



September 24, 2021

To: Distribution List in Appendix A
BY EMAIL

Re: George Stevens Academy – Request for Supplemental Tuition

Dear School Board Chairs:

On behalf of the GSA Board of Trustees, I write to respectfully request that the sending towns incorporate into their budgets a supplemental tuition of \$1,700 per student above the Maximum Allowable Tuition (MAT) for students attending GSA in the academic year 2023. This supplemental tuition equals the \$1,000 per student, which the voters approved for this 2022 academic year, together with an additional \$700 per student to cover most of the projected annual cost of education for each of our students. As you will recall the original request in 2021 was not sufficient to cover the entire forecasted deficits for 2022 and beyond.

The request is based upon a projected enrollment of 303 students in 2022 and an estimated MAT of \$12,071 per student (\$3,657,517 total MAT). The cost of educating each day student in 2022 is forecasted to be \$14,251 per student (\$4,318,342 total cost). Without supplemental tuition the Academy would incur an estimated deficit of \$660,825 or \$2,180 per day student. Maine State law caps supplemental tuition to 15% over the MAT; our request for \$1,700 equals 13.9% over the forecasted MAT for 2023.

In support of our request and commitment to transparency, we have included a number of financial documents on the GSA website, including the 2021 Draft Audit, the 2022 Budget, and a five-year financial forecast for the period 2022–2026. These documents will be presented at the upcoming **Financial Planning Advisory Committee (FPAC) meeting**

on Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, at 7pm (via zoom) (which is also open to members of the public). They will also be the topic of our in-person meeting with members of the public on Monday, Oct. 4, 2021, at 7pm.

We look forward to continuing our work with representatives from the school boards and select boards on FPAC to ensure we continue to have productive and transparent communications with our sending communities. Our hope is that we can implement the idea of town-nominated trustees to the GSA board this Fall. This idea rose to the top from our work with FPAC last year as a means of adopting a more inclusive form of governance without compromising our non-profit fiduciary duties. Longer term, we look forward to working with FPAC and the school boards in furtherance of our commitment to serve all students of the peninsula in their transition to high school and beyond.

We appreciate your time and attention to working with us to ensure that GSA remains the peninsula's anchor secondary educational institution.

Yours sincerely,



Sally Mills
Class of 1985
Chair of the Board of Trustees
George Stevens Academy

Appendix A
Distribution List

Jerry Markley, Chair Penobscot School Board, Chair Union 93 Board

Nick Noddin, Chair Surry School Board

Kelly Samperi, Chair Sedgwick School Board, Chair Union 79 Board

Matt Freedman, Chair Brooksville School Board

Kathryn MacArthur, Castine School Board

Kathleen Kazmierczak, Chair Brooklin School Board

Jan Snow, Chair Blue Hill School Board

Reg Ruhlin, Superintendent of Schools, Union 93

Robert England, Superintendent of Schools, Union 76

cc: Financial Planning Advisory Committee Members

Selectboards

Harold Hatch, Chair Penobscot Select Board

Betsy Armstrong, Chair Surry Select Board

John Gray, Chair Brooksville Select Board

Gordon MacArthur, Chair Castine Select Board

William Cohen, Chair Brooklin Select Board

Scott Miller, James Dow, Ellen Best, Blue Hill Select Board

Blue Hill Budget Committee: Clifton Page, Lynn Cheney, Pierre Kolisch, Melinda Crippen

Jeffrey Roth, Penobscot Bay Press