



Mt. Blue Regional School District
227 Main Street | Farmington, ME 04938
(207) 778-6571 | (Fax) 778-4160

Chesterville | Farmington | Industry | New Sharon | New Vineyard | Starks | Temple | Vienna | Weld | Wilton

Operations Committee Agenda Minutes

[Operations & Maintenance Standing Committee Description](#)

Tuesday, September 1, 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

Members Absent:

Other Members Present: Gwen Doak, Jeff Barnum, Doug Hiltz

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin, Nicole Ibarguen

***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. Called to order at 4:59
- B. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes - approved at 8/25/2026 Board meeting
 - 1. [August 4, 2026](#)
 - 2. Any questions or follow-up?
 - a) None

II. Updates - Director Ibarguen

- A. Work Progress Highlights
 - 1. Building Specifics (AHS/GDCS, Adult Ed, BG, CBS, CCHS, DO, WGMS, MBMS, MBC)
 - a) [FY27](#)
 - (i) Nicole reviewed the project updates.
 - (ii) Maintenance is following Sealander reports and ensures that the items that they are able to address are notated.
 - 2. Pellet Boilers Progress
 - a) CBS
 - b) Mallett/CCHS
 - c) For all schools, supplies have been ordered and some have been received. Work will begin mid-September.
 - 3. Bat Problem at MBMS?
 - a) Next steps?
 - (i) One company chose to not do the work due to concerns about the courtyard and access, and so we are working with another company (Terminix).

- (ii) There were several questions about the type of bats, their protected status, and the specifics of the building. The matter is complex and is being addressed by the maintenance and operations staff.
 - (iii) Gerry will follow up with a potential funding source.
- 4. Staffing
 - a) Current openings/needs
 - (i) Full time year round position at MBMS is now open.
- 5. 10-year Plan
 - a) Next Steps
 - (i) The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to prioritize capital projects.
 - (ii) [Capital Project List](#)
- 6. [District stormwater Management Systems](#)
 - a) Next steps?
 - (i) Sterling Stormwater is taking care of this.
 - (ii) We will check to see if specific testing is required near the bus garage due to the materials used. Nicole will do some research on DEP testing and will report back at our next meeting.
- 7. Fire protection RFP
 - a) Next steps?
 - (i) We are hoping to streamline the vendors involved to increase efficiency and reduce questions.
 - (ii) We hope to put this out in October. Chair Provencher would be happy to take a look at the RFP before it is released.

III. New

- A. Recycled pavement - Ibarguen
 - 1. Cost difference
 - a) It is more economical to use recycled pavement/reclaimed gravel.
 - 2. When and what would we use it for?
 - a) Bus Garage-Did not use recycled pavement/reclaimed gravel due to safety concerns. Differences in opinion regarding the safety aspect and upkeep were shared.
- B. Building upgrades and remodels - Elkington
 - 1. This will be very involved.
 - a) The superintendent believes we need to hire an architect to assist from beginning to end in the planning process as the district office does not have the capacity to do this work.
 - b) Going to Maine Bond Bank in the fall would probably be the best plan for the following year.
 - 2. What would you like to see?
 - a) There was a request to look to the next 30-50 years to help create the projection of population in order to plan.
 - (i) The superintendent shared that we can do this but he is not sure if the data will be as accurate as we would like being in a rural area.
 - b) There was a discussion on the future of the Wilton Schools regarding their future use of the Cushing School (redesign).
 - c) It will be important to create a concept plan in line with the Strategic Plan and the 10 Year Plan.

- d) There were several questions regarding the bond bank and what the options would be.
 - (i) More investigation of borrowing options will need to be made.
 - 3. Possible Next Steps?
 - a) Discuss some new ideas/possible projects at our next meeting. The long range planning team would also be involved. There was a request to involve a group of board members to begin the conversations as well.
 - b) Chris will seek present projected square footage costs for school/district buildings.
- C. District fields - Elkington
 - 1. MBC - Turf
 - a) Update
 - (i) We will discuss this at our next meeting. The Boosters have approached the superintendent with some thoughts about next steps, the need for the district to help with a match and the funds that they currently contribute to purchase materials, equipment, and uniforms that the district should be allocating funds towards..

IV. Suggested future Items

V. Adjournment

- A. Next Meeting - October 6, 2026
- B. Adjourn Meeting
 - A. Meeting was adjourned at 5:59.

Future Agenda Items:

- Oct
 - Sprinkler difficiencies
 - Potential large projects draft
 - Present square footage costs
 - Potential Bond discussion
 - CBS Woods plan
 - Next steps
 - Cleanup
 - CCHS
 - Well next steps
 - PFAS testing
- Other
 - District Lawn Care
 - Should we cut everywhere we do
 - Why not local people?
 - FTC Applied Work Plans Committee
 - Share 911