

May 31, 2006

## **FUTURE MSAD 3 Receives \$250,000 Challenge Grant from Unity Foundation**

THORNDIKE , ME – A capital campaign for the 300-seat Mount View School Performing Arts Center was publicly launched May 31, 2006 with the announcement of a \$250,000 Challenge Grant made by Unity Foundation Chairman and CEO, Larry Sterrs. The Unity Foundation is making this gift in honor of their founders, Bert G. and Coral B. Clifford, and will provide a dollar match for every dollar raised for the campaign, up to \$250,000. Steve Bennett, Chair of the Board of Directors of FUTURE MSAD 3, made the campaign announcement in the Mount View High School cafeteria, before an audience including Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs Laurie Osgood and Rod McElroy, students, staff, faculty and administrators. The campaign goal is \$575,000.

According to Bennett, the generosity of the Unity Foundation gives the campaign a tremendous amount of momentum and provides a compelling incentive for individuals, business owners, and foundations to support the new Performing Arts Center that will benefit MSAD 3 students and residents in the 11 surrounding communities. “Many people have been waiting a long time for this much-needed new school, and we’re working hard to ensure the performing arts center is part of the heart-and-soul of the new Mount View. The Unity Foundation’s generosity provides a significant boost to our efforts and is a wonderful gift to our children and our community,” Bennett said.

The capital campaign is a broad-based community effort. Prior to 2006, FUTURE MSAD 3 received a \$50,000 grant from the MBNA Foundation, \$2,000 from the Oak Grove School Foundation, and \$1,500 from the Maine Community Foundation. Over the past two years, elementary school students in MSAD 3 have contributed \$2,000 in pennies, and \$1,200 was raised at a benefit dinner organized by a Mount View Junior High School student, Evan Coleman. An additional \$54,000 in cash and pledges from individuals, and revenue from special events brings the campaign total to \$129,000.

The campaign will fund the electrical infrastructure, theatrical sound and lighting, acoustical design, a thrust stage and curtains, cat walk, control booth, and mezzanine, transforming the basic auditorium in the state-funded construction plan, into a true performing arts center that will provide a high-caliber performance space for all students as well as the 11 surrounding communities comprising MSAD 3.



Larry Sterrs, president of Unity Foundation, offers the challenge grant in honor of Bert G. and Coral B. Clifford of Unity at MVHS, May 31, 2006.