2019 Budget Report

SAINT ALBANS

Vermont

VOTE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
City Hall Auditorium, 100 North Main Street, St. Albans, VT

City of St. Albans

St. Albans Free Library

Maple Run Unified School District

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CITY CLERK AND TREASURER 2

CITY OF ST. ALBANS—ANNUAL MEETING WARNING 3

MAYOR'S TOWN MEETING MESSAGE 4

CITY OF ST. ALBANS—PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET 5

ST. ALBANS FREE LIBRARY—ANNUAL REPORT 7

ST. ALBANS FREE LIBRARY—PROPOSED BUDGET. 8

MRUSD – ANNUAL MEETING WARNING 9

MRUSD – BOARD REPORT 13

MRUSD—SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT. 15

Mayor: Tim Smith
Ward 1: Timothy Hawkins
Ward 2: James Pelkey
Ward 3: Marie Bessette
Ward 4: Michael McCarthy

SAINT ALBANS
Vermont

Ward 5: Kate Laddison
Ward 6: Chad Spooner
Clerk/Treasurer: Curry Galloway
City Manager: Dominic Cloud

Dear City Voter,

Enclosed is the 2019 Budget Report for the City of Saint Albans.

This report contains the budget messages and proposed budgets for the City and School for FY20. Also included is a copy of the Annual Meeting Warning which lists the elections and public questions that voters will be asked to consider.

Prior to the vote, there will be informational meetings where the Board members and Administration will be available to provide answers to your questions.

The information meetings are scheduled as follows:

- City Budget, Monday, February 25, 2019, 6:30 PM, City Hall – Council Chambers Room
- Maple Run Unified School District #57 Budget and Bond Vote, Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 6:00 PM - Library at Bellows Free Academy, St. Albans, at 71 South Main Street, St. Albans, Vermont

Sincerely,

Curry Galloway

City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor: Tim Smith
Ward 1: Timothy Hawkins
Ward 2: James Pelkey
Ward 3: Marie Bessette
Ward 4: Michael McCarthy

SAINT ALBANS
Vermont

Ward 5: Kate Laddison
Ward 6: Chad Spooner
Clerk/Treasurer: Curry Galloway
City Manager: Dominic Cloud

WARNING
ANNUAL CITY MEETING
CITY OF ST. ALBANS

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

The legal voters of the City of St. Albans are hereby warned and notified to meet at the City Hall Auditorium, located at 100 North Main Street, on Tuesday March 5, 2019, for the purpose of voting upon the articles as herein set forth. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 7:00 p.m. Articles will be voted upon by use of the voter checklist and official printed ballots.

Article 1: Elected Positions

To elect from the legal voters of said City, the following officers:

- City Councilor to represent Ward One for a term of three years;
- City Councilor to represent Ward Two for a term of three years;
- Two Trustees for the St. Albans Free Library for a term of three years each;
- One Trustee for the St. Albans Free Library for a term of one year; and
- Any other officer or officers required by law to be elected at said meeting.

Article 2: City Budget

Shall the voters adopt the City Council's proposed budget for FY 2020 totaling $9,473,885 with an estimated municipal tax rate of $.9316 on the Grand List?

A public informational hearing to discuss the City Budget and TIF Debt article will be held on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

Adopted and approved at a Regular Meeting of the City Council, duly called, noticed, and held on January 14, 2019.

Timothy Smith, Mayor

Timothy Hawkins, Ward 1

James Pelkey, Ward 2

Marie Bessette, Ward 3

Mike McCarthy, Ward 4

Kate Laddison, Ward 5

Chad Spooner, Ward 6

ATTEST:
Curry Galloway, City Clerk

Mayor: Tim Smith
Ward 1: Timothy Hawkins
Ward 2: James Pelkey
Ward 3: Marie Bessette
Ward 4: Michael McCarthy

SAINT ALBANS
Vermont

Ward 5: Kate Laddison
Ward 6: Chad Spooner
Clerk/Treasurer: Curry Galloway
City Manager: Dominic Cloud

Mayor's Town Meeting Message

Throughout my first year of my first term many people have asked me, "How is the Mayor's job going?" and my standard reply has been "uneventful" and then, almost to a person, the response I get back is, "well that is good" to which I agree. The reason for "uneventful" in my opinion is due to the fact that we as a City are fortunate enough to have top notch, professional, committed individuals that make up our team of employees and that team is led by a number of quality Department Managers who always put what is good for the City of St. Albans first. The management team is always quick to respond to a resident's concern or complaint. There have been times when I have opened an email at 9:00 PM and the sender is sharing a concern or issue, I will forward that off to the appropriate department and more often than not by morning the next day the concern has been addressed.

