

AGENDA
Bar Harbor Town Council Special Meeting
March 3, 2026

The public can monitor by watching Spectrum channel 7 or 1303, by live streaming on the town's website, www.barharmoraine.gov.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:00 p.m.**
 - A. Excused Absence(s)
- II. READING OF THE MEETING GROUND RULES**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. February 17, 2026 Regular Meeting
 - B. February 24, 2026 Joint Meeting with the Warrant Committee
- IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- V. REPORTS AND UPDATES**
 - A. School Reorganization
- VI. LICENSES AND PERMITS**
 - A. Special Amusement Permit Class 3ad (new), Jack Russell's
 - 1. Public Hearing
 - 2. Order 1, approve Special Amusement Permit
 - B. Special Amusement Permit Class 3a (new), Siren & Sailor
 - 1. Public Hearing
 - 2. Order 2, approve Special Amusement Permit
- VII. COUNCIL COMMENTS**
- VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - A. Executive session pursuant to 36 MRS §841(2)E to consider a request for an abatement of property taxes for reasons of poverty.
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

<p>Anyone with a disability wishing to attend this meeting and who may have questions about how to do so should contact the Town Clerk's office at clerk@barharmoraine.gov or 207-288-4098.</p>
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Minutes
Bar Harbor Town Council
February 17, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 P.M.—In attendance were Councilors Valerie Peacock, Steven Boucher, Earl Brechlin, Maya Caines, David Kief, Randy Sprague, and Joe Minutolo; and Town Manager James L. Smith.

A. Excused Absence(s)—None.

II. READING OF THE MEETING GROUND RULES

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting

B. January 22, 2026 Budget Workshop

C. January 27, 2026 Budget Workshop

D. January 29, 2026 Budget Workshop

E. February 3, 2026 Special Meeting

F. February 3, 2026 Workshop

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to approve the minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Kief Y

Boucher Y

Brechlin Y

Peacock Y

Caines Y

Minutolo Y

Sprague Y

Motion passed 7-0.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA—Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Kief Y

Boucher Y

Brechlin Y

Peacock Y

Caines Y

Minutolo Y

Sprague Y

Motion passed 7-0.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD—*The Town Council allows at this time up to fifteen minutes of public comment on any subject not on the agenda and not in litigation with a maximum of three minutes per person.*—John O’Brien, Noreen Hunter, and Gail Leiser all spoke about a proposal for a new ordinance complementing the new state law (LD1971) restricting Town engagement and cooperation with federal law enforcement.

V. REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. Manager's Comments

Mr. Smith gave an update on water/sewer/stormwater capital projects. Water main is being installed on **Cromwell Harbor Road**, planning is underway for the **West Street Pump Station** project, utility design work is being planned for **Harbor Lane**, and the **Up-Island Water Storage Tank** project is progressing.

Staff is reviewing the Basis of Design document for the **ferry terminal** with engineers and expect to bring that plan to Council soon for consideration and possible adoption.

Planning and Code staff continue work on the **Town Hill Workforce Housing initiative**. The Food and Merchandise Sales ordinance will return to Council next month with clarifications that Council sought at the January meeting, to address use of **Hadley Point Beach**. Work also continues on the **Northeast Creek Watershed** protection and planning to promote long-term water quality. He thanked Planning staff for identifying grants to support some of this work, two of which are on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

The Fire Department received notice that the town may receive **\$125,000 in Congressionally Designated Spending for a new ambulance**—this appropriations bill has been advanced, but not yet signed into law.

Staff continues to review cost estimates and alternative design options for the **Glen Mary Park Pool** with the Village Improvement Association. The focus is on a practical replacement approach consistent with the existing footprint and layout. He acknowledged that this process has been slow and thanked everyone for their patience.

With **Acadia National Park**, town staff is exploring ways to improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, to support safe access, reduce congestion, and encourage integrated mobility options to encourage visitors to “park once” and explore the area using other means of transportation.

Conversations with leaders of the Jesup Library, Downeast Transportation (Island Explorer bus system), and MDI YMCA toward developing Memoranda of Understanding under the new **Community Service Partnership** framework to clearly define roles and expectations are underway; the MOUs will come to the Council for approval.

The Manager has had ongoing conversations with state officials and Congressional field offices regarding the funding mechanisms for **Customs and Border Protection services at the ferry terminal** for Bay Ferries operations.

Public Works Director Bethany Leavitt introduced **Water Section employees**. Business Analyst Christian Gilbert has been with the Town for two years recently earned a Grade III Water Operator license. Superintendent Jason Sockbeson has been here two months and has been working in water and wastewater since 2008. He holds a Grade V wastewater license and Grade IV, the maximum level, for water treatment and distribution systems.

B. Financial Report

Finance Director Sarah Gilbert reviewed the financial summary through January, seven months into FY26. She said that non-tax revenues in the General Fund are at 60.4% of budget, above the 58% benchmark but down somewhat from last year. She noted that last year was an outlier for building permit revenue, since it included the school and other

large projects. FY25 had more PILOT revenue as of January, due to timing, and cable franchise fees are lower.

General Fund Expenditures are at 58.2%.

Property tax revenue is 60.2% collected, in line with prior years. Finance staff have mailed out second-half bills for property owners who take advantage of the option to pay in two installments.

For the Water fund, three quarters' worth of revenue have been recorded. There will be an April billing and the seasonal minimums in this fiscal year. For wastewater, because revenue is billed in arrears, two quarters have been recorded. The January billing went out Jan. 12, which is why the report shows a large figure for Accounts Receivable.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to accept the financial report, with thanks. Roll Call Vote:

- Kief Y
- Boucher Y
- Brechlin Y
- Peacock Y
- Caines Y
- Minutolo Y
- Sprague Y
- Motion passed 7-0.

