

DECLARATION AND VOTE TO BE ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Town of Jefferson approved a school budget for the 2014-2015 school year in the amount of \$5,173,053 at the annual budget meeting on May 27, 2014; and

WHEREAS, since the annual budget was adopted, the Jefferson School Department has experienced unanticipated increases in the number of elementary and secondary students and in special education costs; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Superintendent of Schools and Jefferson School Committee have determined that the Jefferson School Department is facing a budget and revenue shortfall of \$125,683 for Regular Instruction and \$197,243 for Special Education due to these unanticipated expenses, for a total shortfall of \$322,926; and

WHEREAS, up to \$151,937 is available from the Jefferson School Department's undesignated fund balance, and up to \$170,989 is available from the Town of Jefferson's School Long Term Maintenance Fund; and

WHEREAS, the failure to appropriate additional funds for the Town of Jefferson's 2014-2015 school budget will require staff lay-offs and other devastating cuts in Town of Jefferson's School Department.

Now therefore be it:

VOTED: That Jefferson School Committee declare that an emergency exists within the meaning of 20-A MRS § 1488 and that the Town of Jefferson municipal school unit conduct a special school budget meeting pursuant to 20-A MRS §§ 2307 and 1488 on March 18, 2015, and a budget validation referendum on March 31, 2015 for the purpose of acting on the special budget meeting article and budget validation referendum question set forth below; and that the Town of Jefferson School Committee recommend that the special budget meeting article and budget validation referendum question be approved:

A. Article for Special Budget Meeting:

Article __. Shall the Jefferson School Committee be authorized to expend not more than \$151,937 from the Jefferson School Department's undesignated fund balance, and not more than \$170,989 from the Town of Jefferson's School Long Term Maintenance Reserve Fund in order to pay for unanticipated additional tuition, regular instruction and special education costs during the 2014-2015 school year; and shall the amounts appropriated for the Town of Jefferson's FY 2014-2015 school budget at the school budget meeting conducted on May 27, 2014 be increased as follows:

Article 1. Regular Instruction: From \$2,015,786 to not more than \$2,141,469;

Article 2. Special Education: From \$752,911 to not more than \$950,153;

Article 3. Summary: From \$5,173,053 to not more than \$5,495,979.

B. Question for Budget Validation Referendum:

Question __. Do you favor approving the increase in the Town of Jefferson's school budget for the 2014-2015 school year and the increases in the line items for Regular Instruction and Special Education that were approved at the Town of Jefferson's special school budget meeting conducted on March 18, 2015?