

ANNUAL REPORT 2026



EXPLORE. DISCOVER. THRIVE.

Mill River

Unified Union School District

CLARENDON - SHREWSBURY - TINMOUTH - WALLINGFORD

**ANNUAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 26, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
MILL RIVER UNION HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The Mill River Unified Union School District offers employment and educational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or handicap. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to:

Cheryl Gonzalez – Superintendent of Schools
Telephone: (802) 786-3998

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BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>DIRECTOR</u>	<u>TERM LENGTH</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
Clarendon	Doucette, Len	3 year.....	2028
Clarendon	Potter, Dave.....	1 year.....	2026
Clarendon	Clark, Rich	1 year.....	2026
Clarendon	Geery, Carol.....	3 year.....	2027
Shrewsbury.....	Abatiell, Stephen	3 year.....	2027
Shrewsbury.....	Williams, Kimberly.....	3 year.....	2028
Tinmouth.....	Squier, Josh.....	3 year.....	2028
Wallingford.....	Ullrich, Edward.....	3 year.....	2028
Wallingford.....	Cornwell, David.....	1 year.....	2026
Wallingford.....	Wicker, Sarah.....	3 year.....	2027
Wallingford.....	Wicker, Grey... ..	3 year.....	2027

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS

Moderator	Eldrid French, Shrewsbury
Clerk	Denise Patch, Clarendon
Treasurer.....	Denise Patch, Clarendon

REPORT OF THE MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Dear Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Tinmouth and Wallingford Communities,

As we approach the upcoming budget vote, we want to take this opportunity to discuss the proposed FY27 MRUUSD budget and its implications for taxpayers. The \$22.8 million budget reflects a 3.52% increase over FY26. This budget includes a 7.3% increase in health care expenses and is one of the biggest cost drivers in our budget. We are also asking voters to approve moving \$1 million of our surplus to the building sinking fund to complete repaving at Wallingford Elementary and Mill River as well as improvements to the athletic fields at Mill River.

We are sustaining our commitment to our students by continuing our elementary math intervention program, and adding a new ELL (English Language Learner) position that will be offset by revenue from the state. In addition, this budget adds PreK first aid and CPR training, Special Ed Physical Therapy Service and an additional part time bus driver to support transportation services. We are addressing the wait list for PreK daycare in Wallingford by adding a new paraeducator position that will expand our current capacity by 10 available spots. In order to maintain safe and healthy facilities, we are adding a grounds maintenance position to improve the condition of our athletic fields and outdoor areas.

These proposals were based on public input that took place during Budget Information Meetings, Community Conversations and Board Meetings. We thank community members who attended these meetings and guided the Board as these decisions were made. We encourage you to join us at our regular board meetings which occur on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. There is a hybrid option for you to use and recordings of the meetings (when available) can be accessed on YouTube.

It has been a busy year for the Board. While monitoring developments in state changes to education funding, possible consolidation scenarios and other outside influences on our schools, our committees have focused on addressing our District Goals.

- The Community Engagement Committee held multiple community conversations including a legislative meeting to discuss changes to school funding, transportation concerns, food service, the condition of our athletic facilities and a proposed cell phone policy.
- The Policy Committee proactively adopted a cell-phone policy that was supported by our community as well as reviewing and updating existing policies.
- The Finance Committee hosted budget information discussions which led to the priorities presented in this budget.
- The Negotiations Committee successfully settled contracts for professional and support Staff.
- The Building and Grounds Committee reviewed and recommended heating projects, updated gym facilities at MR, paving at Clarendon Elementary and flooring replacement at Wallingford and Tinmouth Elementary Schools

We also welcomed our new Superintendent, Cheryl Gonzalez as our school leader. Our gratitude to Brian Hill who led our district for several years. We accepted the resignation of Doug Earle who retired after nearly 40 years of representing Clarendon on local boards. This spring there will be a celebration of the 50 year anniversary of the opening of Mill River Union High School. It is also the 10th anniversary of our consolidation as a Unified Union School District.

In closing, we want to thank our teachers, administrators, support staff and everyone working in Mill River School District for supporting our students and one another. Thank you to members of communities for showing your care and support to our students by approving the school budget. Thank you to our families and caregivers whose partnership with school staff provides the education that our children deserve. Finally thank you to our students who shine a brilliant light on the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Geery, Len Doucette, Rich Clark, Dave Potter, Sarah Wicker, Grey Wicker, Ned Ullrich, David Cornwell, Kimberly Williams, Stephen Abatiell, Josh Squier
MRUUSD Board of Directors

MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT – SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dear Mill River Community,

As we move into 2026, I want to share an update on the work happening across the Mill River Unified Union School District. Over the past year, much of our focus has been on taking good care of our school buildings and grounds. Across the district, we’ve made steady improvements—upgrading heating systems, improving kitchens, removing old carpeting, and keeping up with important maintenance like roofing and flooring. These efforts help ensure that our schools remain safe, comfortable, and welcoming places for students and staff. We are also working to stay ahead of future needs so smaller issues don’t turn into larger, more costly repairs. Being thoughtful stewards of our facilities is an important responsibility, and one we take seriously across the district.

Like many school districts across Vermont, Mill River is navigating uncertainty related to Act 73. While the intent is to improve how education is funded statewide, many details are still being worked out. We are closely following these developments and doing our best to plan responsibly while we wait for clearer guidance on how this legislation will affect local budgets and tax rates. Over the past five months, we have worked to develop a district budget that serves the needs of our students while recognizing our responsibility to community taxpayers. This process included input from community members, district staff, and the Board’s Finance Committee.

The proposed **FY 2027 budget** covers our current classroom needs and includes several targeted additions:

- a new **paraeducator position** to expand Wallingford’s pre-K afterschool care capacity,
- an additional **bus driver position** to help ease transportation challenges, and a
- new **athletic fields and grounds maintenance position** to better care for our facilities.

Even with these meaningful additions—along with rising healthcare costs, staff increases, and general inflation—we have kept the total expenditure budget to **\$22,817,989**, representing a **3.52% increase over FY 2026**. Spending per student is estimated to increase by **4.1%**, reflecting a small decline in overall enrollment.

While this budget reflects the realities we face today, it also reminds us of the importance of planning thoughtfully for the future. As we move forward, I invite you to join us as we develop a districtwide continuous improvement plan to guide our work in the years ahead. This plan will help us build on what’s working well, address areas for growth, and make thoughtful decisions for the future of our schools. Community feedback will be an important part of this process. In the coming months, I’ll be reaching out through surveys and conversations to listen to your priorities and ideas.

While this plan will guide our work and help us make thoughtful decisions for the future, it will only succeed if we continue to build on the strong tradition of community support that exists across Mill River. That shared commitment is one of our greatest strengths. When challenges arise, it’s that collective effort that helps us move forward together.

Warm Regards,

Cheryl Gonzalez

Superintendent of Schools, MRUUSD
millriverschools.org

CLARENDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Clarendon Community,

Over the course of this year, we have seen growth in our students both academically and socially. Students continue to strengthen their skills as learners while developing their confidence, independence, and positive relationships with peers and staff. To better support student learning, we added a math interventionist. We have continued our strong instructional foundation with the Bookworm ELA program and the Eureka Math curriculum, while placing a whole school focus on math fluency.

We are also proud to share a decline in behavior referrals and non-negotiables being sent home to families this year. The staff has worked hard to set and reinforce common expectations across all settings at Clarendon. We take pride in creating a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

As winter sports begin, we are excited to expand the opportunities for our students to explore new interests. This year, skiing and snowboarding have been extended to our 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, while skating continues to be a popular choice. We have also added rock climbing, bowling, and crafts. Looking ahead, I hope to add a cheer clinic next year.

I would like to personally thank our Clarendon Elementary School community for the continued support you provide to both our students and staff. Your partnership, involvement, and encouragement play a vital role in the success of our school. We are looking forward to a wonderful second half of the school year!

Thank you,
Summer Stoutes, Principal

SHREWSBURY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Shrewsbury and MRUUSD Community,

It continues to be an absolute pleasure to work with the strong educational team here at SMS. Our staff is completely committed to creating and maintaining a positive culture of learning and community at our school. Our students are having exciting and meaningful educational opportunities to learn inside the classroom and outdoors on our campus. I am very grateful for the support of our families and our community.

Our students have been enjoying a robust academic curriculum where personalized learning opportunities and outdoor learning experiences strengthen their learning and achievement. In addition to core academics, Shrewsbury students participate in health, physical education, music, art, chorus, band and library classes. It was heartwarming to see a huge audience of family and community members gather to celebrate our students' musical achievements at the Winter Concert on December 19th culminating with our PTO sponsored tradition of a special treat of milk and cookies afterward.

SMS has a strong Parent/Teacher Organization which provides support for events for students throughout the school year. The SMS PTO launched a special fundraising effort toward the renovation of the K-6 playground and thanks to their hard work and the generous donations of our community, this large renovation project was able to be completed in July 2025. The students have been having so much fun playing on the new playground equipment this school year.

SMS students are supported by all of our faculty and staff to meet our school expectations of: Be Safe, Be Kind and Be Your BEST. We value building strong relationships between students, staff and our families. Our whole school gathers each month for an assembly. These assemblies always have a different focus, but our first one in September enabled our students, in multi-age groups, to discuss and review our school wide expectations. It is powerful to see our students own these expectations and hold themselves and their peers accountable for striving to achieve this every day. Our students sit at lunch tables with multi-age students that rotate each month so that all students get to know one another and build relationships despite being in different grade level classes. This continues to nurture a positive school culture at SMS where all students are valued, accepted and supported.