VI. LICENSES AND PERMITS—None.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA—*A single vote has been scheduled to approve the following routine items of business without discussion, unless individual agenda item action is requested by a Councilor:*

- A. Order 2026-02-02, authorize the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus units for the Fire Department.
- B. Order 2026-02-03, authorize application for and acceptance of Housing Opportunity Program grant for Land Use Ordinance updates.
- C. Order 2026-02-04, authorize application for and acceptance of state Community Action Grant for septic analysis and climate resiliency planning.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved that the consent agenda have passage. Roll Call Vote:

- Kief Y
- Boucher Y
- Brechlin Y
- Peacock Y
- Caines Y
- Minutolo Y
- Sprague Y
- Motion passed 7-0.

VIII. RESOLVES AND ORDERS

- A. Order 2026-02-05, approve new Town Council Policy on Disposition of Special Amusement Permits.

Ms. Peacock introduced the order. Councilors said they would prefer to vote on this order at the March 17 meeting, when there will be a public hearing and order on the related ordinance amendment. Following discussion, Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to table this item. Roll Call Vote:

Kief Y
Boucher Y
Brechlin Y
Peacock Y
Caines Y
Minutolo Y
Sprague Y
Motion passed 7-0.

- B. Treasurer’s Warrant—*Request of Treasurer to authorize paid bills.*—Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to sign the treasurer’s warrants for paid bills. Roll Call Vote:

Kief Y
Boucher Y
Brechlin Y
Peacock Y
Caines Y
Minutolo Y
Sprague Y
Motion passed 7-0.

X. ORDINANCES IN FINAL READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

- A. Amendment to Chapter 201, Water, to adjust water rate structure and rates.

- 1. Public Hearing on PUC Rate Case pursuant to Title 35-A MRS §6104 and on ordinance amendment.

Council Peacock explained that this hearing serves two purposes: the required public hearing as part of the PUC process, and a hearing on the related Town ordinance amendment, which if adopted by the Council would be contingent on PUC approval of the rate proposal.

Six residents offered comments: Mary Jane Whitney, Kevin Knopp, Sharon Knopp, Katherine Whitney, Tom St. Germain, and Brynna Golden.

Public Works Director Bethany Leavitt, Finance Director Sarah Gilbert, Annaleis Hafford of Olver Associates, and Town Manager James L. Smith answered questions and participated in the discussion.

Comments related to why rates are higher for seasonal customers and why higher-volume users pay lower effective rates per gallon. There was a concern that this

structure could discourage conservation practices and place an unfair burden on residential customers.

Another comment related to why a tiered rate structure was preferred over a flat rate. Ms. Gilbert explained that under a flat rate structure the system would face financial insolvency, with less revenue and more expenditures, even before one gallon of water is used and billed. She noted that 70% of the meter accounts are residential but generate only 40% of the metered revenue, while 30% of users generate nearly 60% of the metered revenue, and that a flat rate approach would effectively quadruple the residential account bills. She emphasized that the discussion is not only about consumption, but about what revenue is generated by different meter sizes and users.

Mr. Smith further explained that the system costs approximately 3.2 million dollars per year to run, of which about 2 million dollars are fixed costs such as debt service and staffing that must be paid just to have the system ready to deliver water. Only a small portion of costs vary with producing additional water. He noted that if consumption declines, or if a large user stops using water, the fixed costs remain and the system would not have sufficient revenue to meet its obligations. Because of this, the Town must raise sufficient revenue to cover those fixed costs regardless of consumption levels. He further noted that the proposal shifts more of the overall cost to larger meter users compared with the current rate structure, with higher effective increases applied to those accounts.

Ms. Leavitt noted that a flat rate structure would disproportionately impact the residential users. She noted that the tiered structure accounts for meter size and demand on the system, and that larger users are experiencing significantly higher effective increases under the proposal.

One resident noted that there has been a decrease in unaccounted-for (not billed) water in the system, and asked whether that could be a method for alleviating the rate increase. Ms. Leavitt explained that unaccounted-for water results from firefighting, training, flushing, and main breaks, and that the Town is now down around 20%. She confirmed that the system is aging and that infrastructure needs replacement, stating that the Town should be investing at the minimum 1% of our infrastructure costs every year.

It was also noted that the PUC now allows for rate adjustments of 1.5% per year. This requires a separate process, but not a complete billing analysis and public hearing.

- 2. Order 2026-02-06, adopt amendment to Chapter 201, Water, to adjust water rate structure and rates.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to waive the reading that that the order have passage. Roll Call Vote:

<u>Kief</u>	<u>N</u>
<u>Boucher</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Brechlin</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Peacock</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Caines</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Minutolo</u>	<u>Y</u>

Sprague Y
Motion passed 6-1.

XI. ORDINANCES IN FIRST READING

- A. Order 2026-02-07, schedule public hearing on amendment to Chapter 14, Amusements, to update Special Amusement Permit procedures.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to waive the reading that that the order have passage. Roll Call Vote:

Kief Y
Boucher Y
Brechlin Y
Peacock Y
Caines Y
Minutolo Y
Sprague Y
Motion passed 7-0.

- B. Land Use Ordinance amendments proposed for the June 9, 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

- 1. Order 2026-02-08, schedule public hearing on Holy Redeemer Church, LUO Amendment #2026-01.

