

March 27, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is David Haines and have lived in Auburn for 55 years. I am Professor of Mathematics Emeritus at Bates College. I have been associated with MSSM in many capacities for the past 23 years: as parent of three alumni, as chair of the Board of Trustees, and now as member of the MSSM Foundation Board.

MSSM was created by this legislature in 1995. Starting with almost nothing it has succeeded beyond anybody's expectations and was ranked as the second-best high school in the nation a few years ago. MSSM no longer needs to prove itself.

Why? I know the answer to that question, but that is a topic for a long speech. For now, I'll just say that an important part of the answer is the location of the school in Limestone, thanks to this Legislature and generous Limestone leaders.

Does MSSM need more students? This is the wrong question. The answer is that more Maine students need MSSM, but can't attend MSSM because of our fees for room and board.

What does MSSM need? We have survived because of our committed students, faculty, and parents. We now have an excellent Executive Director who has the challenge of managing a school that has been run on a shoestring for decades. We need all you can do for us.