# **NOTICE OF BARGAINING AGENT MERGER ELECTION**

## **PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF ELECTION PETITION**

On November 18, 2024, the Biddeford School Administrative Assistants Association MEA/NEA, the Biddeford Support Educational Unit MEA/NEA, and the Biddeford Educational Technician III's and Library Aides Association MEANEA filed a petition for Bargaining Agent Merger Election with the Maine Labor Relations Board. Each petitioner currently represents its own group of employees known as a bargaining unit. The petitioners requested an election in order to merge into a single bargaining agent named the Biddeford Educational Support Professionals Association MEA/NEA.

The Maine Labor Relations Board will conduct a mail ballot election for the employees who are represented by the petitioners. If a majority of voters vote in favor of the merger, the petitioners will merge into a single bargaining agent that will continue to represent the existing, separate bargaining units of employees.

### **VOTER INSTRUCTIONS**

The Maine Labor Relations Board will mail official ballots to the home addresses of eligible voters on **December 16, 2024.** Each voter will receive one ballot, one Secret Ballot Envelope and one pre-addressed and postage-paid Mail Envelope. In order to assure that all ballots are counted, voters are urged to read and comply with the instructions printed on the back of the Secret Ballot Envelope. Voters should mark the ballot by placing an "X" or " $\checkmark$ " in the box which designates their choice of either "YES" or "NO" in response to the question of whether the voter is in favor of merging the respective bargaining agents. The ballot should contain no other marks or identifying characteristics as they may invalidate the ballot.

Voters should mark their ballots and then place the marked ballot in the Secret Ballot Envelope. After sealing the ballot in the Secret Ballot Envelope, the Secret Ballot Envelope should be placed in the preaddressed and postage-paid Mail Envelope. The voter must sign the Mail Envelope in the appropriate space. Failure to do so may invalidate the ballot. The Mail Envelope will be used to authenticate voter eligibility but will be discarded prior to the counting of ballots, to insure voter anonymity.

### **VOTERS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE A BALLOT**

Employees believing themselves eligible to vote in the election who do not receive a ballot in a timely fashion may obtain a duplicate ballot by calling the Maine Labor Relations Board at (207) 287-2015 on or before **December 23, 2024**. The Board office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### **DEADLINE FOR BALLOT RETURN**

The ballots will be tabulated at the Board offices at **<u>1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025</u>**. To be counted in this election, ballots must be received at the Board offices in the preaddressed and postage-paid Mail Envelope provided by the Board by the time the ballot tabulation occurs.

November 27, 2024 Augusta, Maine

By: <u>Neil P Duy</u> Neil P. Daly, Executive Director Maine Labor Relations Board