Town Clerk Liz Graves introduced a requested correction. Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to amend the order to read:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, pursuant to Town Code Section 125-9 (B), that a public hearing be scheduled March 17, 2026 for public comment on the Land Use Ordinance Amendment – Holy Redeemer Church, version dated February 4, 2026, presented below.

...and the proposed Warrant Article to read:

Shall an ordinance, dated February 4, 2026, and entitled “An Amendment to amend the Official Neighborhood Districts Map by rezoning the Holy Redeemer Church from the Mount Desert Street Corridor District to the Downtown Residential District,” be enacted?

Roll Call Vote on the amendment:

Kief Y
Boucher Y
Brechlin Y
Peacock Y
Caines Y
Minutolo Y
Sprague Y
Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to waive the reading that that the amended order have passage.

Kief Y

Boucher Y

Brechlin Y

Peacock Y

Caines Y

Minutolo Y

Sprague Y

Motion passed 7-0.

- 2. Order 2026-02-09, schedule public hearing on Design Review, LUO Amendment #2026-02.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to waive the reading that that the order have passage.

Kief Y

Boucher Y

Brechlin Y

Peacock Y

Caines Y

Minutolo Y

Sprague Y

Motion passed 7-0.

- 3. Order 2026-02-10, schedule public hearing on Campgrounds and Private Campsites, LUO Amendment #2026-03.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to waive the reading that that the order have passage.

Kief Y

Boucher Y

Brechlin Y

Peacock Y

Caines Y

Minutolo Y

Sprague Y

Motion passed 7-0.

- 4. Order 2026-02-11, schedule public hearing on Minimum Area Per Family, LUO Amendment #2026-04.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to waive the reading that that the order have passage.

Kief Y

Boucher Y

Brechlin Y

Peacock Y

Caines Y

Minutolo Y

Sprague Y

Motion passed 7-0.

5. Order 2026-02-12, schedule public hearing on Lodging Regulations, LUO Amendment #2026-05.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to amend Order 2026-02-12 to include the following additional recitals as well as the amendment to §125-32 Ireson Hill Residential as presented:

WHEREAS, a scrivener’s error has been identified in the proposed Land Use Ordinance (LUO) Amendment titled Lodging Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the intent that the amendment eliminate the Lodging 1 use entirely from the LUO was first stated in November 2025 and remained consistent throughout nine meetings between November 2025 and February 4, 2026, during which the amendment was presented; and

WHEREAS, the draft published in Council Order 2025-02-12 omitted one of the districts where the Lodging 1 use is presently allowed; and

WHEREAS, to correct the error, a minor modification to the proposed ordinance is presented below;

§ 125-32. Ireson Hill Residential.

D. Activity or structure requires site plan approval. Activity or structure requires approval through site plan review process before it may be commenced or built:

Cemetery

Eleemosynary, educational or scientific institution

~~Lodging 1~~

Municipal school

Place of worship

Road construction

Solar photovoltaic system, principal use (SPVS-PU)

Wireless communications facility

Roll Call Vote on the amendment:

Kief Y

Boucher Y

Brechlin Y

Peacock Y

Caines Y
Minutolo Y
Sprague Y
Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to waive the reading that that the amended order have passage.

Kief Y
Boucher Y
Brechlin Y
Peacock Y
Caines Y
Minutolo Y
Sprague Y
Motion passed 7-0.

XII. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Boucher said the hearing and conversation about the water rates was tough, and that he wanted everyone to know that the decision wasn't made in a vacuum. There were a lot of considerations and a lot of hard work on the part of staff and Council to get to this point. He said some commenters made reference to the way things were done in the past, but tonight could be the beginning of a new approach or philosophy that works better.

Mr. Sprague asked how the ordinance proposal referenced at the Public Comment period at the start of the meeting might proceed. Ms. Peacock said since that topic is not on the agenda for this meeting, Council Comments is not an appropriate time to discuss it.

Ms. Peacock recognized all the work happening in the budget process, with staff, Council, the Warrant Committee, and school staff and the School Committee. There's a lot of attention and a lot of eyes on the budget, and she appreciates the community doing that. She thanked people for coming out and commenting, but asked for folks to be aware of the tone. It's all right, in a democracy, to want transparency and want to understand. But it is also really challenging to be in these positions, as a staff member or as an elected official, having the public question the work in such a way that it's questioning the integrity of the people involved. She said sometimes there are issues and challenges that need to be raised, but she is concerned at what she has seen at recent meetings that have been less than congenial. She thanked people who are asking questions in respectful ways and really trying to understand how we can be better together.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION—None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT— Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Kief Y
Boucher Y
Brechlin Y
Peacock Y
Caines Y
Minutolo Y

Sprague Y
Motion passed 7-0.

Elizabeth N. Graves, Town Clerk

Minutes
Special Bar Harbor Town Council Meeting
Joint Meeting with Warrant Committee
February 24, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:32 p.m.

In attendance were **Councilors** David Kief, Earl Brechlin, Valerie Peacock, Maya Caines, Joe Minutolo, and Randy Sprague.

Warrant Committee members present T. Bloom, B. Blomquist, C. Chappell, E. Chesler (remote), K. DesVeaux (remote), S. Farrar (remote), J. Kelly (remote), M. Kelly, K. Knopp (remote), L. Lopez, A. Sasner, C. Smith, V. Smith (remote). Absent excused: B. Blomquist, B. Chaplin, B. Stillman.

