227 MAIN STREET
FARMINGTON, ME 04938

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REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM
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Operations Committee Agenda Minutes

Operations & Maintenance Standing Committee Description

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 | 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The RSU 9 District Office | Main Street, Farmington

Members Present: Ruth Gauvin, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Gerald Provencher, Richard Doughty (arrived at 5:13)
Members Absent:
Other Members Present: Gwen Doak, Jeff Barnum, Doug Hiltz
Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin, Nicole Ibarguen, Alison Gamache, Galen Dalrymple, Rodney Spiller

****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 Provencher
   1. Meeting called to order at 4:59.
B. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes - approved at 9/8/2026 Board meeting
   1. September 1, 2026
   2. Any questions or follow-up?
      a) None
C. Standing committee description
   1. Suggested changes?
      a) Superintendent suggestion
   2. Discussion
      a)
   3. Vote
   4. Tabled to next mtg.

II. Updates

A. Work Progress Highlights - *Director Ibarguen*
   1. Building Specifics (AHS/GDCS, Adult Ed, BG, CBS, CCHS, DO, WGMS, MBMS, MBC)
      a) FY27
         (i) Nicole reviewed the newest updates.
   2. Pellet Boilers Progress
      a) CCHS
         (i) Fire Tube Installed
      b) CBS
         (i) Re-piping completed
         (ii) Other parts scheduled for install week of 10/12
      c) Mallett
         (i) Fire Tube installed
   3. Bat Problem at MBMS
      a) Next steps?

(i) Will need to be three phases
(a) The cost for the initial services is $20,000 paid from the local budget to accomplish phase one (assist in repairing and sealing the building so that when the bats exit, they cannot re-enter). This must be completed by June 1st due to their breeding season. This does not include maintenance costs.
(b) This is work that must be completed based on the regulations.
(ii) Questions
(a) Inspection has been paid as part of phase one.
(iii) Discussion
(a) All tiles might need to be replaced, with the cost TBD.
(iv) Cost
(a) From Where
(i) In addition to local funds, we are seeking other funding sources to support this project.

b) Potential funding source - Provencher
c) Board member Hastings made a motion to support $20,000 for phase one, which was seconded by Kimber. The vote was unanimous.

B. 10-year Plan/Long Range Planning
1. Capital Project List
a) Committee's role and tasks
(i) RSU 9 Capital Projects
b) Has it completed its tasks?
(i) It was felt that the capital project list needs to be pared down in terms of priorities. The committee's job is not complete but maybe needs a pause. There are other aspects (special education programming) that might impact the priorities.
(ii) What were the roots of the advisory committee?
(a) To get all the things defined that needed to be done and to get a list together of projects requiring attention.
2. Potential Next Steps
a) One more meeting
(i) Due-diligence
(a) Maintain the committee.
(i) Work not finished and so needs to be maintained.
b) Future Direction
(i) Need to reformulate a new advisory committee
(a) New role etc.
(i) Not at this time
(ii) Discussion
(a) The group will have another meeting to prepare for an update to the Operations Committee in November and then present to the full board later that month or in December.
c) Questions

C. Staffing
1. Current openings/needs
a) Sub openings

D. Information - Ibarguen
1. CBS Woods plan - Director Dalrymple & Instructor Spiller
a) Final steps
(i) Cascade Brook Trail Restoration and Timber Harvest Completion update 9-17-2026
(a) Mr. Spiller reviewed the highlights of the update.
(b) There may be some resources at the state level to address invasive species.

(ii) Questions
(a) Some cleanup and wood sales questions were asked.

b) Next Steps?
(i) Since operations have wound down, the Pre-Engineering program will be replacing all placards and will do some imaging using drones.
(ii) Forestry students will help biology classes to identify trees. They will set up borer traps to study them. (We do not currently have ash borers.) Excellent collaboration!

2. District stormwater Management Systems
a) Review findings
(i) Testing requirements near bus garage
(a) DEP testing research
(i) No testing required due to infrastructure
(ii) Clean Water Act

3. Fire protection RFP
a) RFP update?
(i) Fire Protection RFP
(a) RFP finished 10/5 allowing 15 days for questions and 30 additional days to return to the district.