I believe this attitude of "making things right" has been ingrained within the City and its employees over the years by the recently retired Public Works Director, Allen Robtoy and his boss, City Manager, Dominic Cloud. I know former Mayors Liz Gamache, Marty Manahan and Peter Deslauriers always focused on doing the right thing for the taxpayers of St. Albans City and I hope to follow in those footsteps as well.

Hardly a day has passed in my first year as Mayor when someone did not approach me to say how great our City looks or we love visiting St. Albans or the turn-around is unbelievable. As someone who was born and raised in St. Albans it is hard to share the level of pride I have when I hear that. There have been a countless number of times when I am on Main St. and I have conversations with individuals visiting our community and they have nothing but good things to share. It has been obvious to our merchants and restaurants that the number of tourists visiting the City this past year has grown significantly. In case you missed it there was a one page article in the AAA New England Travel Journal promoting St. Albans. In addition to that there was a lengthy article in the final edition of Vermont Life magazine sharing the highlights of our City. As many of you know this transformation did not happen overnight or by happenstance; it took the leadership of our City Manager, a few Mayors and many Council persons. I just happen to be in the Mayor's office in time to reap the benefits of all of that hard work.

With that said there are still projects that will be moving forward this year and would not have been made possible without the taxpayer's approval. The spring of 2019 will bring the demolition of a few downtown buildings and the Maiden Lane apartment building to make way for a new three story office/retail space on the corner of Congress and Main St and 50 new apartments to replace the ones on Maiden Lane. The Northern Vermont Ballet Studio will be finalizing the renovations of the former FW Fonda building on Stebbins St.

My first year in office has been a true joy for my family and me. It is an honor for me to represent our great City and promote our quality of live that we are all fortunate to be a part of. In 2019 I feel the door is wide open for the City to continue to grow and promote ourselves but to do that we need the support of all of our residents. Everyone can play a part to make our City even more attractive. We can all spruce up our homes or investment properties by painting our homes or by planting trees and flowers. Let's all of us take pride in the community we live in.