- A.** Excused absences—Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to excuse Councilor Boucher. Roll Call Vote:

<u>Kief</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Brechlin</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Peacock</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Caines</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Minutolo</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Sprague</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Motion passed 6-0.</u>	

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA—Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote:

<u>Kief</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Brechlin</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Peacock</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Caines</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Minutolo</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Sprague</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Motion passed 6-0.</u>	

Secretary Louise Lopez called roll for the Warrant Committee.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS: FY2027 Municipal Budget Review

- A.** Warrant Committee Recommendations – *Presentation of recommendations per Charter C-31 (D).*—Chair Smith shared the list of the Warrant Committee’s recommended changes to the presented budget.

- (1) The committee recommended re-evaluating the town’s relationship with the online polling platform Polco.
- (2) By a vote of 9-3, the committee recommended removing funding in the Community Events line.
- (3) By a vote of 11-1, the committee voted to recommend removing the proposed new Purchasing Agent position.

- (4) By a vote of 7-6, the committee voted to recommend removing the proposed new Parks position.
- (5) By a vote of 11-1, the committee voted to recommend removing the proposed new Environmental Services Foreman position.

Councilors asked about the recommendation to remove the Community Events funding. Mr. Smith and Finance Director Sarah Gilbert participated in the discussion and answered questions.

IV. COUNCIL ORDERS

- A. Order 2026-02-13, amend the proposed FY27 budget to update assessments and school budget.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to waive the reading that that the order have passage.

Kief Y
Brechlin Y
Peacock Y
Caines Y
Minutolo Y
Sprague Y
Motion passed 6-0.

- B. Order 2026-02-14, tentatively adopt FY27 budget and set public hearing.

Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to waive the reading that that the order have passage.

Kief Y
Brechlin Y
Peacock Y
Caines Y
Minutolo Y
Sprague Y
Motion passed 6-0.

- V. **ADJOURNMENT**—Ms. Caines, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Kief Y
Brechlin Y
Peacock Y
Caines Y
Minutolo Y
Sprague Y
Motion passed 6-0.

Elizabeth N. Graves, Town Clerk

NUMBER: 2026-03-01

TITLE: ORDER, APPROVE NEW SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR JACK RUSSELL'S

Filed February 23, 2026

WHEREAS, Tom St. Germain has submitted an application for a new Special Amusement Permit for Jack Russell's, Inc. located at 102 Eden St., pursuant to Chapter 14-3 of the Bar Harbor Code; and

WHEREAS, the application is for a Class 3ad, three or more musicians with mechanical amplification and dancing; and

WHEREAS, the business has held a Special Amusement Permit in the past, but not for several years, so this is a new application; and

WHEREAS, the application fee was paid; and

WHEREAS, notice was given of the March 3, 2026 public hearing through a notice on the Municipal Building Bulletin Board posted on February 20, 2026, notice on the town's website posted February 20, 2026, a public notice in the February 26 2026 edition of the Mount Desert Islander newspaper, and a notice to abutting property owners within 300 feet mailed February 23, 2026; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was held on March 3, 2026;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the Bar Harbor Town Council hereby approves a Class 3ad Special Amusement Permit for Jack Russell's for the license year of the applicant's existing liquor license.

Statement of Fact: Approves a Class 3ad Special Amusement Permit for Jack Russell's, as submitted by Tom St. Germain.



Town of Bar Harbor Application for Special Amusement Permit

Permit Fee
\$188

Special Amusement Permits are valid only for the license year of the applicant's existing liquor license.

Date: 1-27-24 Application Type: New Renewal Permit Number: _____
(assigned by Town)

Applicant Name: Tom St. Germain Business Name: Jack Russell's, Inc.

Business Address: 102 Eden St. Mailing Address: 102 Eden St.
Physical Address in Bar Harbor If different

Type of Business: Restaurant Location to be used: 102 Eden St.
Restaurant, Bar, Nightclub, etc. Where on the premises will the amusement take place? Use back of page if necessary.

Phone: 207-266-1595

Has a liquor license or special amusement permit for this business ever been denied or revoked? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, describe the circumstances in the space below:

Has the applicant, any partners or corporate officers of the business ever been convicted of a felony? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, describe the circumstances in the space below:

The Town Council requests all applicants or their representatives attend the public hearing to answer any questions. Please be advised that the absence of your representative may delay the Council's decision.

Application is hereby made for a Special Amusement Permit for one of the following:

Without Mechanical Amplification

- Class 1 - Single musician
- Class 2 - Two musicians
- Class 3 - Three or more musicians

With Mechanical Amplification

- Class 1a - Single musician
- Class 2a - Two musicians
- Class 3a - Three or more musicians

With Mechanical Amplification and Dancing*

- Class 1ad - Single musician
- Class 2ad - Two musicians
- Class 3ad - Three or more musicians

With Outdoor Mechanical Amplification**

- Class 1ao - Single musician
- Class 2ao - Two musicians
- Class 3ao - Three or more musicians

Other Entertainment or Amusement

- Class 4 - any other type of entertainment as provided by 28A MRSA 1054.1.C

* Dancing also requires a state permit & Fire Marshall inspection

**Outdoor Amplification restricted to amplified acoustic instruments as defined in Chapter 14-2 and vocal microphones.

I certify that this application is true and correct, that I will read the Special Amusement Ordinance Chapter 14 of the Municipal Code prior to offering any special amusement.

