

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

"Working together to provide high quality educational opportunities for all."

227 MAIN STREET, FARMINGTON, ME 04938

(207) 778-6571 | (fax) 778-4160

Operations Committee

Agenda Notes

October 7, 2025 | 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The RSU 9 District Office, Main Street Farmington

Members Present: Scott Erb, Greg Kimber, Griffin Mayhew, Gerald Provencher

Members Absent: Debbie Smith

Other Members Present: Gwen Doak, Jeff Barnum

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin, Nicole Ibarguen

Other Staff Present: None

1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair Erb

- a. Called to order at 5:03

2. Previous Committee Minutes- [09/02/2025](#) - Chair Erb

- a. Approved at 9.9.25 Board meeting
- b. Questions?
 - i. None

3. Work Progress - Operations Supervisor Ibarguen

- a. [FY26](#)
 - i. Review
 - 1. Nicole Ibarguen reviewed the document.
 - 2. Maintaining building temps during season transition can be challenging.
 - ii. Building Specific FYIs?
 - 1. AHS/Cushing
 - 2. Adult Ed
 - a. Carpet complete in Admin Building
 - 3. CBS
 - Bush hogging playground fence area
 - 4. CCHS
 - a. LED light changeover both stairwells
 - 5. Mallett
 - a. Waterless urinals replacement
 - b. Playground slide replacement
 - 6. MBMS
 - a. The ceiling in the locker rooms will be sprayed tomorrow which will complete the basement.

7. MBC

- a. Athletic Fields Pumphouse upgrade completed
- b. FTC Automotive exhaust support replaced

4. Updates - Operations Supervisor Ibarguen

a. Staff Openings

- i. All positions are filled.

b. Board Member tours

i. Transportation Garage & Maintenance Shop

1. Transportation Garage

- a. A training space big enough to fit everyone would be helpful.
- b. Looked at improving flow between the two departments.
- c. Heating and cooling need attention.
- d. Rodents are present.
- e. Parking lots
 - i. Employee and bus
- f. Garage
 - i. Ceiling too low due to air handlers.
 - ii. Only one lift is available.
 - iii. A waste oil furnace heats the building well.
- g. The roof is in good condition.
- h. Siding needs attention.
- i. Wash bay is helpful but could use an upgrade.
- j. New overhead doors in all but two of the bays.
- k. Storage and wider bays would be helpful.

2. Maintenance Shop

- a. It would be helpful to have something to be able to pull their vehicles into during the winter so as to not have to empty the vehicles of tools.
- b. Need higher doors.
- c. There is a need for increased storage.
- d. Have all the tools needed.

3. How much money do we put into something before considering replacement?

4. Is the Bus Garage currently meeting needs? What might happen if other communities join our district? Do we have capacity? We currently have 30 buses.

5. Do we anticipate a drop in enrollment? Tough to predict. We could request a projection report be done but reliability can be difficult in rural areas. The superintendent will do some research.

ii. New invite to go out for other building tours

- 1. Nicole will send this out a few weeks in advance for board members to consider.

c. Sprinkler Deficiency Reports

i. Total cost \$17,029.12

1. Mt. Blue High School \$7,619.12
2. Mt. Blue Middle School \$5,110.00
3. Cascade Brook School \$2,370.00
4. Cushing School \$1,930.00

(At CCHS we have already taken care of this at a cost of \$5,000. Based on rules related to the PreK program.)

5. Will be paid from Purchase Services

- a. These adjustments can only be addressed when students are not in the building. This will likely be completed in December and waiting does not put students or staff in harm's way.

ii. Regular testing

1. Will be put on a rotation to spread out the expense.
 - a. We will be able to better plan for this going forward.
 - b. Should we do an RFP for a new sprinkler company? We will consider this. We currently have three vendors servicing our fire prevention systems, and so will look to move forward in seeking one vendor. We will look at an RFP in the spring for FY27.

d. 10 Yr Planning Committee

i. Progress?

1. Last meeting, goals for the next budget season were discussed.
 - a. Parapet wall
 - b. Kitchen floor at AHS
 - c. Bus Garage parking lot gate
 - d. CBS water heater for FY27
 - e. Paving
2. Where do we go with MBMS? Are we getting on the state construction list for renovations?
3. At the next meeting, we will go through the Operations Planning Sheet to set priorities.
4. Emergencies come up beyond the Sealander report suggestions.
5. What are we including in the FY27 budget?
6. Completing the ten year plan will take a couple more meetings.

e. Architect assessment drafts for MBC and Mallett review - Elkington

i. [Mallett](#)

ii. [MBC](#)

1. Will be a shared cost, split 2/3rds - 1/3rd with FTC

iii. These also take into account the grounds of both buildings.

iv. The superintendent shared that he does not believe we have the time to do this piecemeal or expertise to just do it ourselves.

1. Can we consider using district staff?

- a. The superintendent shared that he believes we are at capacity and that an outside set of eyes is always helpful.
 - 2. If our maintenance team already knows what needs attention should we be paying someone to also give us feedback?
 - a. Both of these buildings are newer and have more modern and sophisticated systems. We can look at having the maintenance staff help adjust what the assessment should hold but if they are writing up other sections then they are not working on projects around the district. We could change the scope of what Sealander has proposed with the understanding that experts in their fields are being brought in to do reviews in their specialty areas.
 - b. We can discuss it at the next meeting if requested. This requires review of both this committee and the Personnel and Finance Committee.
 - c. Can we approve the domestic hot water heaters now and then review the Sealander proposals at the next meeting? The sub-committee meets on 10/22 and the information should be relayed to them at that time. The group has put in a lot of time and we need to value their input with more discussion.
 - d. The Sealander reports have driven the 10 year planning to date, and so these assessments are vital to next steps.
 - e. There was a suggestion to support funding the water heaters from the reserve account.
 - f. Pending any further input from the sub-committee, we will support funding water heaters and building assessments from the reserve account-all in favor.
 - v. Cost?
 - 1. [Superintendent memo](#)
 - f. Functions & Duties - Elkington
 - i. Now on the website

5. New

- a. MBC Hot Water Heater replacement needs
 - i. [Planning Review](#)
 - 1. Why?
 - a. Pipes were not set correctly at MBC for one water heater, and so it has not been used. The others have been working overtime.
 - 2. Replace one and would like to replace two
 - ii. Domestic Hot Water
 - 1. Choice (chip boiler room DHW1) \$45,973
 - 2. Will feed HW to kitchen/rest of building if the operating DHW2 quits
 - 3. Re-pipe Turbo Max Hot Water heater \$11,566
 - iii. [Superintendent memo](#)

6. Next Mtg. November 4, 2025

7. Adjourned at 5:55

8. Future Agenda Items

- Climate change concerns and adjustments for schools
 - Start the conversation and brainstorm with principals about their needs around temperatures
- AHS & Mallett signage
 - More directional signage at both buildings
- Ten Year Maintenance Plan
 - [Building Assessments](#)
 - [Projects already completed](#)
- Workplace Safety Committee