We have continued our commitment to the theme of sustainability. Students have participated in Four Winds, a community-based natural science program where students are taught lessons indoors and outdoors by volunteers from our community. In addition to Four Winds, we also work together with the SAGE organization. Our school has begun the process of learning how to compost to nurture our garden this spring. Our grade 5 and 6 students are caring for this aspect of our sustainability mission and are collecting and processing the food waste as well as taking measurements to track the effectiveness of the process. Our grade 3 and 4 students are learning about our orchard and caring for the trees. Each class has a designated raised bed in the garden and will be planting, nurturing and harvesting for deeper learning. We are excited to see continued progress in the systems and structures on our campus that support our sustainability mission.

Our students have had the opportunity to participate in sports and other extracurricular activities within our school and community. Our school is also able to continue our Winter Sports program where our K-2nd graders will be ice skating and our 3-6th graders will have the opportunity to ski or snowboard. We are very grateful for our parent and community member volunteers who help make this program a success!

SMS educators continue to be completely dedicated to the success of our students. Our staff creates a school goal for each academic year. Our goal this year is, “Students will be able to demonstrate collective ownership of our school campus by performing sustainability practices as well as individually contributing to the learning community as a positive student citizen.” Our educators always collaborate and support each other when we set goals and action steps to reach them together. Our educators are utilizing time in staff meetings and professional learning community meetings to discuss teaching strategies, evaluate data and track progress toward our goal.

Our students are growing each day in their academics, their relationships and their resiliency. I am grateful for our school families who have partnered with us in our goal to see every student grow and thrive. The relationships shared between our students, educators, families and our community truly make Shrewsbury Mountain School a unique and special learning environment where everyone is encouraged to learn, grow and be their best.

With gratitude,
Kristin Cimonetti, Principal

TINMOUTH SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

To the Tinmouth Community,

This school year, our team has continued to strengthen our approach to school safety and emergency preparedness. Staff have been engaged in table-top scenarios, which allow us to walk through emergencies in a low-stress environment. These sessions help build confidence, highlight strengths, reveal areas for growth, and encourage creative problem-solving. We have also continued our regular drills, including fire drills, relocation drills, and lock-ins, with a strong emphasis on providing child-friendly explanations that build student confidence and understanding. Our goal continues to be building collective efficacy around procedures, protocols, and drills so that all members of our TMS community feel prepared and supported.

We are excited to share that we received a Whole Foods grant that will support the upkeep of our natural playground, upgrades to our raised beds, and the addition of raised greenhouses. This funding also allows us to purchase new tools and soil, helping us significantly expand our natural playground and keep it a safe and fun place for students to learn.

Another highlight this year is the return of the 5/6 overnight trip, made possible through generous support from the Bill Jenkins Fund and extensive fundraising efforts. Students are thrilled to bring this tradition back, and we are grateful for the community support that has helped make it happen.

We also continue to make steady school improvements, including roof and siding repairs, a new bridge leading to the playground, and a new ramp providing safe access to the community center. These upgrades enhance both safety and accessibility for our community. Our commitment to outdoor learning remains strong. Each class spends time outside weekly for outdoor lessons, hikes, and mixed-age group activities, while PreK and Kindergarten continue to participate in daily outdoor classroom time. These experiences continue to foster curiosity, resilience, and a strong connection to our natural environment, making TMS a truly special school.

Academically, we have been closely examining student performance data, and as a district, we are working hard to strengthen math knowledge among both students and staff. We have provided professional development specifically focused on math instruction, and our in-house PLCs are centered around deepening math practice. At TMS, we are putting new emphasis on math fluency and incorporating math into everyday routines—from weekly math challenges to hallways filled with anchor charts highlighting key skills. Our goal is to create an environment where mathematical thinking feels natural and engaging, not something to be feared.

Thank you to the Tinmouth community for their continued support and advocacy. Tinmouth truly is a very special place.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenn Galusha-Brothers
TMS Principal

WALLINGFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

To the Wallingford Community,

Wallingford Elementary School continues to be a truly special place to lead and learn. Our students show curiosity, kindness, and a growing sense of responsibility each day. Our staff members are deeply committed, talented, and collaborative in their work with children, and our families and broader community are supportive partners who believe in our school and in one another. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as principal and incredibly proud of the learning, growth, and care that take place at WES every day.

Our theme for the 2025–26 school year is “Be Your Best Self.” This theme challenges each student and adult to take ownership of their choices, attitudes, and effort each day. Being your best self means setting goals, persevering through challenges, and practicing our school-wide expectations of respect, responsibility, safety, and teamwork as we learn and grow together. Our school motto, “Together We Grow,” highlights the power of community in that journey.

Students, staff, families, and community members all contribute to a supportive learning environment where everyone belongs. By encouraging one another, celebrating progress, and working collaboratively, we create the conditions for growth—because when we support one another, everyone thrives.

This year, we have challenged our entire school community to complete 100 Acts of Kindness, encouraging students and adults to turn caring intentions into meaningful action. Already, our Wildcats have made a powerful impact by shoveling neighbors’ driveways, volunteering at the local food shelf, and organizing and hosting a Veterans Day ceremony to honor those who have served. These acts—both big and small—show our students that kindness, responsibility, and service extends beyond our school walls.

Through this challenge, we are learning that when we choose to help others, we strengthen our community and grow together. Our goal this year at Wallingford Elementary School is to raise academic achievement for all students by maintaining high expectations, delivering strong, engaging instruction, and providing targeted support where it is needed most. A key area of focus will be building math proficiency, ensuring that students develop strong foundational skills, confidence, and problem-solving strategies. Through thoughtful instruction, ongoing assessment, and timely intervention, we are committed to meeting students where they are and helping every learner make meaningful academic growth.

I am truly grateful to serve as principal of a school filled with amazing students, dedicated staff, and a community that cares deeply about our children. Thank you for all that you do to support our school.

Respectfully,
Phil Hall, Principal

MILL RIVER UNION HIGH SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Mill River Community,

What an amazing time to be a Minuteman. I am humbled every day by the opportunity to be part of a community that cares so deeply, works so diligently, and celebrates as enthusiastically as ours. Mill River Union High School continues to be a place where our students explore, discover, and thrive.

This year, we’ve continued to strengthen our academic program, building on the deep care and commitment to academic excellence that our students showcase, while also expanding offerings. This year we’ve seen the reintroduction of courses in the sciences such as Anatomy and Physiology and Physics, expansion of our language programs, fine art courses, and developed opportunities in the middle school to include health science, field ecology as well as Savory Sessions, which has used an English Language Arts lens to introduce students to kitchen-focused activities to prepare them for life.

Our athletics teams have spent the year flourishing with the support of our families and fans. We have played games under the lights in Castleton and in Ludlow, won in personal, state, and regional contests. With record-setting participation, we have been able to field middle school, JV, and varsity teams. Our gymnasiums, fields, stands, and on the mountain, have been full of what makes MRU so special—our community. Our music and theatre programs collaborated to put on a production of *Little Women*, which was our first musical in many years.

Student performers shared their talents at the state and regional level, with many of our students achieving in both athletics, academics, and the arts.

We are always especially proud of our graduates, whose postsecondary paths reflect a wide range of talents and aspirations. Whether pursuing four-year colleges, technical and trade programs, military service, or direct entry into the workforce, our students are leaving Mill River prepared to take their next steps with confidence and purpose. As we heard at graduation, every step forward, poco a poco, toward their dreams.

Our faculty and staff continue to collaborate, reflect, and innovate in service of student learning. This year, our professional learning has emphasized reflective practice, inclusive classrooms, and a strong sense of belonging for every student. Together, we are committed to ensuring that Mill River is a place where every voice matters, every student is valued, and challenges are met with care and determination.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on building on this momentum—continuing to grow our programs, improve our facilities, and support both academic success and personal growth. We invite families and community members to remain engaged in this work by attending events, sharing feedback, and partnering with us as we plan for the future in support of the best students anywhere.

Thank you for your continued trust and support of Mill River Union High School. Together, we are shaping a strong and hopeful future for our students and our community.

With gratitude,

Sean Robinson, Ed. D.