[Signature]
Applicant's Signature

The Municipal Officers of Bar Harbor hereby approve deny this application on _____
Date

Town Clerk

NUMBER: 2026-03-02

TITLE: ORDER, APPROVE NEW SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR SIREN & SAILOR

Filed February 23, 2026

WHEREAS, Kelly Corson has submitted an application for a new Special Amusement Permit for Siren & Sailor, located at 7 Main St., pursuant to Chapter 14-3 of the Bar Harbor Code; and

WHEREAS, the application is for a Class 3a, three or more musicians with mechanical amplification; and

WHEREAS, the application fee was paid; and

WHEREAS, notice was given of the March 3, 2026 public hearing through a notice on the Municipal Building Bulletin Board posted on February 20, 2026, notice on the town's website posted February 20, 2026, a public notice in the February 26 2026 edition of the Mount Desert Islander newspaper, and a notice to abutting property owners within 300 feet mailed February 23, 2026; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was held on March 3, 2026;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the Bar Harbor Town Council hereby approves a Class 3ad Special Amusement Permit for Siren & Sailor for the license year of the applicant's existing liquor license.

Statement of Fact: Approves a Class 3a Special Amusement Permit for Siren & Sailor, as submitted by Kelly Corson.



Town of Bar Harbor Application for Special Amusement Permit

Permit Fee
\$188

Special Amusement Permits are valid only for the license year of the applicant's existing liquor license.

Date: 2/9/20 Application Type: New Renewal Permit Number: _____
(assigned by Town)

Applicant Name: Nicks Sun Day Inc. Business Name: Siren & Sailor

Business Address: 7 MAIN ST Mailing Address: 36 Pams WAY
Physical Address in Bar Harbor If different

Type of Business: Restaurant Location to be used: inside Restaurant
Restaurant, Bar, Nightclub, etc. Where on the premises will the amusement take place? Use back of page if necessary

Phone: 207-460-8028

Has a liquor license or special amusement permit for this business ever been denied or revoked? Yes ___ No
If yes, describe the circumstances in the space below:

Has the applicant, any partners or corporate officers of the business ever been convicted of a felony? Yes ___ No
If yes, describe the circumstances in the space below:

The Town Council requests all applicants or their representatives attend the public hearing to answer any questions. Please be advised that the absence of your representative may delay the Council's decision.

Application is hereby made for a Special Amusement Permit for one of the following:

Without Mechanical Amplification

- Class 1 – Single musician
- Class 2 – Two musicians
- Class 3 – Three or more musicians

With Mechanical Amplification

- Class 1a – Single musician
- Class 2a – Two musicians
- Class 3a – Three or more musicians

With Mechanical Amplification and Dancing*

- Class 1ad – Single musician
- Class 2ad – Two musicians
- Class 3ad – Three or more musicians

With Outdoor Mechanical Amplification**

- Class 1ao – Single musician
- Class 2ao – Two musicians
- Class 3ao – Three or more musicians

Other Entertainment or Amusement

- Class 4 – any other type of entertainment as provided by 28A MRS 1054.1.C

* Dancing also requires a state permit & Fire Marshall inspection
**Outdoor Amplification restricted to amplified acoustic instruments as defined in Chapter 14-2 and vocal microphones.

I certify that this application is true and correct, that I will read the Special Amusement Ordinance Chapter 14 of the Municipal Code prior to offering any special amusement.

Kelly C
Applicant's Signature

The Municipal Officers of Bar Harbor hereby approve deny this application on _____
Date

Town Clerk



Shaping the Future of Mount Desert Island's Schools

This document outlines the proposed Reorganization Plan to merge MDIRSS / AOS #91 into a single Regional School Unit (RSU).

Eight Unique Communities, One Shared Vision



Better Education:
Equitable access to the best
PK-12 programs.



Financial Sense:
Delivering operational efficiency
and financial fairness.



Empowered Educators:
Giving teachers the resources
and collaboration they need.



A Unified Future:
Strengthening a shared
commitment to a sustainable system.

The Limits of Our Current Structure



Specialized Program Gaps: Small schools struggle to fully support programs like Gifted & Talented or Students with Unique Needs (SUN).



Unequal Access: Students miss out on advanced classes and enrichment programs depending on their location.



Staffing Strain: Severe difficulties in covering open positions.



Transportation Hurdles: Inefficiencies and driver shortages impacting school life.

