

# MSAD #51

*The Schools of Cumberland and North Yarmouth, Maine*

**Jeffrey Porter**, *Superintendent of Schools*

**Scott Poulin**, *Director of Finance, Human Resources & Operations*

**Julie Olsen, Ed.D.**, *Director of Instructional Support*

**Susie Robbins**, *Director of Academic Services*

**Carla Fancy**, *Assistant Director of Instructional Support*

**Dirk Van Curan**, *Director of Technology Services*



Dear Community Members

I am writing to you to inform you of action taken by the board at last evening's meeting (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YH2uzvO5I6M&t=4920s> ). On the June ballot, the voters will have the opportunity to purchase additional land next to the campus. This land would help with much-needed space for our regular operations. This land would not be used for an additional primary school building. This purchase would be separate from the need for a new primary school building.

In recent months, an adjacent landowner contacted us about buying their land. The parcel is 2+ acres and abuts our property to the southwest of our GCA parking lot, beyond the white fence. The parcel is between Main street and Tuttle Road, nestled behind Dara Bistro and behind the Congregational Cemetery. The parcel does not currently have any buildings on it and is the last such parcel abutting our campus.

Throughout our negotiations with the landowner, the price moved from \$950k to \$756k which is 5% over the formal appraised value of \$720k. This cost of \$756,000 would be financed over 5 years at a rate of 3%.

Obviously, the timing of this opportunity is less than ideal. We have been through a rough couple of years and still, separate from this potential purchase, we still need to solve the long-term issue of building a new primary school building off-campus. Nonetheless, the opportunity is here now and is unlikely to be here in the future.

We need more space, off-campus and ON-campus and this land would help. We need added space to address our current overcrowding and our projected growth for the next 5 years and beyond. Previous opportunities to purchase abutting land to the campus have been limited. When they had arisen, conditions did not allow the SAD to move forward and those opportunities disappeared. Despite our current challenges, this board thought it was the right thing to do to allow our voters the opportunity to gain this much needed space and invest for our future.

Putting this purchase to the voters allows us to finance the payment of the property over 5 years which makes a minimal impact on the budget. Alternatively, had we purchased the property solely using reserve funds, it would have put us in a less-than-ideal position financially, especially with large upcoming costs related to the temporary modular spaces.

Again, we fully acknowledge the challenging timing of this potential purchase. This was discussed at length, factoring in other pending projects and the current uncertain fiscal climate in our world. Part of our role as a board is to plan for the long-term and we believe this space will help, and a similar opportunity, at this price, will not happen in the future.

We ask you to strongly consider investing in this added space this June.

Sincerely,

Jason Record

MSAD #51 Board of Directors

**Engage • Empower • Inspire**

www.msad51.org • 357 Tuttle Road, PO Box 6A, Cumberland, ME 04021 • Phone 207.829.4800 • Fax 207.829.4802