227 MAIN STREET
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REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Personnel & Finance Committee Agenda Minutes

Finance Committee Standing Committee Description

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 | 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
The RSU 9 District Office | Main Street, Farmington

Members Present: Angie LeClair, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Gloria McGraw, Jeff Barnum
Members Absent:
Other Members Present: Gwen Doak, Ruth Gauvin, Doug Hiltz
Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin, Alison Gamache

***Action Item - Requires a Vote:** *The Committee must collectively decide to approve, reject, amend, or table the item. Decisions on action items are recorded in the official minutes.*

School Board Member Core Responsibilities and Requirements

I. Preliminary Business

A. Call to Order - Chair Leclair
   1. Meeting called to order at 6:04.
B. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes - approved at 9/8/2026 Board meeting
   1. September 1, 2026
      a) Any questions or follow-up?
         (1) None
C. Standing committee present description
   1. Per policy, this should be reviewed each August
   2. Suggested changes?
      a) Superintendent suggestion Standing Committee paragraph
         (1) Need to add the review of the superintendent in this section.
            (a) …Personnel (including evaluation of the superintendent).
               (i) Superintendent shared additional wording change for this
               (ii) Approved unanimously
      b) Other
         (1) We need a better process to evaluate the superintendent
         (2) This sub-committee should take the lead on this, maybe a 360 look to include staff input.
         (3) Need to have this as an agenda item at the next meeting.
            (a) Look at having our own advisory committee take a stab with MSMA docs
      c) Discussion
      d) Vote
         (1) Unanimous

II. Updates - *Director Gamache*

A. 2026/27 Warrant Schedule
   1. Questions?
      a) None
B. Monthly Budget Update
   1. July/August

2. September
    a) The new system encumbers all wages on Day 1. The amount remaining appears appropriate. We don't expect to spend the entire amount based on hirings.
    b) Articles 8 and 9 - Will likely be a $175,000 - $200,000 deficit. Fuel cost will be added to the next agenda.
        (1) What is the impact of the dyed fuel tax?
            (a) Will only postpone the district's costs to 2029 as the president can't cut taxes unilaterally.
                (i) Do communities understand that the increase in fuel costs will impact taxes to support schools?
                    (a) The district needs to make that clear in their communication.
        (2) Should we freeze the budget immediately due to fuel costs?
            (a) The superintendent has made this decision in the past and wants time to review more of our data.
                (i) Will add this item to the next agenda.

C. Audit Update
1. Steps
    a) Following this requested plan
2. Progress
    a) Two auditors are on site for a portion of this week.
    b) 3/31 is our deadline for completion.
    c) ERP
        (1) Continued frustration with the new accounting software training (upgrade from prior system).
        (2) All support is $120 per hour, and it has not been effective.
        (3) All districts have different frustrations with this product.
        (4) Working with neighboring districts for support.
        (5) It is using up too much office time but we need to work through it.

D. RSU #9 - Vehicle List updated 8-27-2026
1. Review
    a) Asked to share this district resource list with you
2. Questions?
    a) None

E. Building upgrades and remodels - Elkington
1. Discussion
    a) Next Steps
        (1) What are we doing?
        (2) Why are we doing it?
        (3) Why do we need this?
    b) District Program thinking must be submitted to Ed Policy first (programming decisions involve them)
2. Lots of planning work to be done before this committee talks about $$
3. Bond Process
    a) Will be reviewed at a future mtg.
    b) Chris will do a little review of the bond process at a future meeting.
4. Next Steps?
    a) The board will need to see the planning work that operations has been doing
        (1) Will need a concept paper on what we see as possibilities for remodels and programming
    b) Looking to at least 18 months out
    c) Are there state efforts to support special education programming?
        (1) Not at this time.

F. District fields - Elkington
1. MBC

a) Boosters have approached superintendent with thoughts about next steps
    (1) Need additional help with a district match to raise funds
    (2) Need a commitment (this year) from the Board to improve fields
        (a) They have a strong parent commitment wanting to support a field improvement
b) Over the last two decades they have made a strong contribution to purchase materials, equipment, and uniforms for district sports teams

2. Discussion
    a) The importance of a communication was reviewed
3. Potential next steps?
    a) No one has reached out to Doug Hiltz, our board rep, to go to the next Booster's mtg.
    b) Board members need to meet with the Boosters on this issue.
        (1) A couple of operations (Gerry Provencher and Richard Doughty) committee members and finance committee members (Jeff Barnum) need to meet with Boosters reps.
    c) Questions needing answers:
        (1) How much are we spending on all of our athletic fields district wide, specifically on the competition field at MBC?
        (2) Can the Boosters present a report on all they do for the district?
            (a) The superintendent has some of this information.

III. Presentations

A. Review of this summer's diversity training - Poulin
    1. Reviewed the work and answered questions

IV. New *_Action items_ - Elkington

A. Does RSU 9 join Social Media Suit?
    1. Suggested Copy of Social Media Litigation - Overview and Recent Developments
    2. Copy of 2024-03-27 Social Media MDL Litigation Retainer -Master
    3. Discussion
        a) Move forward.
    4. Next steps?
        a) Unanimous to move forward to the Board
B. District Finance Dept Capacity - Elkington/Gamache
    1. ERP has reduced our effectiveness to take on new projects this year
        a) We have no people power/time to add something new to someone else's portfolio
        b) We can't reduce what we are working on and have in front of us
    2. We hope 27-28 will be better
    3. Questions?
    4. Suggested next steps?
        a) Inform the committee of adjustments that might be made
        b) Superintendent and Director of Finance are looking at adding someone to just work on ERP Pro and or adjust a present employees oversight to give time to ERP Pro
            (1) Would mean hiring someone to fill in on what was being taken away
C. Conflict of Interest (DJH) TABLE
    1. How far should we go?

V. Suggested Future Items

VI. Adjournment

A. Next Meeting - November 10, 2026 (2ND TUESDAY)
B. Adjourn Meeting
    1. Meeting was adjourned at 7:03.

Future Agenda Items:

- Nov
    - Warrant Process Review
        - Does the committee want changes?
    - October 1st Count (reported mid Oct)
        - EPS Count Summary for Subsidy Allocation Calculation
            - 25 - 26 Comparison
    - Results from the JGPR contract on communications services
    - Discussion regards future mowing and landscaping work when present contract expires with Knox Yard of Benton (review of Operations and Maintenance mtg.)
- Other
    - Digitize Warrant Signing