Moving Forward as a Unified Regional School Unit

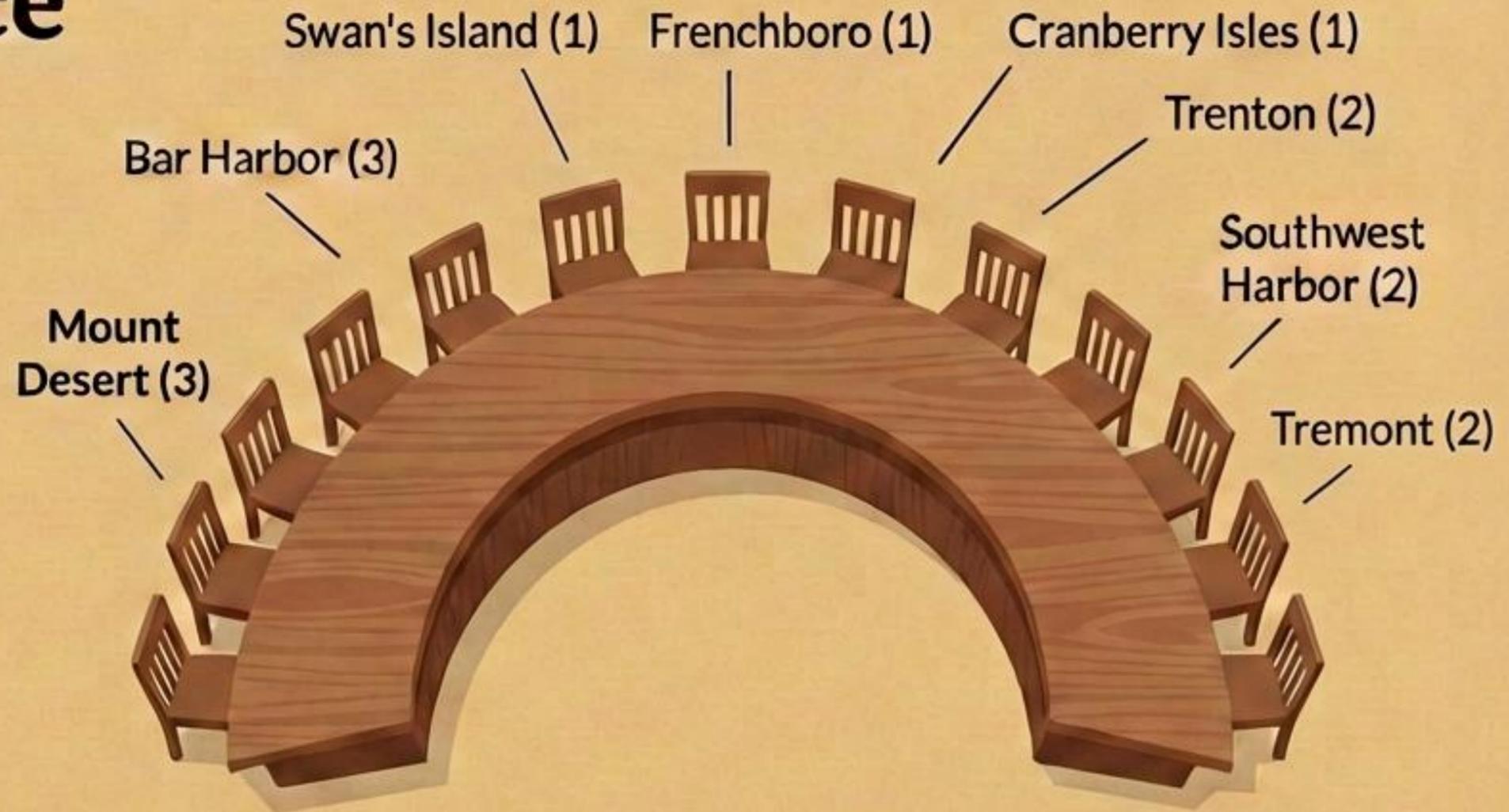


The plan proposes merging the existing school administrative districts into one Regional School Unit (RSU). This single entity will efficiently and equitably manage all public schools for the eight participating towns.

Fair and Proportional District Governance

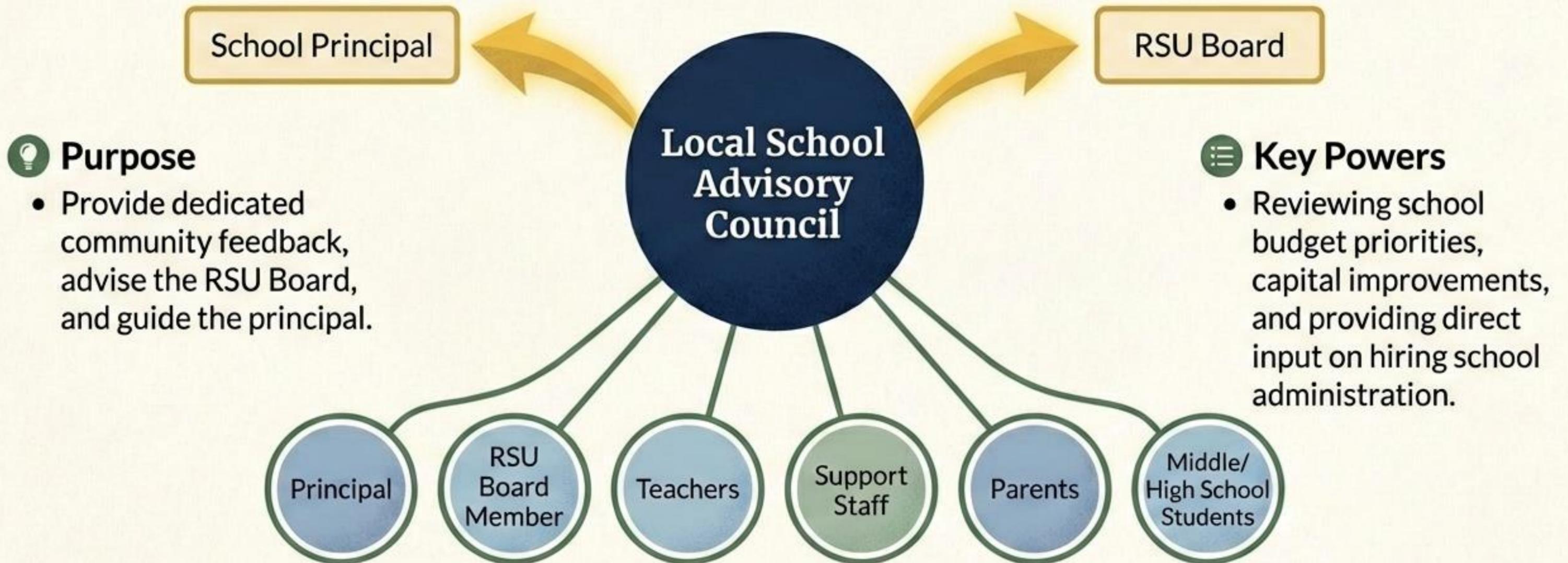
The entire RSU will be governed by a 15-member Board of Directors.

