Greetings from Regional School Unit #24. It is my privilege to submit this school system update for your annual report. Please find in the following paragraphs, some important information that helps to explain our school district.

Regional School Unit #24 serves children in nine Hancock County and Washington County communities. The district provides the educational services for five schools and 979 students including general administration, centralized business services, food service, transportation, technology support and integration, and special education programming. Regional School Unit #24 employs 229 local citizens in a full range of professional and support positions. Funding for the district comes from several sources. State funding, determined by the Essential Programs and Services formula, bases state aid on local property valuations and the number of resident students. RSU 24 received $2,486,779 in state funding for the present fiscal year accounting for 15.0% of our $16,586,096 budget. The Town of Mariaville contributed 6.6% of the local cost of education. In addition to these sources, the district receives federal funding for several categories of services and also takes every opportunity to apply for grant funding to supplement educational programming.

RSU #24 provides for the education of sixty-five students who reside in Mariaville. Presently thirty-five students attend Beech Hill Elementary School in Otis. Beech Hill School is a community school with a focus on teaching and learning that is supportive, challenging, and meaningful. The Beech Hill faculty and staff have established goals to support the social, emotional, and academic growth of each of their students. They are committed to being as transparent as possible as well as involving their communities in this work.

Of the remaining students, three elementary students attend Cave Hill School, and one elementary student attends Mountain View School. Eighteen secondary students attend Ellsworth High School and one secondary student attends Sumner Memorial High School. Seven additional Mariaville students attend schools outside the district.

I feel blessed that RSU 24 has the continued support of our towns. Your town's understanding of how important education is to our students is very much appreciated. Please know that we work hard to provide a quality education that respects the hard-earned money of our community members. If you have any questions or comments regarding RSU 24, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 422-2017.

Michael Eastman, Superintendent RSU #24