to walk, jog and recreate. Youth programs will be able to utilize the facility as well as summer camps. MHS could host conference and state competitions as well as a number of other community events. This will bring thousands of people to central Maine throughout the year and will boost the local economy, plus bring additional revenue to RSU18.

**How will this benefit students other than varsity athletes?** All students are required to take physical education classes at both the middle and high school level. This facility will fulfill unmet physical education needs. Physical education classes will no longer need to walk/run the streets of Oakland. Classes will not be forced inside because too much rain makes the outdoor fields too muddy.

**What is the cost of the athletic complex?** \$3.9 million dollars or 2.8% of the referendum.

Construction	\$ 329,032.33
Facility Infrastructure	\$ 217,428.75
Track and Turf Substructure	\$ 111,695.07
Turf Surface	\$ 948,492.00
Track Surface	\$ 537,134.98
Field Events	\$ 64,100.00
Lighting & Utilities	\$ 739,056.89
Event Management & Equipment	\$ 451,820.00
Contingency	\$ 509,814.00
Monthly cost breakdown by town: Belgrade \$0.09; China \$0.11; Oakland \$0.10; Rome \$0.09, Sidney \$0.11 (estimated per \$100,000 assessed value)	\$ 3,908,574.03

**When will this facility open?** If the referendum passes in November, construction could start in late spring 2018, with opening in the fall of 2018 (dependent upon weather and state permitting).