- **Equality:** All 15 members have equal voting authority.
- **Continuity:** Mirrors current high school voting while giving Trenton and the outer islands a seat at the table.



Guaranteeing Local Voices at Every School

Existing local school boards will be replaced by **Local School Advisory Councils** for each school.



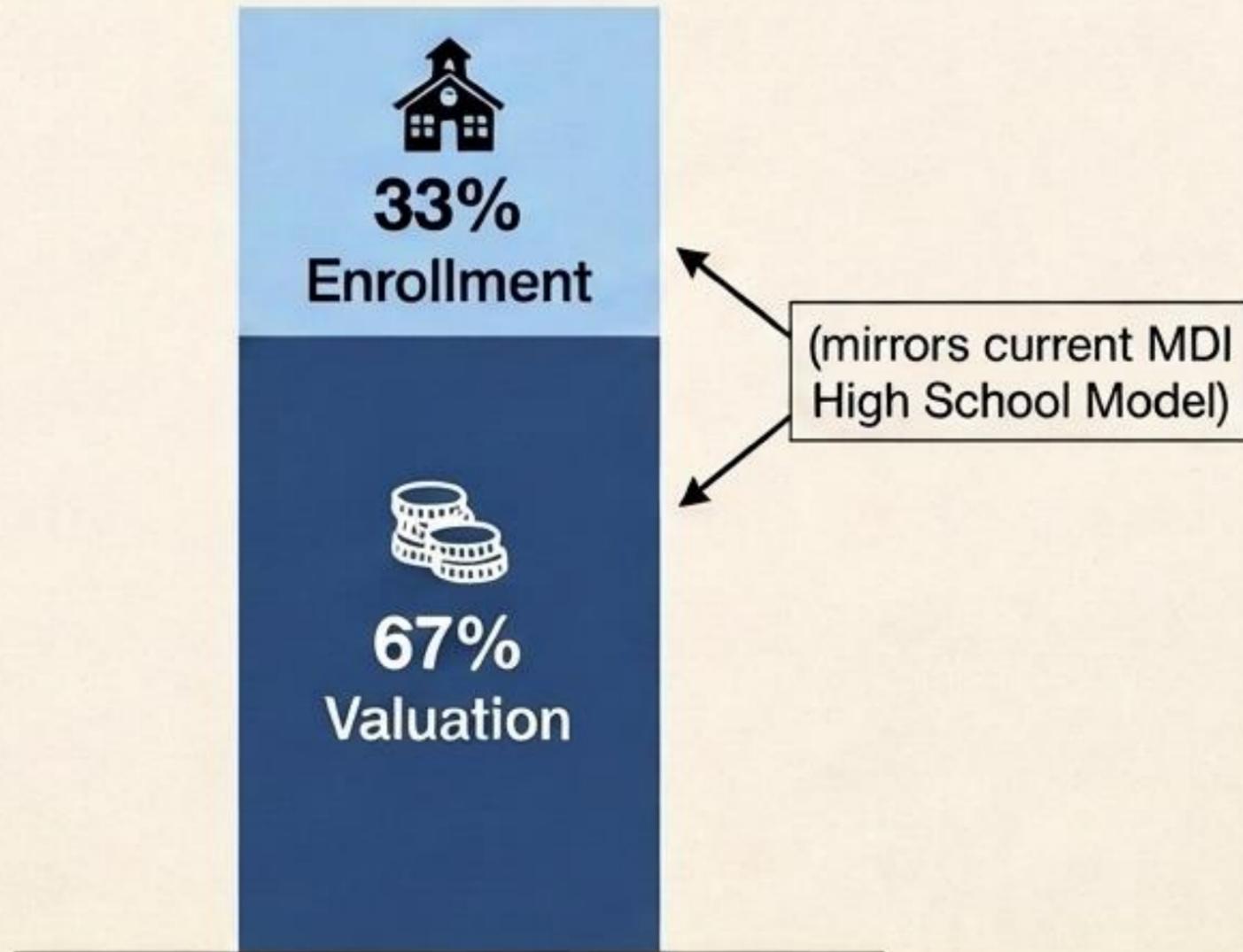
Protecting Our Community Schools and Programs

- **Educational Continuity:** Comprehensive PK-12 programming and the current school structures (8 PK-8s, 1 High School) remain completely unchanged.
- **Ownership:** The RSU assumes ownership titles for all school buildings.
- **The Closure Guarantee:** The RSU Board **CANNOT** unilaterally close a school. A school can only be closed if it is replaced with a new building AND approved by local voters in that specific town.



A Fairer Approach to Funding Our Schools

A new cost-sharing model expanding the high school formula to each town's contribution to the cost of PK-12 education, prioritizing tax fairness



Note: Valuation is based on a 3-year State average; Enrollment is based on the Oct 1 – Oct 1 average.