FACULTY AND STAFF	POSITION
Aas, Anne.....	Teacher-School Librarian
Adams, Carroll.....	Bus Driver
Aines, Margaret	Assistant Director of Student Services
Alexander, Laura	Paraeducator
Allen, Zachary.....	Teacher-Health, Physical Education
Amerio, Kevin	Custodian
Anderson, Ryan.....	Technology Specialist
Balfour, Cheryl.....	Para-educator & Bus Driver
Ballou, Robert.....	Van-Driver
Barone, Shannon.....	Paraeducator
Barrett, Lisa.....	Paraeducator
Bartenstein, Leonard.....	Teacher-English
Bathalon, Heather.....	Paraeducator
Battease, Colleen	Administrative Assistant
Beaudry, Jordan	PreK Associate
Beaudry, Kayla.....	Paraeducator
Behrendt, Bjorn.....	Director of Technology, Data and Innovation
Berriault, Amanda.....	Guidance
Bird, Zachary	Teacher-Science
Bissette, Deb	Administrative Assistant to Director of Student Services; Receptionist
Blanchard, Brooks	Paraeducator
Bolster, Sarah.....	PreK Coordinator
Bonafine, Julia.....	Teacher-Elementary
Bride, Mary	Administrative Assistant
Brochu, Samuel.....	Teacher, Physical Education
Burlett, Emily.....	Teacher-Special Education
Campbell, Jane.....	Paraeducator
Canfield, Joan.....	Paraeducator
Cange, Anthony.....	Paraeducator
Capobianco, Katie.....	Special Educator
Carlson, Christine.....	Paraeducator
Casey, Jessica	Food Service; Food Service Director
Castle,Karen.....	Teacher-Elementary
Cecot, Emily	PreK Associate
Christman, Mya.....	Paraeducator
Cimonetti, Kristin	Principal; Teacher-Vocal Ensembles
Clancy, Carrie.....	Teacher-Language Arts
Coates-Martin, Alice.....	Math Interventionist
Coffey, Jamie.....	Teacher-Elementary

Colburn, Angela.....	Custodian
Colburn, Austin.....	Custodian
Colburn, Cassidy.....	Custodian
Collett, Cassidy.....	Teacher-Elementary
Colomb, Kimberly	Food Service
Colvin, Mary	Teacher-Social Studies
Cooke, Catharine.....	Teacher-French and Russian Language
Corgnalia, Megan.....	Teacher-Special Educator
Cota Allison.....	Teacher-School Librarian
Coutermarsh, Lindsey.....	Teacher-Special Educator
Crossman, Terry.....	Paraeducator
Danner, Erin	Teacher-Math
Davis, Tabitha.....	Teacher-Elementary
Davis, Wade.....	Teacher, Elementary
Dekalb, Jennifer.....	Teacher-Music
Dionne, Carol	Custodian
Doty, Kristina.....	Paraeducator
Duncan, Kristi	District Health Assistant
Dunn-Davenport, Emily.....	Teacher-Special Educator
Duprey, Jennifer	Paraeducator
Edge, Lisa	Teacher-PreK
Elliot, Haley.....	Paraeducator
Elkin, Lowden	Bus Driver
Falker, Melody.....	Teacher, Elementary
Fee, Chance.....	Athletic Director
Ferenz, Karen.....	Accounts Payable Clerk
Finch, Mike.....	Accounts Payable Clerk; Benefits Coordinator
Fitzgerald, Tracy.....	Paraeducator
Foley, Tammy.....	Teacher-Special Educator
Forrest, Jennica.....	Teacher-Special Educator
French, Maria.....	Teacher, Art
Frink, Thomas.....	Teacher-Music
Frulla, Stacie	Teacher-PreK; PreK Associate
Galusha, Jennifer	Principal
Gamache, Michael.....	Teacher-Science
Ganguly-Keifner, Mina.....	Administrative Assistant
Gedney, Katrina.....	Teacher-Elementary
Gibbs, Kristal	Administrative Assistant
Gillam, Anthony	Paraeducator
Girardi, Francesca	Teacher-Elementary
Goodrich, Jennafr	Paraeducator
Gragasin, Ryan.....	Teacher-Science
Gonzalez, Cheryl.....	Superintendent
Greenfield, Brian.....	Teacher-Social Studies
Hadley, Tina	Paraeducator
Hall, Carlton	Restorative and Behavioral Coach
Harding, Pam.....	School Nurse
Harrington, Kathleen.....	Teacher-Interventionist
Harrington, Shirl.....	Teacher-School Counselor
Harte, Timothy.....	Director of Operations, Building and Grounds
Haskins, Kaitlyn.....	Paraeducator
Heflin, James.....	Teacher-Math
Hernandez, Amber.....	Teacher-Science
Herrick, Wendy.....	Teacher-School Counselor
Hill, Joli.....	Teacher-Special Educator
Hodsden, Alexis.....	Teacher-PreK; PreK Associate
Hollinger, Melissa	Teacher-PreK
Howard, Timothy.....	Custodian
Hughes, Bridget.....	Teacher, Elementary
Ingalls, Patti.....	Paraeducator
Jacobsen, Marilyn.....	Paraeducator
Jarvis, Cynthia.....	Teacher-EST/MTSS/504 Coordinator
Kafarski, Mary Ellen.....	Teacher-Interventionist
Kazakis, Chyenne.....	Teacher-School Psychologist
Kearney, Rebecca.....	Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Kent, Heather	Teacher-Special Ed
Lane, Devon	Teacher-English
Latkin, Lee Daniel.....	Teacher-Social Studies
Lattuca, Joan.....	Teacher-Interventionist
LeBrun, Elizabeth.....	Paraeducator
LeVangie, Kristen	Teacher-Special Educator
Levins, Colleen.....	Teacher-Elementary
Lewis, Colleen	Teacher-Special Educator

Lewis, Anne	Teacher-World Language
Lewis, Katherine	Paraeducator
Lidstone, Curtis	Bus Driver
Little, Shane	Teacher-Math
Loose, Andrew	Teacher-Music
Loso, Tabitha	Paraeducator
Luzader, Adam	Paraeducator
MacMurray, Shawn	Custodian
Manley, Cathy	Paraeducator
Markowski, Kelly	Teacher-Special Educator
Martin, Jennifer	Teacher-French and Spanish Language
Martin, Tiffany	Teacher-PreK
McCalla, Karen	Teacher-School Librarian
McClure, Jordan	Program Coordinator
McDonough, Sabrina	Teacher-Elementary
McLachlan, Naomi	Teacher-Elementary
McNichol, Dennis	Teacher, Elementary
Michael, Thomas	Teacher, Social Studies
McPhee, Elizabeth	Teacher-Special Educator
Merritt, Shannon	Teacher-Elementary
Miele, JoAnne	Paraeducator
Miles, Brandy	Guidance Counselor
Monahan, Mary Beth	Teacher-Interventionist
Montaven, William	Custodian
Moore, Kimberly	Teacher-Math
Morgan, Jessica	Administrative Assistant
Mormando, Beth	Teacher-Special Educator SLP
Mozzer, Sidney	Paraeducator
Musto, Tamara	Paraeducator
Nemeth, Jeremy	Custodian
Nemey, Brendan	Teacher-Science
Norton, Ella	Pre-K Associate
Newton, Kirsten	Paraeducator
Panarello, Yvonne	Bus Driver
Parent, Timothy	Program Coordinator
Patterson, Alexis	Teacher-Elementary
Patrick, Lynne	Administrative Assistant & Registrar
Pawlaczyk, Stan	Business Manager
Pease, Kayla	Custodian
Pecor, Lynn	Teacher-Elementary
Phillips, Shannon	Teacher-Elementary
Pritchard, Bonnie	Teacher-Elementary
Reynolds, Paula	Teacher-School Counselor
Rice, Erin	Teacher-Elementary
Rinehart, Eugene	Custodian
Roach, Peter	Teacher-Instrumental Music
Robinson, Sean	Principal
Robbins, Edward	Teacher-Science
Robilotto, Heather	Teacher-PreK
Savery, Wendy A.	Teacher-English and French Language
Savoie, Andrew	Teacher-Special Educator
See, Peter	Teacher-Social Studies
Serr, Theresa	After School Activities Director
Severance, Jennifer	Teacher-English
Sharrow, Angela	Administrative Assistant
Sisco, Katie	Teacher-Elementary
Smakhtina, Marina	Paraeducator
Smith, George	Bus-Driver
Spencer, Tracy	Administrative Assistant
Spencer, Elizabeth	Support Staff-PreK Associate
Spoth, Mittasille	Paraeducator
Stamey, Alexa	Teacher, Elementary
Stannard, Karyn	Assistant Principal
Stewart-Ruck, Jodie	Assistant Superintendent
Stone, Coral	Director of Student Services
Stone, David	Custodian
Stoutes, Summer	Principal
Stratton, Jonathan	Teacher-Band/Instrumental
Striglia, Suzanne	Teacher-Health
Stubbins, Kelly	Teacher-Math
Sumner, Lori	Paraeducator
Swyler, Karen	Teacher-Art
Taylor, Jonathan	Teacher-Art

Tedesco, Adrienne.....	Teacher-Nurse
Tinsley, Tracey	Teacher-Physical Education
Todd, Melissa	Special Educator
Van Dien, Cindy.....	Paraeducator
Vali, Scarlett.....	Custodian
Vikdal, Tabatha.....	Teacher-School Counselor
Walker, Justin.....	Teacher-School Psychologist
Waterhouse, David.....	Paraeducator
Waterhouse, Kelly	Teacher-Special Educator
Welych-Miller, Alexandra.....	Special Ed Counselor
Whitney, Susan	Assistant Business Manager
Wildman, Kimberly.....	PreK Associate
Williams, Sarah.....	Paraeducator
Wilson, Chad	Payroll Specialist
Wyman, Julia	Teacher-Elementary
Zamperini, John.....	Custodian

ENROLLMENT – MILL RIVER UNION HIGH SCHOOL

The current Mill River enrollment is 359 students, as of January 15, 2026. Please refer to the tables printed below for greater detail on enrollment.