Tim Smith, Mayor

	A	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	**General Fund 2020 Proposed Budget: Summary of all Revenues**											
2		2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Budget as of 11/30/2018	% Budget		2020 Draft	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change from Prior Year
3	Property Tax Revenues	3,888,456	4,136,694	4,344,168	4,391,003	4,571,276	1,904,698	41.7%		4,672,816	101,540	2.2%
4	Property Taxes-25% TIF Increment	133,041	90,961	144,363	162,966	162,000	67,500	41.7%		165,000	3,000	1.9%
5												
6	General Revenue Categories											
7	Penalty on Taxes	27,465	22,374	24,968	18,310	27,500	(187)	-0.7%		26,500	(1,000)	-3.6%
8	Interest on Taxes	38,096	40,217	41,840	35,407	40,000	17,621	44.1%		40,000	-	0.0%
9	State Payments, RR Taxes	8,920	11,259	11,259	-	11,150	-	0.0%		10,000	(1,150)	-10.3%
10	Interest on Savings & General AR	1,676	10,453	942	5,579	1,000	271	27.1%		5,000	4,000	400.0%
13	W/WW Pro-rata Lease, PW Garage	36,900	37,500	38,625	49,784	51,277	21,365	41.7%		52,816	1,538	3.0%
14	W/WW Pro-rata Lease, City Hall	53,100	52,500	54,075	55,697	57,368	23,905	41.7%		59,089	1,721	3.0%
15	PILOT	75,520	81,465	88,175	50,616	50,000	50,566	101.1%		50,500	500	1.0%
16	Insurance Reimbursements & Misc.	44,477	32,025	20,716	47,906	25,000	457	1.8%		35,000	10,000	40.0%
17	Affiliation Fee				1,266	-	3,170	NA		25,000	25,000	NA
18												
19	City Clerk	108,319	98,544	105,134	103,416	110,350	32,831	29.8%		106,150	(4,200)	-3.8%
20	Planning & Development	28,886	106,449	38,497	33,571	37,000	15,164	41.0%		40,000	3,000	8.1%
21	Assessing	22,212	22,283	22,622	22,483	22,500	745	3.3%		22,500	-	0.0%
22	Fire Department	112,563	530,946	539,560	72,546	90,500	63,416	70.1%		144,000	53,500	59.1%
23	Police, Animal Control	729,048	837,989	872,556	856,128	1,141,340	223,032	19.5%		1,177,111	35,771	3.1%
24	Dispatch	698,457	649,563	542,129	523,133	517,000	401,660	77.7%		918,000	401,000	77.6%
25	Public Works	406,082	460,352	480,349	596,847	166,000	152,617	91.9%		200,000	34,000	20.5%
26	Recreation Programs, including Barlow	387,014	409,775	441,939	513,776	458,400	337,134	73.5%		511,695	53,295	11.6%
27	Parking Program	65,066	141,535	184,188	211,074	248,284	88,088	35.5%		219,637	(28,646)	-11.5%
28	Restorative Justice Center	525,229	703,143	881,148	862,878	880,929	309,743	35.2%		995,071	114,142	13.0%
29	*Total Revenue*	*7,390,525*	*8,476,027*	*8,877,252*	*8,614,384*	*8,668,874*	*3,713,795*	*42.8%*		*9,475,885*	*807,011*	*9.3%*
30												
31												
32												
33												
34												
35												
36												
37												
38												
39												
40												
41												
42												

	A	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	**General Fund 2020 Proposed Budget: Summary of all Expenditures**											
2		**2015 Actual**	**2016 Actual**	**2017 Actual**	**2018 Actual**	**2019 Budget**	**2019 Budget as of 11/30/2018**	**% Budget**		**2020 Draft**	**Change from Prior Year**	**Percent Change from Prior Year**
3	Finance and Administration	489,331	416,323	857,667	352,754	327,201	136,642	41.8%		604,950	277,749	84.9%
4	Property Taxes-25% TIF Increment	133,041	90,961	144,363	162,966	147,000	67,311	45.8%		112,000	(35,000)	-23.8%
5	Audit Fees	8,908	7,684	9,982	12,523	10,000	5,965	59.6%		12,750	2,750	27.5%
6	HRA & Accrued Time Costs			131,762	95,321	200,738	126,861	63.2%		210,000	9,263	4.6%
7	Professional Services: Legal	80,824	57,872	49,232	87,916	50,500	26,115	51.7%		50,500	-	0.0%
8	County/Regional Functions	230,265	238,458	241,813	260,796	254,670	116,280	45.7%		297,734	43,064	16.9%
9	City Clerk	66,166	60,562	78,854	107,501	89,453	51,931	58.1%		98,452	8,999	10.1%
10	Planning & Development	363,092	293,800	316,141	346,592	323,523	137,563	42.5%		264,463	(59,060)	-18.3%
11	Planning & Development Capital	18,366	-	4,014	7,187	5,000	-	0.0%		17,500	12,500	250.0%
12	Assessing	44,706	45,647	44,391	39,138	49,377	17,569	35.6%		48,377	(1,000)	-2.0%
13	Debt Service & Capital Outlay	453,337	463,995	902,517	461,913	661,221	363,230	54.9%		725,332	64,111	9.7%
14	Fire Department	379,890	377,490	380,610	388,185	387,879	211,644	54.6%		385,906	(1,973)	-0.5%
15	Fire Department Capital	*10,341*	*490,951*	-	*8,214*	*15,000*	-	0.0%		*67,500*	52,500	350.0%
16	Police, Animal Control	2,326,704	2,402,843	3,099,032	2,579,775	2,736,367	1,121,606	41.0%		2,656,763	(79,604)	-2.9%
17	Police Department Capital	80,888	50,915	91,322	83,135	109,500	34,670	31.7%		147,500	38,000	34.7%
18	Dispatch	913,491	821,765	689,981	680,301	734,384	287,565	39.2%		780,383	46,000	6.3%
19	Dispatch Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%		160,000	160,000	NA
20	Public Works, Highway, Parks	652,741	845,707	655,990	653,805	623,245	251,592	40.4%		662,350	39,105	6.3%
21	Public Works Capital	471,282	284,621	508,075	517,147	291,637	344,361	118.1%		337,500	45,863	15.7%
22	Recreation Programs, including Barlow	-	-	493,686	609,071	516,961	352,365	68.2%		594,362	77,401	15.0%
23	Recreation Capital	-	-	53,040	13,850	21,000	13,125	62.5%		30,000	9,000	42.9%
24	Parking Program	65,066	135,404	136,596	184,101	223,289	72,413	32.4%		216,493	(6,796)	-3.0%
25	Restorative Justice Center	532,366	532,366	782,369	932,351	890,929	394,601	44.3%		995,071	104,142	11.7%
26	*Total Expenditures*	*7,320,802*	*7,617,363*	*9,671,436*	*8,124,716*	*8,668,874*	*4,133,409*	*47.7%*		*9,475,885*	*807,011*	*9.3%*