Assessment Comparison - Present to Education v. New RSU - \$450,000 Home

33% Enrollment / 67% Valuation

FOR A FULL VALUED HOME	NEW REGION ENROLLMENT/ VALUATION %s	PRESENT AMOUNT TO AOS EDUCATION	DIFFERENCE
BAR HARBOR	\$2,286.52	\$2,088.63	\$197.89
MOUNT DESERT	\$1,807.95	\$1,383.49	\$424.46
SOUTHWEST	\$1,998.14	\$2,360.74	-\$362.61
TREMONT	\$2,300.12	\$3,101.57	-\$801.46
TRENTON	\$2,896.14	\$3,997.38	-\$1,101.24
SWANS	\$2,863.71	\$3,862.04	-\$998.33
CRANBERRY	\$1,996.57	\$1,522.47	\$474.10
FRENCHBORO	\$2,365.46	\$5,844.19	-\$3,478.73
\$450,000.00	ENROLLMENT	33%	
	VALUATION	67%	

Assessment Comparison - Present to Education v. New RSU - \$550,000 Home

33% Enrollment / 67% Valuation

FOR A FULL VALUED HOME	NEW REGION ENROLLMENT/ VALUATION %s	PRESENT AMOUNT TO AOS EDUCATION	DIFFERENCE
BAR HARBOR	\$2,794.63	\$2,552.77	\$241.86
MOUNT DESERT	\$2,209.71	\$1,690.93	\$518.79
SOUTHWEST	\$2,442.17	\$2,885.35	-\$443.19
TREMONT	\$2,811.25	\$3,790.81	-\$979.56
TRENTON	\$3,539.73	\$4,885.68	-\$1,345.96
SWANS	\$3,500.09	\$4,720.27	-\$1,220.18
CRANBERRY	\$2,440.25	\$1,860.80	\$579.46
FRENCHBORO	\$2,891.12	\$7,142.89	-\$4,251.78
\$550,000.00	ENROLLMENT	33%	
	VALUATION	67%	

Assessment Comparison - Present to Education v. New RSU - \$650,000 Home

33% Enrollment / 67% Valuation

FOR A FULL VALUED HOME	NEW REGION ENROLLMENT/ VALUATION %s	PRESENT AMOUNT TO AOS EDUCATION	DIFFERENCE
BAR HARBOR	\$3,302.74	\$3,016.91	\$285.84
MOUNT DESERT	\$2,611.48	\$1,998.37	\$613.11
SOUTHWEST	\$2,886.20	\$3,409.96	-\$523.77
TREMONT	\$3,322.39	\$4,480.05	-\$1,157.66
TRENTON	\$4,183.31	\$5,773.99	-\$1,590.68
SWANS	\$4,136.47	\$5,578.50	-\$1,442.03
CRANBERRY	\$2,883.93	\$2,199.12	\$684.81
FRENCHBORO	\$3,416.77	\$8,441.60	-\$5,024.83
\$650,000.00	ENROLLMENT	33%	
	VALUATION	67%	

Assessment Comparison - Present to Education v. New RSU - \$750,000 Home

33% Enrollment / 67% Valuation

FOR A FULL VALUED HOME	NEW REGION ENROLLMENT/ VALUATION %s	PRESENT AMOUNT TO AOS EDUCATION	DIFFERENCE
BAR HARBOR	\$3,810.86	\$3,481.05	\$329.81
MOUNT DESERT	\$3,013.24	\$2,305.81	\$707.43
SOUTHWEST	\$3,330.23	\$3,934.57	-\$604.35
TREMONT	\$3,833.53	\$5,169.29	-\$1,335.76
TRENTON	\$4,826.90	\$6,662.30	-\$1,835.40
SWANS	\$4,772.85	\$6,436.73	-\$1,663.88
CRANBERRY	\$3,327.62	\$2,537.45	\$790.17
FRENCHBORO	\$3,942.43	\$9,740.31	-\$5,797.88
\$750,000.00	ENROLLMENT	33%	
	VALUATION	67%	

Managing Existing Debt and Reserve Funds



Stays Local / Separate

Debt Assumption:

- Capital Debt (construction/renovation) remains with the originating town.

Reserve Funds:

- Kept Separate: MDI High School Reserves (used only for the high school), and Local Special Education Reserves (returned directly to the towns).



Shared / Assumed by RSU

Debt Assumption:

- Operational Debt (bus and copier leases) is assumed by the RSU.

Reserve Funds:

- Combined for District Use: PK-8 Bus & Building Reserves, and AOS Special Education Reserves.

Supporting the Educators Who Support Our Kids



Contract Continuity

Smooth transitions for our workforce:

- The current teachers' bargaining unit remains securely in place.
- The current support staff's agreement will be maintained.
- Focus remains on giving staff the professional collaboration they need without contract disruptions.

How the Referendum Vote Works

To move forward, the RSU requires “Yes” votes from Trenton, Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Tremont, and Mount Desert.

If approved:

- The Mount Desert Regional **School District** dissolves.
- AOS #91 terminates entirely **IF** at least two outer island towns (Cranberry Isles, Frenchboro, Swan’s Island) approve the plan.

Island Exception:

- If the RSU is approved, but **two or more** outer island towns vote ‘No’, the RSU still moves forward, and **AOS #91 continues to operate exclusively** for those outer island towns.

The Transition Timeline to June 2026

Referendum Target
Date: June 2026.

The Transition
Period

The Transition: If voters approve the plan, the current AOS board will immediately appoint an interim RSU board.

Interim Duties: This transition board will manage the shift, develop the crucial first-year budget, and maintain current personnel policies until the official launch.

Your Voice Determines the Future

Yes No

The Ballot Question you will see in June 2026:

"Do you favor approving the school administrative reorganization plan prepared by the MDIRSS-AOS #91 Reorganization Planning Committee to reorganize Trenton, Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Tremont, Mount Desert, Swan's Island, Cranberry Isles, and Frenchboro into a Regional School Unit with an effective date of [insert date]?"



Scan the code to read more about the Reorganization Plan.