4. CCHS Water System
a) Tests
(i) CCHS Water Test 5-14-2024
(a) Not sure how it happened but label was wrong and has been adjusted.
(ii) PFAs CCHS May 2026
(iii) SSCL Info Sheet and Documents 6-2-26- Spring 2026
(iv) CCHS PFA monitoring Letter August 2026
(v) CCHS Water Tests 9-26-2025
(a) Not sure how it happened but label was wrong and has been adjusted

b) Questions
(i) The first link is 2024 not 2026 and the last link is 2025 and not 2026. We have no recent test results that put us over the new limits and are currently in compliance. We will apply for the grant and will request updated tests.
(ii) **NEW info. A new test has been done and results are 4-6 weeks out.
(iii) Water Quality of Maine works in the background testing and gathering information. PFAS is within state limits and may not meet federal limits when they are updated.

c) Grant for PFA treatment system
(i) CCHS
(a) Design Proposal
(b) Floor Plan
(ii) Questions
(a) Need to make sure that we don't spend funds on something we may not need to do.
(iii) Member Hastings moved that we apply for the grant to fund the PFAS filtration system. Seconded by Kimber. Unanimous.
(iv) Next Steps
(a) Complete application

5. Sprinkler difficiencies
a) Review
(i) Cascade Brooke
(a) Backflow preventers
(ii) Mallett
(a) Backflow preventers

b) Next Steps
    (i) Timing
    (ii) Cost
        (a) CBS
            (i) $5,150
        (b) Mallett
            (i) $3,150
        (c) Funds are available in the present budget for these projects

6. Building upgrades and remodels - Elkington
    a) Superintendent & Special Ed need to create a concept rough draft plan in line with the Strategic Plan and the 10 Year Plan
        (i) Steps
            (a) Why are we doing this? Why do we need this?
            (b) This thinking must be submitted to Ed Policy (programming decisions involve them first).
            (c) The Operations Committee would then assign an advisory committee
                (i) Members from long-range planning should be added.
        (ii) Maine Bond Bank
            (a) Options & process
                (i) Fall and spring are the times that the Maine Bond Bank makes its decisions to approve requests. There is a concern about current interest rates.
                    (a) This would be under the Finance Committee's domain to make suggestions about moving forward.
                (ii) Thoughts on when?
                    (a) Not for this spring.
                        (i) Probable plan could be:
                        (ii) Board concept approval spring 2028
                        (iii) Voters fall 2028
                        (iv) Design work winter/spring 28-29
                        (v) Maine Bond Bank fall 2029
                        (vi) Out to bid winter 2029-30
                    (b) Projects would start summer of 2029.
                    (c) Chris will share the process at the next meeting
                        (i) Projects could be separated
    b) Brainstorming
        (i) Possible project ideas committee members want included
            (a) Committee Advisory Committee feedback
                (i) Tabled
    c) Next Steps?
        (i) No need to focus on this given that the committee will continue to meet regarding next steps.
        (ii) Advisory Committee created (take the place of Long-Range Planning)
            (a) Involve board members from other committees and town leaders to begin conversations
            (b) Will need to develop outreach plan
            (c) Planning expertise will need to be added
        (iii) District Planning Capacity - Elkington
            (a) We don't have the people power to add this or anything else that is new to someone else's portfolio
                (i) How do we create extra support?
                    (a) Part-time person?
                        (i) Not discussed
                    (b) Other?

(i) We can come up with a concept but not as quickly as we would like and without all the details.
(ii) Moving beyond concept will require potential additional staffing.
(iii) Will the board weigh in on any additional programming or Ed Policy?
(iv) To be discussed

(b) Projected square footage 'ballpark' costs for potential school & building estimates - Tabled
(c) Other?

7. District fields
   a) MBC
      (i) Boosters have approached the superintendent with some thoughts about next steps
         (a) Need additional help with a district match to raise funds
         (b) Need a commitment from Board to improve fields this year
            (i) They have a strong parent commitment wanting to support a field improvement.
      (ii) Over the last two decades they have made a strong contribution to purchase materials, equipment, and uniforms for district sports teams
      (iii) Next Steps?
         (a) No one has reached out to Doug Hiltz, the RSU 9 board rep regarding their next meeting.
         (b) Board members need to meet with the Boosters on this issue.
            (i) A couple of operations (Gerry Provencher and Richard Doughty) committee members and finance committee members should meet with Boosters reps.

III. New

A. District Lawn Care-TABLE
   1. Present contract
      a) Review
   2. What is the cost?
   3. Should we cut everywhere we do?
   4. Why not local people?

B. RSU #9 - Vehicle List updated 8-27-2026 - Tabled
   1. Any questions?

C. FTC Applied Work Plans Committee - Tabled
   1. Our process
   2. Similar to what others expect
   3. Possible next steps?

IV. Suggested future Items

V. Adjournment

A. Next Meeting - November 10, 2026 (2ND TUESDAY)
B. Adjourn Meeting

A. The meeting adjourned at 6:01.

Future Agenda Items:

- Sprinkler difficiencies
  - MBMS
- Other

- Share 911