11 Maiden Lane
St. Albans, VT 05478
(802)524-1507
www.stalbansfreelibrary.org

The St. Albans Free Library is supported with funds from both the Town of St. Albans and the City of St. Albans. Additional funds received through donations, grants and trust revenues help fund the overall operation of the Library. The Library serves residents of the Town and City of St. Albans as well as residents of nearby towns that are willing to pay a user fee. Our current user fee for non-residents is $15/year.

2017/2018Annual Report

70,701 visits to the Library

Registered borrowers: **5,119**

Items circulated: **55,194**

Deliveries to shut-ins: **138**

Computer users: **6,791**

Programs: **269**

Program attendance: **4,852**

Meeting Room use: **268**

34,577 items to circulate

Books: **30,671**

Magazine subscriptions: **64**

DVDs: **2,543**

Audio: **1,230**

Databases: **10**

Non-traditionals: **44**

Passes: **15**

Comings and goings!

- Book Groups
- Writers Group
- Classic Movie Night
- Crafts
- Author Talks
- Movement & Music
- Story Time
- Legos
- Teen group
- School Vacation Programs

Library Hours

Monday: 10-6
Tuesday:10-8
Wednesday:10-6
Thursday:10-8
Friday:10-6
Saturday:10-3
Sunday: closed

Open 49 hours per week

Used Book Sale

The Book Cellar is an on-going book sale in the basement of the Library operated by volunteers.
Open Tuesdays
10am —8pm

Board of Trustees

Meaghan Malboeuf (Chair)
Sue Wade (Vice-Chair)
Sally Lindberg (Secretary)
Natalie Good (Treasurer)
Sam Brown
Kaylie Collins
Linda Lang
Shelagh Munroe
Jill White

