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BOWDOIN COLLEGE GIFT TO FUND ‘DISCOVERY CLASSROOM’

FOR BRUNSWICK SCHOOLCHILDREN

College will also increase its annual voluntary contribution to the town

BRUNSWICK, Maine—Bowdoin College announced today a \$450,000 gift to the Brunswick School Department to fund construction of a “discovery classroom” at the new Kate Furbish Elementary School. The college also announced that, beginning in fiscal year 2020, it will increase its annual voluntary contribution to the Town of Brunswick by \$150,000.

The 1,000-square-foot discovery classroom building will provide a flexible space for a variety of uses including science and nature experiments, visiting art and science programs, small group presentations, and other hands-on learning activities. The free-standing classroom will be an open concept with sinks, tables, and storage space. Construction will begin this fall.

“We are very pleased to be able to fund this unique learning environment for students—a “discovery classroom” that will also have other uses for the broader Brunswick community,” said Bowdoin President Clayton Rose. “This gift by the college builds on the considerable investment the community is making in its public schools—an investment that keeps Brunswick such an attractive place to live, work, and raise a family.”

“On behalf of the building committee and the school board I want to express our gratitude for this extraordinary gift,” said Sarah Singer, a member of the Brunswick School Board. “This building will provide the opportunity for the children at Kate Furbish elementary to experience nature-based learning, science, gross-motor movement and music in a space

designed specifically for those activities. We have many education partners who work in our schools to provide enrichment to our curriculum, and this classroom gives us the space to provide that programming. We are all excited about this truly remarkable addition to the project.”

Bowdoin’s additional \$150,000 annual contribution to the town will be designated to support capital expenditures, including vehicles, municipal equipment, and capital improvements to facilities or infrastructure.

“Bowdoin and Brunswick share a proud history,” said Rose. “The college is fortunate to call Brunswick home—a place that makes our students feel welcome, that provides a wonderful home for so many of our faculty and staff and their families, and that serves as a vibrant destination for visitors. We are pleased to be able to continue our long-standing support for Brunswick.”

Bowdoin is a tax-exempt educational institution that pays property taxes on certain buildings and also makes an annual voluntary contribution to Brunswick. Last year, Bowdoin’s combined tax and contribution payment to the town totaled \$378,800. The \$150,000 increase will result in annual contributions and tax payments to the town that will exceed \$540,000 in 2020 and beyond.

“Bowdoin and Brunswick enjoy an excellent and long-standing relationship,” said Brunswick Town Manager John Eldridge. “The college has contributed to several projects over the years and annually makes a voluntary contribution to the town budget. Bowdoin’s generous gift to the school department and the college’s plan to increase its annual contribution further demonstrate its commitment to Brunswick and are greatly appreciated.”