MILL RIVER ACTUAL ENROLLMENT							
<u>2023-2024</u>							
	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Resident	58	61	43	52	40	40	294
Tuition/Other	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>85</u>
Total	73	70	52	66	61	57	379

MILL RIVER ACTUAL ENROLLMENT							
<u>2024-2025</u>							
	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Resident	49	56	50	41	43	40	280
Tuition/Other	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>84</u>
Total	62	69	63	52	61	57	364

MILL RIVER ACTUAL ENROLLMENT							
<u>2025-2026</u>							
	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Resident	48	47	56	43	40	37	271
Tuition/Other	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>88</u>
Total	67	61	71	56	51	53	359

MILL RIVER PROJECTED ENROLLMENT							
<u>2026-2027</u>							
	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Resident	45	48	47	56	43	40	279
Tuition/Other	<u>12</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>90</u>
Total	45	71	66	73	57	51	369

ENROLLMENT – ELEMENTARIES

Clarendon Elementary School	<u>Actual</u> 2023-2024	<u>Actual</u> 2024-2025	<u>Actual</u> 2025-2026	<u>Projected</u> 2026-2027
PreK	24	24	25	25
K	12	17	15	13
1	23	14	13	15
2	15	24	12	13
3	21	14	22	12
4	14	22	16	22
5	20	14	20	16
6	23	21	11	20
Total Clarendon	152	150	134	136

Shrewsbury Mountain School	<u>Actual</u> 2023-2024	<u>Actual</u> 2024-2025	<u>Actual</u> 2025-2026	<u>Projected</u> 2026-2027
PreK	14	9	12	14
K	9	7	5	7
1	7	10	6	5
2	8	7	10	6
3	10	8	6	10
4	10	12	9	6
5	9	11	11	9
6	9	10	10	11
Total Shrewsbury	76	74	69	68

Tinmouth Elementary School	<u>Actual</u> 2023-2024	<u>Actual</u> 2024-2025	<u>Actual</u> 2025-2026	<u>Projected</u> 2026-2027
PreK	14	14	10	10
K	7	7	9	9
1	6	8	7	9
2	10	7	8	7
3	2	10	8	8
4	13	3	11	8
5	7	13	3	11
6	8	7	12	3
Total Tinmouth	67	69	68	65

Wallingford Elementary School	<u>Actual</u> 2023-2024	<u>Actual</u> 2024-2025	<u>Actual</u> 2025-2026	<u>Projected</u> 2026-2027
PreK	29	23	21	23
K	11	15	16	11
1	14	12	15	16
2	23	15	10	15
3	14		15	10
4	16	16	24	15
5	10	10	16	24
6	12	12	12	16
Total Wallingford	129	129	129	130

BUDGET STATEMENT

The financial statements in this report contain the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year. This proposed budget contains expenditures in the amount of \$22,817,989. The proposed budget is 3.52% higher than the total budgeted expenditures for the current year, 2025-2026.

Anticipated tax rate of \$1.5970 is based on educational spending per equalized pupil of \$14,132.18 and a property yield of \$8,849 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value as recommended by the Tax Commissioner in Act 46. The tax rate of \$1.5970 has not been adjusted for Common Level of Appraisals.

Non-resident High School Tuition Rate (2024-2025): \$22,500 *

Non-resident Elementary Tuition Rate (2024-2025): \$21,000*

* Does not include transportation, vocational education, Stafford Technical Center tuition, special education and related service costs which are funded separately by tuition.

COMPARATIVE DATA FOR COST EFFECTIVENESS

16 V.S.A. 165 (a)(2)(K)

The Comparative Data for Cost Effectiveness Chart was not available from the Agency of Education at press time.

MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Operating Fund
Financial Summary FY2027

Description	Audited Actuals 2024-2025	Anticipated 2025-2026	Approved Budget 2025-2026	Proposed Budget 2026-2027	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2026-2027
Total Revenue	21,061,592	21,616,181	21,042,475	21,567,989	525,514
Total Expenditures	19,511,845	21,619,180	22,042,475	22,817,989	775,514
Excess (Rebate) of Revenue	1,549,747	(2,999)	(1,000,000)	(1,250,000)	(250,000)
Beginning Bal July 1	3,558,976	4,808,723	4,808,723	4,805,724	N/A
Transfers	(300,000)	0	0	0	N/A
Ending Bal June 30	4,808,723	4,805,724	3,808,723	3,555,724	N/A

Receipts
Table I

Code	Description	Audited Actuals 2024-2025	Anticipated 2025-2026	Approved Budget 2025-2026	Proposed Budget 2026-2027	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2026-2027
	Local Revenue					
1302	Tuition - Public VT LEA	1,456,193	1,789,965	1,430,496	1,801,152	370,656
1510	Investments	123,895	85,000	65,000	70,000	5,000
1911	Parental Fees - PreK	31,632	22,030	22,700	22,700	0
1920	Contributions	14,699	15,000	15,000	15,000	0
1940	Sped Excess Cost Revenue	197,454	300,000	150,000	300,000	150,000
1990	Other Local/Rental	7,255	4,799	100	100	0
	Total Local	1,831,128	2,216,794	1,683,296	2,208,952	525,656

	State Revenue					
3110	Education Spending Grant	16,658,317	17,037,477	17,037,477	16,972,504	(64,973)
3113	Technical Education State Support	273,442	250,398	250,398	265,927	15,529
3115	Unenrolled Resident attending VOC	19,093	10,000	0	10,000	10,000
3150	Transportation Aid	215,079	179,316	179,316	177,048	(2,268)
3161	ELL Categorical Aid	0	0	0	50,000	50,000
3204	Spec Ed EEE	80,281	75,588	80,281	79,627	(654)
3205	State Placed Student Reimb	3,896	3,127	0	0	0
3209	State Placed Other Reimb	16,925	0	0	0	0
3220	Spec Ed Census Grant	1,680,582	1,637,707	1,637,707	1,662,931	25,224
3282	Driver Education	7,027	8,000	8,000	8,000	0
3308	Vocational Education	13,983	13,000	13,000	13,000	0
3790	State DCF Fees	200,171	166,549	153,000	120,000	(33,000)
	Total State Revenue	19,168,796	19,381,162	19,359,179	19,359,037	(142)

	Other Revenue					
5300	Sale of Buses	2,500	0	0	0	0
5320	Refunds/Other/Prior Yr Adjustments	59,159	18,225	0	0	0
5390	Bond Fund Transfer	9	0	0	0	0
	Total Other Revenue	61,668	18,225	0	0	0

Total Revenue - All Sources	21,061,592	21,616,181	21,042,475	21,567,989	525,514
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MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Table II

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027
			Approved	Proposed	Budget
Description	Audited	Total	Unified	Unified	Increase
	Actual	Anticipated	Budget	Budget	(Decrease)
Preschool - Instruction					
Salaries	684,209	753,898	728,322	780,549	52,227
Benefits	222,388	240,713	257,995	248,331	(9,664)
Professional Services	470	2,000	2,000	2,000	0
Other Purchased Services	16,727	11,946	15,928	16,424	496
Supplies	4,319	6,650	6,650	5,650	(1,000)
Dues / Fees	160	450	450	450	0
Total Preschool - Instruction	928,273	1,015,657	1,011,345	1,053,404	42,059
Preschool - Health Services					
Supplies	0	0	3,000	0	(3,000)
Total Preschool - Health Services	0	0	3,000	0	(3,000)
Preschool - Administration					
Salaries	24,435	25,535	25,657	27,578	1,921
Benefits	2,232	2,250	2,357	2,429	72
Professional Services	0	0	0	3,900	3,900
Other Purchased Services	0	500	500	500	0
Supplies	190	150	150	1,500	1,350
Total Preschool Administration	26,857	28,435	28,664	35,907	7,243
Community Services					
Salaries	46,105	38,718	50,753	65,014	14,261
Benefits	13,218	10,379	25,184	15,047	(10,137)
Supplies	0	1,750	1,750	750	(1,000)
Dues / Fees	13,295	0	0	0	0
Total Community Services	72,618	50,847	77,687	80,811	3,124
TOTAL PRESCHOOL EXPENDITURES	1,027,748	1,094,939	1,120,696	1,170,122	49,426
Direct Instruction					
Salaries	4,160,780	4,493,180	4,581,814	4,633,324	51,510
Benefits	1,633,952	1,788,412	1,863,499	1,887,881	24,382
Professional Services	94,886	94,214	95,900	58,700	(37,200)
Purchased Property Services	2,136	0	0	0	0
Other Purchased Services	1,834	20,084	20,502	21,042	540
Supplies	86,293	116,325	107,700	107,800	100
Equipment	6,108	0	0	0	0
Dues / Fees	7,310	8,383	6,950	10,350	3,400
Total Direct Instruction	5,993,299	6,520,598	6,676,365	6,719,097	42,732
Department Budgets - HS	57,196	68,523	72,013	70,523	(1,490)
School Interventionists					
Salaries	99,513	271,296	286,539	278,977	(7,562)
Benefits	50,477	149,199	163,473	154,211	(9,262)
Other Purchased Services	1,524	1,000	3,000	1,000	(2,000)
Supplies	0	0	1,000	0	(1,000)
Total School Interventionists	151,514	421,495	454,012	434,188	(19,824)
Summer Program					
Salaries	0	8,000	5,000	10,000	5,000

MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Table II

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027
			Approved	Proposed	Budget
Description	Audited	Total	Unified	Unified	Increase
	Actual	Anticipated	Budget	Budget	(Decrease)
Benefits	0	702	405	872	467
Dues / Fees	0	80	0	80	80
Total Summer Program	0	8,782	5,405	10,952	5,547
Vocational Instruction					
Other Purchased Services	512,065	504,990	504,990	536,058	31,068
Total Vocational Instruction	512,065	504,990	504,990	536,058	31,068
Athletics					
Salaries	89,139	93,460	93,210	99,000	5,790
Benefits	9,152	8,800	9,619	9,516	(103)
Purchased Services	32,003	39,050	39,300	39,800	500
Purchased Property Services	7,208	7,500	7,000	7,500	500
Other Purchased Services	5,032	3,650	3,050	5,150	2,100
Supplies	10,919	11,450	11,700	11,700	0
Dues / Fees	17,556	18,123	16,500	18,350	1,850
Total Athletics	171,009	182,033	180,379	191,016	10,637
Activities					
Salaries	42,542	45,100	43,500	45,100	1,600
Benefits	3,537	3,876	3,956	4,001	45
Purchased Services	0	3,010	5,500	5,500	0
Purchased Property Services	0	3,098	0	0	0
Supplies	6,450	3,000	3,800	3,800	0
Dues / Fees	18,990	22,332	24,000	27,000	3,000
Total Activities	71,519	80,416	80,756	85,401	4,645
AfterSchool Program					
Salaries	141	0	0	0	0
Benefits	18	0	0	0	0
Supplies	2,349	1,329	1,329	1,329	0
Dues / Fees	6,600	8,000	8,000	8,000	0
Total AfterSchool Program	9,108	9,329	9,329	9,329	0
Guidance					
Salaries	400,376	472,245	461,765	528,842	67,077
Benefits	162,610	180,084	177,356	201,836	24,480
Purchased Services	47,385	48,436	48,256	0	(48,256)
Other Purchased Services	0	0	200	0	(200)
Supplies	2,701	3,700	3,700	3,700	0
Total Guidance	613,072	704,465	691,277	734,378	43,101
Health Services					
Salaries	245,579	201,765	260,663	217,691	(42,972)
Benefits	115,956	72,374	125,473	79,648	(45,825)
Purchased Services	0	250	250	500	250
Purchased Property Services	575	800	800	800	0
Other Purchased Services	0	1,065	1,065	1,065	0
Supplies	5,614	4,500	4,500	5,500	1,000
Dues / Fees	0	400	400	600	200
Total Health Services	367,724	281,154	393,151	305,804	(87,347)

**MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Table II**

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027
			Approved	Proposed	Budget
Description	Audited	Total	Unified	Unified	Increase
	Actual	Anticipated	Budget	Budget	(Decrease)
Other Support Svcs - Students					
Salaries	42,431	41,034	40,701	77,087	36,386
Benefits	11,605	7,719	7,552	52,165	44,613
Total Other Support Svcs - Students	54,036	48,753	48,253	129,252	80,999
Impr of Instruction - Curriculum					
Salaries	145,959	160,860	161,300	168,608	7,308
Benefits	46,065	56,830	51,456	57,031	5,575
Purchased Services	13,740	13,790	13,137	15,137	2,000
Other Purchased Services	2,218	3,500	1,500	1,500	0
Supplies	1,118	1,855	1,855	1,855	0
Dues / Fees	2,925	3,000	3,000	3,000	0
Total Impr of Instr - Curriculum	212,025	239,835	232,248	247,131	14,883
Library Media					
Salaries	242,437	262,961	264,565	273,962	9,397
Benefits	79,541	100,991	88,721	114,087	25,366
Other Purchased Services	59	0	400	0	(400)
Supplies	15,804	16,900	16,900	25,400	8,500
Dues / Fees	0	18	0	0	0
Total Library Media	337,841	380,870	370,586	413,449	42,863
Technology					
Salaries	73,386	74,506	76,562	82,469	5,907
Benefits	14,107	13,869	14,216	15,205	989
Purchased Services	525	12,300	12,000	12,000	0
Other Purchased Services	15,554	18,800	18,800	18,800	0
Supplies	237,410	258,500	258,500	262,490	3,990
Dues / Fees	571	571	465	465	0
Total Technology	341,553	378,546	380,543	391,429	10,886
Board of Education					
Salaries	11,500	12,460	11,800	13,900	2,100
Benefits	930	1,063	955	1,270	315
Purchased Services	12,689	3,230	3,025	3,025	0
Purchased Property Services	0	100	0	100	100
Other Purchased Services	29,763	36,293	36,882	37,750	868
Supplies	261	645	850	850	0
Dues / Fees	6,715	7,142	7,050	7,250	200
Total Board of Education	61,858	60,933	60,562	64,145	3,583
Treasurer					
Salaries	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	0
Benefits	97	97	97	97	0
Total Treasurer	1,297	1,297	1,297	1,297	0
Audit					
Purchased Services	32,375	39,250	32,000	40,875	8,875
Total Audit	32,375	39,250	32,000	40,875	8,875
Legal Services					
Purchased Services	2,370	12,000	12,000	12,000	0

MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Table II

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027
			Approved	Proposed	Budget
Description	Audited	Total	Unified	Unified	Increase
	Actual	Anticipated	Budget	Budget	(Decrease)
Total Legal Services	2,370	12,000	12,000	12,000	0
Central Office Administration					
Salaries	186,189	202,391	195,773	215,476	19,703
Benefits	67,046	66,054	72,943	69,973	(2,970)
Purchased Services	1,099	3,000	3,000	3,000	0
Purchased Property Services	2,856	3,500	3,500	3,500	0
Other Purchased Services	24,812	28,576	28,456	27,180	(1,276)
Supplies	4,835	7,119	7,119	9,165	2,046
Dues / Fees	5,121	5,830	5,434	6,120	686
Total Central Office Administration	291,958	316,470	316,225	334,414	18,189
School Administration					
Salaries	927,001	963,390	967,423	1,029,504	62,081
Benefits	381,277	410,635	432,128	448,991	16,863
Purchased Services	4,629	3,460	2,700	2,300	(400)
Purchased Property Services	40,958	43,580	50,726	43,980	(6,746)
Other Purchased Services	30,381	39,859	32,450	38,250	5,800
Supplies	18,364	27,238	31,350	30,150	(1,200)
Dues / Fees	6,367	7,884	7,625	8,250	625
Total School Administration	1,408,977	1,496,046	1,524,402	1,601,425	77,023
After School Program Administration					
Salaries	81,000	68,040	68,040	72,122	4,082
Benefits	22,129	20,708	20,722	22,218	1,496
Total After School Program Admin	103,129	88,748	88,762	94,340	5,578
COPS Program					
Purchased Services	48,349	84,520	80,290	90,000	9,710
Total COPS Program	48,349	84,520	80,290	90,000	9,710
Fiscal Services					
Salaries	283,254	315,799	314,549	339,595	25,046
Benefits	143,444	149,384	151,528	160,805	9,277
Purchased Services	10,649	13,600	14,500	13,600	(900)
Other Purchased Property Services	633	1,650	0	500	500
Other Purchased Services	26	500	500	300	(200)
Supplies	1,908	1,400	1,400	1,750	350
Debt Service / Dues / Fees	2,693	1,825	2,280	1,900	(380)
Total Fiscal Services	442,607	484,158	484,757	518,450	33,693
Tech Administration					
Salaries	92,000	96,600	96,600	102,396	5,796
Benefits	43,583	51,451	52,264	54,537	2,273
Purchased Services	6,383	1,000	1,000	0	(1,000)
Other Purchased Services	0	500	500	0	(500)
Supplies	0	0	0	20,150	20,150
Dues / Fees	100	100	100	100	0
Total Tech Administration	142,066	149,651	150,464	177,183	26,719
Buildings / Grounds					
Salaries	743,601	782,384	804,273	899,726	95,453

MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Table II

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027
			Approved	Proposed	Budget
Description	Audited	Total	Unified	Unified	Increase
	Actual	Anticipated	Budget	Budget	(Decrease)
Benefits	356,816	388,952	395,920	480,060	84,140
Purchased Services	5,264	7,150	4,900	6,200	1,300
Purchased Property Services	270,522	309,871	286,370	261,953	(24,417)
Other Purchased Services	90,787	113,541	102,309	117,347	15,038
Supplies	108,424	112,500	104,500	123,950	19,450
Electricity	96,537	111,461	119,163	124,156	4,993
Propane	33,574	45,550	53,902	47,550	(6,352)
Heating Oil	58,408	70,334	71,234	71,234	0
Gasoline	1,753	4,150	3,750	4,150	400
Wood Products	47,903	58,125	58,125	58,125	0
Equipment	5,862	0	0	0	0
Dues / Fees	2,762	3,400	3,400	3,400	0
Total Buildings / Grounds	1,822,213	2,007,418	2,007,846	2,197,851	190,005
Transportation					
Salaries	166,605	184,595	190,932	240,838	49,906
Benefits	64,976	70,929	72,498	73,956	1,458
Purchased Services	2,055	8,000	8,650	2,250	(6,400)
Purchased Property Services	160,565	217,533	213,000	186,145	(26,855)
Other Purchased Services	10,746	15,701	12,120	16,750	4,630
Supplies	50,503	63,299	66,800	66,000	(800)
Equipment	7,372	0	0	0	0
Dues / Fees	476	2,100	2,100	1,000	(1,100)
Total Transportation	463,298	562,157	566,100	586,939	20,839
Transportation - NonResident					
Salaries	21,823	23,652	23,652	24,393	741
Benefits	2,808	2,890	2,668	2,984	316
Total Transportation - NonResident	24,631	26,542	26,320	27,377	1,057
Transportation - Voc					
Salaries	12,828	16,454	13,403	18,099	4,696
Benefits	6,747	7,638	7,249	8,423	1,174
Total Transportation - Voc	19,575	24,092	20,652	26,522	5,870
Transportation - Activities					
Salaries	38,768	41,300	36,300	43,250	6,950
Benefits	4,054	4,585	4,469	4,964	495
Other Purchased Services	289	0	0	0	0
Total Transportation - Activities	43,111	45,885	40,769	48,214	7,445
Transportation - Field Trips					
Salaries	27,067	26,660	26,660	29,500	2,840
Benefits	2,881	2,828	2,758	3,211	453
Total Transportation - Field Trips	29,948	29,488	29,418	32,711	3,293
Debt Service					
Bond Interest - WES	14,670	13,340	13,340	11,936	(1,404)
Bond Interest - HS paid in full in FY26	930	0	(356)	0	356
Bond Interest - HS	(327)	807	1,163	699	(464)
Bond Interest - District 2018 Bond	88,751	84,420	84,420	79,564	(4,856)
Bond Interest - District 2019 Bond	48,754	46,983	46,983	45,120	(1,863)

MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Table II

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027
			Approved	Proposed	Budget
Description	Audited	Total	Unified	Unified	Increase
	Actual	Anticipated	Budget	Budget	(Decrease)
Bond Principal - SMS/paid in full in FY25	21,500	0	0	0	0
Bond Principal - WES/paymnt 12 of 20	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	0
Bond Principal - HS/paymnt 19 of 20	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0
Bond Principal - HS/paid in full in FY26	55,000	55,000	55,000	0	(55,000)
Bond Principal - Distr/paymnt 8 of 20	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	0
Bond Principal - Distr/paymnt 7 of 20	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	0
Total Debt Service	574,278	545,550	545,550	482,319	(63,231)
Prior Year Expense					
Salary	1,385	14,392	0	0	0
Benefits	162	1,471	0	0	0
Purchased Services	14,900	246	0	0	0
Purchased Property Services	773	4,220	0	0	0
Supplies	532	500	0	0	0
Dues / Fees	925	700	0	0	0
Total Prior Year Expense	18,677	21,529	0	0	0
TOTAL REGULAR EDUCATION	14,422,678	15,825,523	16,086,721	16,614,069	527,348
Special Ed - Instruction - EEE					
Salaries	89,774	27,746	84,279	51,919	(32,360)
Benefits	25,446	11,493	23,775	29,909	6,134
Purchased Services	0	20	0	0	0
Supplies	273	0	0	0	0
Total Special Ed - Instruction - EEE	115,493	39,259	108,054	81,828	(26,226)
Psych Services - EEE					
Supplies	0	300	300	300	0
Total Psych Services - EEE	0	300	300	300	0
Speech Services - EEE					
Salaries	17,198	0	2,000	2,000	0
Benefits	5,396	0	162	162	0
Purchased Services	1,672	55,504	20,000	22,000	2,000
Other Purchased Services	98	0	0	0	0
Supplies	0	500	500	500	0
Total Speech Services - EEE	24,364	56,004	22,662	24,662	2,000
Health Services - PT- EEE					
Purchased Services	5,123	11,276	2,000	6,400	4,400
Total Health Services - PT - EEE	5,123	11,276	2,000	6,400	4,400
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION - EEE	144,980	106,839	133,016	113,190	(19,826)
Special Ed - Instruction					
Salaries	2,005,890	2,165,973	2,387,238	2,472,521	85,283
Benefits	988,649	1,053,088	1,161,096	1,221,941	60,845
Purchased Services	22,293	171,402	17,500	28,500	11,000
Purchased Property Services	1,556	1,958	1,958	1,958	0
Other Purchased Services	20,910	99,139	114,500	116,129	1,629
Supplies	21,317	23,956	23,800	23,800	0

MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Table II

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027
			Approved	Proposed	Budget
Description	Audited	Total	Unified	Unified	Increase
	Actual	Anticipated	Budget	Budget	(Decrease)
Dues / Fees	2,636	4,715	4,385	4,385	0
Total Special Ed - Instruction	3,063,251	3,520,231	3,710,477	3,869,234	158,757
Social Work Services					
Salaries	58,925	63,639	63,639	65,867	2,228
Benefits	18,510	21,061	19,753	21,888	2,135
Total Social Work Services	77,435	84,700	83,392	87,755	4,363
Psych Services					
Salaries	75,657	79,803	84,633	86,861	2,228
Benefits	41,512	44,690	44,390	46,103	1,713
Purchased Services	9,559	10,000	10,000	10,000	0
Other Purchased Services	589	1,550	1,550	1,550	0
Supplies	2,315	2,000	2,000	2,000	0
Total Psych Services	129,632	138,043	142,573	146,514	3,941
Speech Services					
Salaries	148,999	87,199	259,281	265,245	5,964
Benefits	66,010	32,523	122,946	106,335	(16,611)
Purchased Services	65,561	323,021	0	0	0
Other Purchased Services	1,390	601	4,015	3,666	(349)
Supplies	1,543	888	1,325	1,325	0
Dues / Fees	500	225	750	750	0
Total Speech Services	284,003	444,457	388,317	377,321	(10,996)
Health Services - OT					
Salaries	61,918	67,342	67,342	69,570	2,228
Benefits	22,189	32,832	22,930	37,629	14,699
Other Purchased Services	691	1,000	2,000	1,000	(1,000)
Supplies	3,391	1,500	1,500	2,500	1,000
Dues / Fees	261	0	0	275	275
Total Health Services - OT	88,450	102,674	93,772	110,974	17,202
Health Services - PT					
Purchased Services	6,538	19,314	7,000	22,600	15,600
Supplies	626	0	0	0	0
Total Health Services - PT	7,164	19,314	7,000	22,600	15,600
Improvement of Instruction					
Salaries	2,875	478	1,500	0	(1,500)
Benefits	219	83	122	0	(122)
Purchased Services	14,581	7,985	8,000	15,000	7,000
Other Purchased Services	0	17	0	0	0
Supplies	954	0	0	0	0
Total Improvement of Instruction	18,629	8,563	9,622	15,000	5,378
Special Ed Administration					
Salaries	155,470	160,074	163,972	173,751	9,779
Benefits	48,281	58,961	55,172	62,285	7,113
Purchased Services	2,383	5,300	5,300	5,300	0
Purchased Property Services	288	325	325	325	0
Other Purchased Services	2,148	1,800	1,500	1,800	300

MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Table II

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027
			Approved	Proposed	Budget
Description	Audited	Total	Unified	Unified	Increase
	Actual	Anticipated	Budget	Budget	(Decrease)
Supplies	9,685	6,690	7,700	6,770	(930)
Dues / Fees	1,611	1,614	2,000	2,000	0
Total Special Ed Administration	219,866	234,764	235,969	252,231	16,262
Transportation					
Salaries	25,182	35,375	27,160	35,320	8,160
Benefits	2,827	3,758	3,760	3,659	(101)
Total Special Ed Transportation	28,009	39,133	30,920	38,979	8,059
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION	3,916,439	4,591,879	4,702,042	4,920,608	218,566
SUBTOTAL	19,511,845	21,619,180	22,042,475	22,817,989	775,514
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET	19,511,845	21,619,180	22,042,475	22,817,989	775,514

**Mill River Unified Union School District
Combined Balance Sheet
June 30, 2025**

Description	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Fund	Long Term Debt	District Total
Assets					
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4,718,277	909,356	1,026,361	0	6,653,994
Accounts Receivable	136,160	390,820	0	0	526,980
Due from other funds	336,616	207,456	0	0	544,072
Prepaid Expenses	27,804	0	0	0	27,804
Property & Equipment, net	0	24,339	0	0	24,339
Debt Retirement	0	0	0	4,710,000	4,710,000
Total Assets	5,218,857	1,531,971	1,026,361	4,710,000	12,487,189
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	200,403	172,142	65,226	0	437,771
Accrued Expenses	10,823	5,236	0	0	16,059
Due to other governments	0	0	0	0	0
Due to other funds	198,644	345,428	0	0	544,072
Deferred Revenues	264	9,223	0	0	9,487
Deposits held for Others	0	0	0	0	0
Bonds & Notes Payable	0	0	0	4,710,000	4,710,000
Total Liabilities	410,134	532,029	65,226	4,710,000	5,717,389
Fund Equity					
Nonspendable Prepaid Items	27,804	0	0	0	27,804
Net Investment in Capital Assets	0	24,339	0	0	24,339
Restricted	0	975,603	0	0	975,603
Committed	0	0	961,135	0	961,135
Assigned	4,780,919	0	0	0	4,780,919
Unassigned	0	0	0	0	0
Total Fund Equity	4,808,723	999,942	961,135	0	6,769,800
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	5,218,857	1,531,971	1,026,361	4,710,000	12,487,189

**Combined Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Chgs in Fund Balance
June 30, 2025**

Description	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Fund	District Total
Revenue:	21,061,583	2,788,687	15,160	23,865,430
Expenditures:	19,511,845	2,779,005	350,158	22,641,008
Excess Rev./Exp.	1,549,738	9,682	(334,998)	1,224,422
Beginning Fund Balance	3,558,976	990,260	996,142	5,545,378
Transfers	(299,991)	0	299,991	0
Fund Balance: 6/30/25	4,808,723	999,942	961,135	6,769,800