St. Albans Free Library				
Budget for 2019-2020				
		2018-2019		2019-2020
Operating Revenues				
City of St. Albans		$235,095.00		$242,148.00
Town of St. Albans		$143,861.00		$148,177.00
William Clark Trust		$10,000.00		$10,000.00
Ethel Peabody Trust		$2,000.00		$2,000.00
Fine/Desk Income		$5,000.00		$5,000.00
Gift Funds		$3,500.00		$3,500.00
Copier		$3,725.00		$3,725.00
TOTAL		**$403,181.00**		**$414,550.00**
Operating Expenditures				
Adult Materials		$9,250.00		$9,250.00
Youth Materials		$8,500.00		$8,500.00
Programs		$3,500.00		$3,500.00
Periodicals		$2,500.00		$2,500.00
Online References		$8,000.00		$8,000.00
Gift Funds		$3,500.00		$3,500.00
Salaries		$125,500.00		$129,265.00
Wages		$122,213.00		$124,725.00
Wages-Cleaning		$8,580.00		$9,400.00
Soc Sec		$18,750.00		$19,750.00
Work Comp		$1,500.00		$1,500.00
Payroll Services		$2,500.00		$2,500.00
Employee Benefits (CSTA)*		$31,318.00		$32,000.00
Building Insurance (CSTA)*		$7,500.00		$7,500.00
Telephone (CSTA)*		$1,000.00		$750.00
Water & Sewer (CSTA)*		$1,000.00		$1,000.00
Building Repairs		$5,000.00		$6,000.00
Building Reserve		$1,500.00		$1,500.00
Comcast		$1,750.00		$2,200.00
Green Mountain Power		$10,000.00		$10,000.00
VT GAS		$5,000.00		$5,000.00
Finance Officer Bond		$200.00		$210.00
Maintenance contracts		$7,500.00		$7,500.00
Postage		$2,500.00		$2,500.00
Supplies		$6,500.00		$7,500.00
Technology (support & upgrades)		$5,000.00		$5,000.00
Copier		$3,120.00		$3,500.00
TOTAL		**$403,181.00**		**$414,550.00**
*billing is done through the City of St. Albans				

WARNING
FOR THE MAPLE RUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #57
ANNUAL MEETING: March 5, 2019

The legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57, consisting of the City of St. Albans, the Town of St. Albans and the Town of Fairfield, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in the respective polling places and times hereinafter named for each of the above referenced towns on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019,** to vote on the articles herein set forth. All Articles to be voted by the Australian Ballot system. The polls open at seven o'clock in the morning (7:00 a.m.) and close at seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 p.m.).

ARTICLE I
To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Clerk for a one (1) year term.

ARTICLE II
To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Treasurer for a one (1) year term.

.

ARTICLE III
To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Director from Fairfield (representing one-half vote) for a three (3) year term.

To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Director from St. Albans Town for a three (3) year term.

To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Director from St. Albans Town to fill the balance of a three (3) year term expiring in 2020.

To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Director from St. Albans City for a three (3) year term.

ARTICLE IV
Shall the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 authorize the Board of Directors to borrow money not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year, pursuant to Title 16 V.S.A. § 562(9)? (This will not affect the tax rate.)

ARTICLE V
Shall the voters of Maple Run Unified School District #57 authorize the Board of Directors to transfer the audited general fund balance, of the current fiscal year, to a Capital Reserve Fund, to be used for capital improvements and operations of the Maple Run Unified School District #57? (This will not affect the tax rate.)

ARTICLE VI
Shall the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 authorize the Board of Directors to expend $57,312,798 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of $15,837 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.56 % higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE VII

Shall the legal voters of Maple Run Unified School District #57 authorize the Board of School Directors to issue general obligation bonds or notes of the District in an amount not to exceed $5,722,153, subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of renovations to Bellows Free Academy St. Albans, including the installation of safety and security upgrades, the estimated cost of such improvements being $5,722,153?

Legislature has not appropriated any resources for school construction, therefore no school projects are eligible for construction funds. However, bonding statute still requires the following warning be included on the warning:

State funds may not be available at the time this project is otherwise eligible to receive State school construction aid. The district is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of State school construction aid.

Informational Hearing

The legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 consisting of the City of St. Albans, the Town of St. Albans, and the Town Fairfield, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in the **Library at Bellows Free Academy, St. Albans, at 71 South Main Street, St. Albans, Vermont**, on **February 27, 2019, at 6:00 p.m**., to conduct an informational meeting on the budget and on the bond.

The budget (Article VI) will be voted on by Australian Ballot on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019.**

The bond (Article VII) will be voted on by Australian Ballot on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019.**

Polling Places and Times

St. Albans City Residents - St. Albans City Hall, 100 North Main Street; polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

St. Albans Town Residents – Collins Perley Sports Complex, 890 Fairfax Road; polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

Fairfield Residents - Fairfield Center School Gym 57 Park St. Fairfield polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

Dated at St. Albans, Vermont, this _16th___ day of January 2019.

