

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

Personnel & Finance Committee

Agenda - Minutes

March 4, 2025

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The RSU 9 District Office, Main Street Farmington

Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Greg Kimber, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins

Members Absent: Rich Ruhlin

Other Members Present: Dee Robinson

Staff Present: Christian Ellington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Alison Gamache, Jody Harmon

1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair McGraw

- a. Called to order at 6:00.

1. Previous Committee Minutes- [02/04/2025](#) - Chair McGraw

- a. Any questions?
 - i. None

2. New

- a. [Solar Project Review](#) - Harmon
 - i. Savings
 - 1. Assistant Finance Dir. Harmon reviewed the slideshow.
 - 2. This is very complex with many variables.
 - 3. We will need to schedule rate negotiations in early 26 to ensure maximum savings.
 - 4. Will it make sense to adjust throughout the year to maximize benefits?
Yes, but this will not be possible right away. Because it is a rolling calendar year, we likely access all credits available to us.
 - 5. We can look to purchase available credits from others.
 - 6. What percentage of electrical needs are now met with our % of the farm?
Will research and update the board (TBD).
 - 7. Shout out to Jody for her knowledge and persistence!
- b. Net Energy Billing
 - i. Two Bills which will hurt us in Augusta
 - 1. [LD32](#)

2. [LD257](#)

- a. Jody is doing some research on what this might mean for RSU #9.

3. [24-25 Warrant Schedule](#) - Director of Finance Gamache

- a. Questions?
 - i. Josh will need to reschedule April and will reach out to other members.

4. Updates

- a. FY26 Budget Committee Discussions - Elkington
 - i. Progress
 - ii. 0.54% is the overall increase at this time
 - 1. Translates to town?
 - 2. Draft town assessments based on this #
 - a. Chris reviewed the most updated numbers that were sent out this weekend.
 - b. The average increase to towns is 1.28%. This is with using \$800,000 in balance forward to defray costs.
 - c. We received an extra 1.3 million in the funding formula this year.
 - d. There was a brief discussion about position reductions across the district.
 - e. We are working the budget more to actual (supplies, staff absences, supplies) since some areas have been overextended over the last several years.
- b. [24-25 Monthly Budget Update](#) - Gamache
 - i. March Review
 - 1. Predictions?
 - ii. End of February-more than half way through the year and we are at about 50%.
 - iii. With the freeze, very few requisitions are coming through.
 - iv. Chris will bring data to the next meeting for sick days and personal days.
- c. CCHS - Elkington
 - i. Leach field
 - 1. Progress
 - a. Roads being posted will slow things down even though the company is ready to go.
 - 2. Final # is?
 - a. Good news is that the quote is less than anticipated.
- d. MBMS - Elkington
 - i. Bjorn Culinary Center
 - 1. Equipment ordered-\$57,000 instead of \$130,000.
 - ii. Basement
 - 1. There are corroded pipes the insurance company won't pay for that we should cover (about \$14-15,000).
 - iii. Kitchen expansion
- e. Preventative Maintenance contract for 25-26 - Elkington

- i. Need to do this
 - 1. Specific to heating and cooling.
 - 2. Different certifications required to do the work, and so hoping to contract the work out at \$70,000/year.
 - 3. There will be specifics noted related to guaranteeing their work.
- ii. Looking for reductions to make this happen
 - 1. Reduction in hours for two part-time custodian positions will total \$45,000.
 - 2. This is a longer term investment.
- iii. Vote?
 - 1. Not required.
- f. RFP suggestion - Gamache
 - i. Table to next meeting.

5. Next Mtg. ~~April 1, 2025~~ May 6, 2025

6. Adjourned at 6:55.

7. Future Agenda Items:

- 23 Audit Balance Forward