**Combined Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Chgs in Fund Balance - Reserve Funds
June 30, 2025**

Description	Shrewsbury Mountain School Bldg Fund	Shrewsbury Mountain School PreK Fund	Wallingford Elementary School Bldg Fund	District Bldg Fund	Capital Needs Bond Fund	Performance Bond Fund	District Total
Beginning Fund Balance 7/1/24	1	5,070	12,569	978,494	8	0	996,142
Revenues: Interest	0	3	4	496	1	0	504
Expenditures: Operations	0	(2,912)	(12,333)	(334,913)	0	0	(350,158)
Adjustments	0	0	0	14,656	0	0	14,656
Transfers	0	0	0	300,000	(9)	0	299,991
Ending Fund Balance 6/30/25	1	2,161	240	958,733	0	0	961,135

District: Mill River USD		U052			Property dollar equivalent yield	Estimated tax rate per \$0.00 of taxable value
30: Rutland South		Rutland County			8.849	1.00
					12,154	
Expenditures		FY2024	FY2025	FY2026		FY2027
1.	Adopted or warned union district budget (including special programs and full technical center expenditures)	\$19,826,555	\$21,333,576	\$22,042,475		\$22,817,989
2.	Sum of separately warned articles passed at union district meeting	-	-	-		-
3.	Adopted or warned union district budget plus articles	\$19,826,555	\$21,333,576	\$22,042,475		\$22,817,989
4.	Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-		-
5.	Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-		-
6.	Total Union Expenditures	\$19,826,555	\$21,333,576	\$22,042,475		\$22,817,989
7.	S.U. assessment (included in union budget) - informational data	-	-	-		-
8.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in union expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-		-
Revenues						
9.	Union fundables (intergovernmental grants, donations, tuition, surplus, federal, etc.)	\$4,696,521	\$4,401,817	\$4,754,600		\$5,579,558
10.	Total offsetting union revenues	\$4,696,521	\$4,401,817	\$4,754,600		\$5,579,558
11.	Education Spending	\$15,128,934	\$16,931,759	\$17,287,875		\$17,238,431
12.	Mill River USD pupils	717.26	1,311.69	1,273.42		1,219.86
Education Spending per Pupil		\$21,077.02	\$12,909.34	\$13,575.94		\$14,132.18
13.	Less net eligible construction costs for FY24 per pupil	-	-	\$399.65		-
14.	Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$69,446 for an individual (per pupil)	-	-	-		-
15.	Excess spending penalty suspended for FY24 & FY25 - Sec. 8 of Act 175, 2022	-	-	-		-
16.	Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuition paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per pupil)	-	-	-		-
17.	Less by E costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per pupil)	-	-	-		-
18.	Estimated costs of new students after census period (per pupil)	-	-	-		-
19.	Total tuition if funding ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuition greater than average (per pupil)	-	-	-		-
20.	Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per pupil)	-	-	-		-
21.	Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System (on or after July 1, 2016) (per pupil)	-	-	-		-
22.	Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or testing	-	-	-		-
23.	Excess spending threshold	-	-	-		\$15,989.09
24.	Excess Spending per Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	-		\$14,132.18
25.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$21,077	\$12,910	\$13,576		\$14,132.18
26.	Union spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	126.483%	130.490%	127.222%		128.704%
27.	Anticipated equalized union homestead tax rate to be prorated (\$14,132.18 ÷ (\$8,849 ÷ \$1.00))	\$1.5648	\$1.5649	\$1.5793		\$1.5970
28.	Tax rate "ceiling discount" (FY25-FY26) adjusted by statewide adjuster of 72.36%	-	-	-		-
29.	Cent discount adjusted anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate	-	-	-		\$1.5970
Prorated homestead union tax rates for members of Mill River USD		FY2024	FY2025	FY2026		FY2027
T049	Clarendon	1.3648	1.3649	1.5793		1.5970
T190	Shrewsbury	1.3648	1.3649	1.5793		1.5970
T206	Timothy	1.3648	1.3649	1.5793		1.5970
T219	Wallingford	1.3648	1.3649	1.5793		1.5970
30.	Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated from Mill River USD (\$84,132.18 ÷ \$12,154) x 2.00%	2.40%	2.55%	2.23%		2.33%
Prorated union income cap percentage for members of Mill River USD		FY2024	FY2025	FY2026		FY2027
T049	Clarendon	2.40%	2.55%	2.23%		2.33%
T190	Shrewsbury	2.40%	2.55%	2.23%		2.33%
T206	Timothy	2.40%	2.55%	2.23%		2.33%
T219	Wallingford	2.40%	2.55%	2.23%		2.33%

- Using the revised December 1, 2025 Education Fund Outlook FY27 forecast, the FY27 education fund need results in a property yield of \$8,849 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$1.00 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$12,154 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.785. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.**

- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.

**MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY 25 GRANTS & OTHER PROGRAMS**

GRANTS & OTHER PROGRAMS	AWARDED AMOUNT	AMOUNT ADVANCED / CARRIED OVER	EXPENDITURES	RETURNED TO STATE / Forfeited	CARRY OVER (Including Unadvanced) Available for Amendment	Cash on Hand CARRY OVER/ (REQUEST)
IDEAB Preschool	7,028.00	3,481.00	3,481.00		3,547.00	0.00
IDEAB	384,083.76	373,138.86	373,138.86		10,944.90	0.00
Title I A	424,392.58	415,682.42	415,682.42		8,710.16	0.00
Title II A	88,078.00	88,078.00	88,078.00		0.00	0.00
ARP ESSER	146,023.26	75,189.69	75,189.69	70,833.57	0.00	0.00
COPS School Violence Prev	39,695.18	39,695.18	39,695.18		0.00	0.00
ARP ESSER Afterschool	27,968.46	546.12	546.12	27,422.34	0.00	0.00
Act 76 Readiness ASP	13,090.19	13,090.19	13,090.19		0.00	0.00
Act 76 Readiness PreK	69,197.17	69,197.17	9,081.18		60,115.99	60,115.99
PreK Development Grant	3,328.00	765.38	765.38		2,562.62	0.00
Strongers Connections	104,350.00	97,981.34	97,981.34		6,368.66	0.00
Rowland Foundation	0.00	31,052.69	5,833.32		25,219.37	25,219.37
Licensing Fees	588.00	419.38	419.38	168.62	0.00	0.00
Title IV A	60,037.00	30,251.95	30,251.95		29,785.05	0.00
ARPA Indoor Air Quality	331,200.00	124,145.00	124,145.00	207,055.00	0.00	0.00
Farm to School	0.00	8,660.73	85.41		8,575.32	8,575.32
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	25,500.00	23,504.50	23,504.50	1,995.50	0.00	0.00
Forest Grant	8,338.32	8,338.32	8,338.32		0.00	0.00
Best Grant	5,700.00	4,100.00	4,100.00	1,600.00	0.00	0.00
Act 230 Training Grant	2,772.00	455.00	455.00	2,317.00	0.00	0.00
VEHI Pathpoints	4,901.94	14,582.34	5,319.00		9,263.34	9,263.34
VSAC Gear-Up	8,189.25	7,017.53	7,017.53	1,171.72	0.00	0.00
VSBIT Grant	9,092.13	9,092.13	9,092.13		0.00	0.00
VAPE Funds	6,415.36	16,223.99	0.00		16,223.99	16,223.99
PCB Funds	16,251.00	16,251.00	16,251.00		0.00	0.00
AfterSchool Program	432,360.01	592,028.00	311,770.79		280,257.21	280,257.21
PreK Summer Program	5,981.72	7,028.89	6,145.65		883.24	883.24
EPSDT (MAC)	22,272.96	60,090.30	18,835.41		41,254.89	41,254.89
Medicaid	127,138.01	340,884.76	159,390.69		181,494.07	181,494.07
TOTALS	2,373,972.30	2,470,971.86	1,847,684.44	312,563.75	685,205.81	623,287.42

Grants with Carry Over amounts require an amendment to their FY 26 grant applications prior to utilizing these additional funds. Unspent State grants must be returned to the Agency of Education and are not eligible to be carried over or amended (exception: Licensing Fees).

Awarded Amounts do **not** include any funds allocated but not awarded in the FY25 grant, therefore it is possible additional carryover may be available for amendment in FY 26.

**Annual Meeting of the Mill River Unified Union School District
Towns of Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Tinmouth and Wallingford
February 27, 2025
(unapproved minutes)**

Present: Andrea Hawkins (chair), LenDoucette, Stephen Abatiell, Kimberly Williams (board members); Brian Hill (Superintendent), Stan Pawlaczyk (Business Manager), Jodie Stewart-Ruck (Assistant Superintendent), Bjorn Behrenent (Technology Director), Rebecca Raymond (staff), Eldred French (Moderator), Denise Patch (Treasurer), Dave Potter, Bronson Spencer, Michael Fallar, Gail Fallar, Robert Underhill (public)

Moderator Eldred French called the meeting to order at 7pm.

ARTICLE 1 To elect the following officers: a. Moderator; b. Clerk; c. Treasurer.

Moderator French read the article.

- a. Gail Fallar nominated Eldred French for moderator Dave Potter seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- b. Gail Fallar nominated Denise Patch for clerk, Bronson Spencer seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- c. Gail Fallar nominated Denise Patch for treasurer, Dave Potter seconded, motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2 To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money pending receipt of payment from district towns by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from date.

Moderator French read the article.

Dave Potter made a motion to adopt Article 2, Gail Fallar seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 3 To have presented by the Board of School Directors their estimate of the expenses for the ensuing year. This is a public informational hearing regarding the budget article. (See Article 4).

Moderator French read the article.

Public Comment: Brian Hill, the current superintendent presented on the budget. Overall spending in the district is up 3.32% from the previous year. According to the tax commissioner's education tax rate letter, the average state spending is projected to be up by 6.1%. Larger districts are cutting staff due to shifts from the new pupil weighting formula which went into effect last year. We believe that these cuts are helping to keep the average increase across the state to 6.1% (versus last year's 14% increase), Brian shares. Brian also discusses district per pupil spending being up by 5.12% from last year. The district student numbers have declined over the last few years, which is similar to trends across the state.

Brian Hill also discusses projected tax rates based on an increase in spending. There is a 0.53% increase in Clarendon, a 1.23% increase in Shrewsbury, a 0.61% increase in Wallingford, and a -10.26% decrease in Tinmouth. Gail Fallar asks if the projected tax rates are adjusted for the CLA, Brian Hill confirms that they are. He explains that the legislature will not set a final Yield Number until Spring, and that this number will be used to calculate the actual tax rate. Brian Hill states that there is discussion at the state level of buying down tax rates with surplus. Gail Fallar comments that buying something down for one year so it doesn't go down the next, doesn't mean it won't go up again and that it is better to keep things even. Brian Hill notes that this is something the district has discussed and has put an effort in to keep things as consistent as possible. Brian briefly discusses the proposed education bill language that came out previously in the week, identifying that next year is FY26, and the following year is FY27, and there would possibly be a three percent allowable increase across the state for FY27, which is still in line with how the district has been budgeting. Brian takes a moment to give kudos to the board for their long term planning and thanks Gail for her statement.

Brian Hill also discusses budget development. The district has kept their per pupil spending increases to 5% on average since 2017. There are things that can't be controlled such as health care and insurance, consumer price index increases and inflation, the special education funding shift, other districts spending, and housing market fluctuations that affect the CLA. Brian explains that the district has worked hard to keep things stable in the face of those cost drivers, but serving students comes first, and then we try to be mindful of how that impacts tax rates. Brian notes that there are public forums held in the fall that ask community members to give input about a potential budget. This year there was discussion of math test scores, and supporting students to improve math learning. Brian discusses the two math interventionist positions being funded in the budget, thanks to public discussion. Bronson Spencer, public, asks if the schools are using the conventional method of holding a student back a grade when they are struggling. Brian states that at the elementary level it is preferred to give those struggling students interventions and give them what they need to move forward, rather than holding them back. Gail Fallar asks if the interventionists will be working at all of the schools. Brian

explains that the interventionists will be working at the elementary schools. He explains that the tentative thought is they would share the schools efficiently. One interventionist would be working with WES and TMS, and the other interventionist would be split between CES and SMS. Brian does say, candidly, that it will be difficult to hire for these positions due to other districts hiring for similar positions.

ARTICLE 5 Shall the voters authorize the District to transfer current surplus funds to the building sinking fund in the amount of \$300,000? (By Australian Ballot)

Public Comment: Brian Hill discusses the five year plan for facilities. The district has been working hard to fund facilities in a way that will not affect the tax rate.

Public Comment: Bronson Spenser asks about the \$300,000 surplus, and if that means we asked for taxpayer dollars but didn't spend them. Brian confirms that this is exactly the practice that has created a surplus in the past, and it is a practice that we are working to end. Instead of keeping unfilled positions in the budget, we are eliminating the ones we truly don't think we can fill to keep our surplus from increasing unreasonably. .

Public Comment: Gail Fallar asks if the current surplus is from this fiscal year, or the upcoming one. Brian says that the current surplus is from this year. He explains that they use the current surplus because the funding can be accessed more quickly. If the district were to use anticipated surplus, they would have to wait for an audit to clear, probably next March.

Brian also discusses the three year plan; the district believes that they can navigate the next two budget cycles in a similar way if the state does nothing. The current proposal on the table from the state would provide a flat 3% rate of increase across the entire state for FY27.

Public Comment: Stephen Abatiell asks if this three percent is per pupil spending or expenditure, Brian states he believes it is expenditure but he will look at the language. Len Doucette agrees that this is his interpretation as well. Len goes on to discuss how trying to equalize spending state wide will be difficult due to some districts having more money and access.

Public Comment: Stan Pawlaczyk, the Business Manager clarifies that the 3% total expenditure is not for the general fund but only the education spending part of the general fund. He explains that education spending is the part that affects taxes. Gail Fallar asks Stan what the difference between general fund spending and education fund spending is. Stan explains that the education spending is the total budget minus the state and special education revenues. The education fund spending amount is what would raise the taxes.

Public Comment: Brian encourages people to come to the annual meeting next year. Len also encourages people to participate in the annual budget forums, as what is discussed will impact the budget directly.

Public Comment: Dave Potter, Clarendon, responds to Len. He discusses what would happen if the state does nothing at all for education, and encourages the board to look into the proposed changes at the state level, and weigh in. He discusses the proposed minimum class sizes of 25 students, and the financial implications of the potential consolidations and what this could mean for hiring teachers and principals. Dave reiterates that the voices of the board members should be heard. Brian notes that the legislature appears serious about tackling this issue now, and asks Dave, if in his experience, has he ever witnessed the legislature this serious before. Dave responds that he has not seen anything so drastic proposed before. He shares that during his campaigning last year he heard from people in communities such as West Rutland, about their concern for their tax rates going up, as well as people being concerned that their small schools would not remain in their small towns and communities.

Public Comment: Michael Fallar, from Tinmouth, states he has three children attending school in the district, going to TMS. He discusses the number of students at TMS and SMS and how logistically the realistic aspect is that consolidation will have to happen at one point. He asks the board directly if they have discussed what potential consolidation would look like. He states that things have to change drastically at the state level as things are not currently working due to costs that will keep going up. He asks where the board is going to look in this direction, and what this would look like for the four towns in the district.

Public Comment: Bronson Spencer, Clarendon, states he agrees with Dave. He discusses how the states have tried consolidation before, and it did not work. He expresses that the state has to keep most of the control local so the board members can have more control of what is going on. He directly asks the board how they feel about the current proposal from the state. Kimberly Williams responds that there has not been discussion yet, but they are trying to stay informed as this develops rapidly. Brian responds that the board's hands are tied somewhat by the district's Articles of Incorporation, and that there cannot be consolidation unless all of the towns vote to close a school. Brian shares that George Ambrose did go to town select board to discuss consolidation last year, but the conversations appeared to not be fruitful yet.

Public Comment: Len Doucette responds directly to Michael Fallar, explaining that the bylaws are specific about closing schools, and how local communities might not vote to close the smaller schools.

Public Comment: Robert Underhill states that no town will close its school. He explains that he does think the district has been doing a good job of managing declining enrollment, which he states is a decades long issue. He states that the community is getting older and that will not be changing. His focus is on the high school level and looking at that curriculum, he believes the district did a good job putting together a curriculum with limited resources and numbers of students. He then goes on to compare it to the curriculum in Rutland City, which he states is more robust due to having a higher number of students, and how those kids will go beyond high school and off to college, because the richer curriculum benefits those students. He states that it will be difficult to maintain the curriculum if student numbers continue to decline, and something will have to give. Brian states he agrees with Robert's point, regarding the 'economy of scale', and the issue is whether to spend more, or offer less.

ARTICLE 4 Shall the voters of the Mill River Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend \$22,042,475, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? (By Australian Ballot) The Mill River Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$13,570.29, which is 5.12% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

Moderator Eldred French read the article.

The meeting was recessed at 8:09 pm to March 4, 2025 (Town Meeting Day) for the purpose of voting by Australian ballot at the usual polling places in the District towns on the following business. Said ballots shall be brought to the Mill River Union High School Cafeteria following the closing of the polls in the District towns where they will be commingled and counted by the officers of the District towns.

RECESSED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

VOTE RESULTS
Mill River Unified Union School District #U052
March 4, 2025

OFFICIAL TALLY SHEET

<u>Article 4</u>	<u>Article 5</u>
Yes - 576 No - 434 Total: 1010	Yes - 702 No - 294 Total: 996

**Annual Meeting of the Mill River Unified Union School District
Towns of Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Tinmouth and Wallingford
February 26, 2026**

The legal voters of the Mill River Unified Union School District are hereby warned to meet at the Mill River Union High School Library on February 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. for the annual school district meeting to transact the following business:

- ARTICLE 1** To elect the following officers: a. Moderator; b. Clerk; c. Treasurer.
- ARTICLE 2** To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money pending receipt of payment from district towns by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from date.
- ARTICLE 3** To have presented by the Board of School Directors their estimate of the expenses for the ensuing year. This is a public informational hearing regarding the budget article. (See Article 4).
- ARTICLE 4** Shall the voters of the Mill River Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend \$22,817,989, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? (By Australian Ballot) The Mill River Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,132.29, which is 4.10% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.
- ARTICLE 5** Shall the voters authorize the District to transfer current surplus funds to the building sinking fund in the amount of \$1,000,000? (By Australian Ballot)

The meeting will then be recessed to March 3, 2026 (Town Meeting Day) for the purpose of voting by Australian ballot at the usual polling places in the District towns on the following business. Said ballots shall be brought to the Mill River Union High School Cafeteria following the closing of the polls in the District towns where they will be commingled and counted by the officers of the District towns.

Approved by the MRUUSD Board of Directors in a public meeting and dated at Clarendon, Vermont this 7th day of January 2026

S/ Carol Geery

Carol Geery, Clarendon
Board Chair's Signature

S/ Denise Patch

Denise Patch, Clarendon
District Clerk's Signature