MAPLE RUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #57 SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ SUSAN CASAVANT MAGNAN	**/s/** NILDA GONNELLA-FRENCH
/s/ STEVEN LAROSA	**/s/** MICHAEL MALONE
/s/ JEFFREY MORRILL	**/s/** NINA HUNSICKER
/s/ JAMES C. FARR	**/s/** JACK MCCARTHY
/s/ AL COREY	**/s/** SALLY LINDBERG

Received for record and recorded prior to the posting this _17th____ day of January 2019.

__/s/ Amanda Forbes___
AMANDA FORBES, CLERK

Maple Run Unified School District
2019 Annual Chairpersons Report

21 January 2019

It is with a great deal of optimism that I submit this annual report for the Maple Run Unified School District (MRUSD) in its second year of operation. The MRUSD was born on town meeting day three years ago when the communities of St. Albans City, St. Albans Town, and Fairfield voted overwhelmingly to approve the consolidation of our schools. Our district includes St. Albans City School, St. Albans Town Educational Center, Fairfield Center School, Bellows Free Academy – St. Albans, Northwest Technical Center. These schools officially started operating under the MRUSD banner on 1 July 2017. The MRUSD Board of Directors consists of members from each community proportional to population; each member is elected at-large by all three communities. Therefore, each board member represents all communities regardless of where they reside.

Over the last year much has been accomplished as we continue to forge ahead as a new District. We are starting to see some of the benefits that come with combining resources, talents, and skills. More importantly the District has pulled together to work as a team rather than as individual school districts. Competition has been replaced by teamwork, collaboration, and cooperation, to the benefit of our children and taxpayers.

This year the MRUSD Board has adopted another fiscally responsible budget of $57,312,798, which is about a 2.5% per pupil increase. Unlike much of the state, we have seen a slight increase in our student count. The budget will result in a very small increase in property taxes. This budget is for the operation of all the schools in the district. By re-thinking how they utilize our resources, the administration has put forth a budget that holds the line on expenditures, this in spite of increased salaries and health care costs that continue to spike. It is no small accomplishment, and I commend the effort. Please know that the MRUSD Board is committed to providing a quality education to our students in the most efficient manner. We will continue to look for efficiencies moving forward. Some very tough decisions had to be made when developing this budget, which is the result of some very thoughtful and difficult work.

The Board will also be requesting the approval of a bond for $5.7 million. This bond is for work at BFA that will put a much needed corridor between the buildings. This is required as a step to greatly increase the security and safety of students and employees at the facility. Recent events around the country have underscored the importance of these types of improvements. I respectfully ask that you support this budget and bond when you vote on town meeting day.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have selflessly worked so hard to make this new district a successful reality. Superintendent Dr. Kevin Dirth, along with all the administrators and staff at the District Central Office have been instrumental in the successful progress achieved thus far. The school Principals, Chris Mosca, Leeanne Wright, Angela Stebbins, Joan Cavallo, Dr. Sean O'Dell and Director David Kimel, have stepped up and shouldered much of the hard work required. I would especially like to express my gratitude to all the employees of this district who have put their trust in the MRUSD Board to make this all work. In addition, I need to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues of the MRUSD Board who have continually shown their desire to achieve what is in the best interests of our students, citizens, and employees.

As my term as a school director draws to a close, I have decided not to run for re-election. I feel like the time is right for some new voices and perspectives to come forward and be heard. My time serving you on the various school boards has been an incredibly rewarding experience and I would like to express my gratitude to all for allowing me the honor to serve.

In closing I want to assure the communities of Fairfield, St. Albans Town, and St. Albans City that the MRUSD Board and administrators are committed to creating exciting opportunities for our students, while providing them with the high-quality education necessary for their success. We are equally committed to ensuring a safe school environment, and providing a secure, trusting work environment for all of our employees. Finally, this Board is bound and determined to accomplish this in the same efficient manner that our citizens have come to expect.

Respectfully Submitted,

James C. Farr
Chairman
Maple Run Unified Board of Directors

Dear Maple Run Unified School District Community:

On behalf of Maple Run, I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the past school year. We are so glad to be able to reciprocate that support by providing you a unified school district that is doing everything possible to benefit the overall school community – community members, parents, and of course, our students.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to prepare this report for you. I believe it will clearly depict a district that continues to be on the way up; one that has become an educational leader in our state. Maple Run is the center of the community and focuses on meeting the individual needs of our students, while being very conscientious of accountability, maintaining high standards, and providing an excellent education.

While serving as superintendent for five years, and as a resident of the school district, I can report that nothing has been more rewarding than to witness Maple Run's transformation from where we were to where we are currently in 2019. I am honored and humbled when I, along with others, boast that Maple Run Unified School District is the place where every student has every opportunity to succeed! Our schools have much to offer our students and our community. We offer a lot in terms of quality of education, variety of co-curricular programs, and wonderful people (students and teachers). Our school board, administration and staff are continually looking at ways to improve the educational lives of our children entrusted to us.

Below are some highlights of what has been accomplished during this year and what we are looking to do in the future:

- Your school board has created a very strong and effective budget that continues the quality educational programs we expect while keeping costs down. It also continues the process of ensuring equity for all our students in our new school district. The tax rate is down 1.5 cents before the CLA is added to each town. With the addition of the CLA, Fairfield and City are down about .5 cents and Town is up just under a penny.
- At the beginning of the year, we had a very successful convocation of all staff in the newly formed district. The highlight of the event was the opportunity for our 600+ staff to listen to 20 Maple Run students perform as the keynote. It was a joy to watch these students teach their teachers. If you are curious, you can watch the Maple Speak Chorus perform on YouTube - https://youtu.be/JNl8pAih5-0. They were great!
- Increased student achievement for all students is a high priority. We continue to work diligently with our administrators and instructional staff to make a difference in the lives of all our students. We continue to transition to deeper implementation of the Common Core Standards, improved instructional strategies, inquiry based learning, and other best practices that motivate students to learn while keeping them fully engaged.
- Because of several retirements of administrative staff in our Central Office, we are in the process of restructuring positions in order to increase the support to our staff and administrators in the schools and to better reflect the needs of our students. We are extremely excited about these changes and how they can positively affect the education for each and every one of our children.
- In this day and age, school security and student safety have become a paramount concern in every school throughout our country. We take this very seriously. With the support and active engagement of the St. Albans Police Department, we have accomplished a lot to make our schools more secure. Many of these changes surround areas such as buying more secure doors, adding cameras, creating better safety procedures, and practicing drills with our staff and students. In addition, there are two highlights I would like to mention. First, we are adding a School Resource Officer (SRO) for St. Albans City School. There are already SRO's at BFA and

at SATEC. Second, we are requesting funds through a bond to better secure BFA and to add safety features. The key elements include creating a connector between the original "south" building and the old hospital – the "north" building. This will also be the main entrance that will be monitored. In addition, there is no sprinkling system in the south building. This is a deficiency that we are mandated to correct.

In the upcoming weeks, we will have additional and more detailed information about our schools, including the BFA project. I urge you to check us out in future newspapers articles and at our website – www.maplerun.org.

This is an exciting time for our area and our schools. Our communities share strong educational values, and we are very proud of the high-quality education that our students receive. We continue to optimize opportunities for our students while better serving our taxpayers.

I would like to thank the members of all our school boards for their incredible interest and investment in our schools. It is a great pleasure to work with these thoughtful and caring community leaders in their elected position. Thank you for your support, time, and belief in our schools. This 10-member board is top-notch. You can be assured they are effectively representing our students and our taxpayers. The Board is hard working and thoughtful. They care deeply about the learning of all our 2700 students in the district. In particular, I would like to thank our board chair, Mr. Jim Farr. Jim has chaired the Maple Run School Board since its inception. Before that, he was part of the Franklin Central and City School boards. With Jim's leadership, he helped positively transform this school district into the leader it is in Vermont. I will miss him terribly. He will be difficult to replace.

In closing, I would like to thank my highly committed and dedicated staff. Our caring individuals put our students first every single day. We have a professional team of people who truly go above and beyond, meeting the needs of our students and their families.

Warmest personal regards,

Kevin Dirth
Superintendent

CITY OF ST. ALBANS
PO BOX 867
100 NORTH MAIN ST.
ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 264
BURLINGTON, VT 05401

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER