

Mt. Blue Regional School District



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

227 Main Street, Farmington, ME 04938

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

Board of Directors Annual Budget Meeting Agenda Minutes

DATE: May 26, 2026

PLACE: Bjorn Auditorium

TIME: 7:00pm

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

Board Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith

Board Members Absent: Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb

Student Reps Present:

Student Reps Absent: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin, Alison Gamache, Katie Merrill

Other Admin Staff Present: Richard Joseph, Nicole Ibarguen, Keith Acedo, Mary Redmond-Luce
Stacey Gilbert, Mike Hanson, Galen Dalrymple, Katie Duchesne, Joel Smith, Nichole Goodspeed

I. Call to Order - Secretary of the Board Elkington

A. Meeting called to order at 7:01.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Secretary of the Board Elkington

III. Election of Moderator - Secretary of the Board Elkington

A. Selection

1. Call for Nominations
 - a) Dave Bliss nominated Paul Mills
2. Call for a Second
 - a) Judy Bliss seconded
3. Vote (Voters)
 - a) Six in favor, none opposed.

*Motion by: Dave Bliss
Seconded by: Judy Bliss
Passed by Audience Vote*

*Discussion/Q&A's:
None*

B. Swearing in of Moderator

1. Moderator Oath

IV. Moderator Opening

V. Appointment and Swearing in of Ballot Clerks - Moderator

- A. Selection
 - 1. Volunteers and/or direct appointments
 - a) Must be on Certified Voting list
- B. Swearing in of Ballot Clerks
 - 1. Oath of Ballot Clerks
 - a) Nathan Hiltz
 - b) Dave Bliss
 - c) Ruth Gauvin
 - d) Michelle Navarre

VI. Request of Motion from the Board Chair - Moderator

- *Request a motion from the Board Chair to allow the Superintendent of Schools, Christian Elkington, who is not a resident of RSU 9, to speak and respond to questions on the proposed budget at this meeting.*

<i>Motion by: Gwen Doak Seconded by: Rich Ruhlin Passed by Audience Vote</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's:</i>
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VII. Budget Consideration - Moderator

Articles 1 through 11 - Authorize Expenditures in Cost Center Categories

ARTICLE 1: To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. *School Board Recommends \$12,747,346*

<i>Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's: Ending digit clarification was made (6 instead of 8)</i>
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ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Special Education. *School Board Recommends \$8,382,418*

<i>Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's: It was discovered that information copies for the audience were missing two back pages (double-sided copies). We took a recess to ensure proper copies of all information sheets were up-to-date and shared.</i>
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ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education. *School Board Recommends \$4,573,477*

<i>Motion by: Rich Ruhlin</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's:</i>
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Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote	
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ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.
School Board Recommends \$3,949,167

Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Angie LeClair Passed by Audience Vote	Discussion/Q&A's:
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ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction. *School Board Recommends \$737,414*

Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote	Discussion/Q&A's:
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ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for System Administration.
School Board Recommends \$1,613,903

Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote	Discussion/Q&A's:
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ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for School Administration.
School Board Recommends \$2,128,267

Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote	Discussion/Q&A's: <i>What is the difference between School and System Administration?</i> School admin in schools and district admin to include Superintendent's Office staff, including HR and the Business Office staff.
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ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.
School Board Recommends \$3,205,387

Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote	Discussion/Q&A's: <i>Does this take into account the increase in gas prices?</i> <i>We secured a good rate for our propane buses but have not been able to lock in our gas/diesel. We have a reserve account and will use it if necessary.</i>
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ARTICLE 9: To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.
School Board Recommends \$5,087,918

<i>Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's:</i>
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ARTICLE 10: To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments. *School Board Recommends \$3,804,646*

<i>Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's:</i>
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ARTICLE 11: This will not be voted on at this Budget Hearing, as there are no additional expenditures needed this year.

<i>Motion by: Seconded by: Passed by Audience Vote</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's: We have been told by our attorney to keep this article in the process even though no money was voted on and this article was skipped.</i>
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Articles 12 through 14 - Raise Funds for the Proposed School Budget

ARTICLE 12: To see what sum the RSU will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the RSU will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20A, section 15688. *The School Board Recommends the amounts set forth in the table below:*

<u>Municipality</u>	Total Appropriated (By Municipality)	Total Raised (District Required Assessment) by Municipality
Chesterville	\$3,131,622.29	\$904,423.09
Farmington	\$11,700,738.00	\$4,206,842.16
Industry	\$1,286,925.38	\$822,288.30
New Sharon	\$2,483,485.53	\$813,444.50
New Vineyard	\$1,505,048.32	\$680,128.41
Starks	\$872,491.78	\$476,061.66
Temple	\$697,993.43	\$344,815.41
Vienna	\$1,140,471.40	\$624,054.75
Weld	\$430,013.81	\$430,013.81
Wilton	\$7,911,630.82	\$2,206,912.75

Total	\$31,160,420.76	\$11,508,984.84
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<i>Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's: Ending number was adjusted to 84 cents before vote by Rich and seconded by Gwen.</i>
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ARTICLE 13: To see what sum the RSU will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the RSU voters for non-state-funded school construction projects or non-state-funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the RSU's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12. *The School Board Recommends \$191,815.*

<i>Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's:</i>
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ARTICLE 14: (Written ballot required) To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (*The School Board Recommends \$3,716,313*), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$3,716,313 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends \$3,716,313, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$3,716,313. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: EPS does not fully support all of the necessary costs of a comprehensive K-12 educational program, such as (1) athletics/co-curricular program costs; (2) transportation for rural school systems and athletics/co-curricular programs; (3) special education costs, (4) system administration costs, (5) costs of maintaining class size smaller than are recognized by the Essential Programs and Services funding model, and (6) student supports, such as counseling.

<i>Motion by: Rich Ruhlin Seconded by: Gwen Doak Passed by Audience Vote Yes-38 No-3 and one invalidated</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's:</i>
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Article 15 - Summarizes the Proposed School Budget

ARTICLE 15: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 from the Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, local funds for non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools. *The School Board Recommends \$46,229,943*

*Motion by: Rich Ruhlin
Seconded by: Gwen Doak
Passed by Audience Vote*

Discussion/Q&A's:

Article 16 - Authorizes the Adult Education Program and Raises the Local Share

ARTICLE 16: To see if the RSU will appropriate \$723,868 for Adult Education and raise **\$212,875** as the local share, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

*Motion by: Rich Ruhlin
Seconded by: Gwen Doak
Passed by Audience Vote*

Discussion/Q&A's:

Article 17 - Authorizes Expenditures of Grants and Other Receipts

ARTICLE 17: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Board be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school and other program purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

*Motion by: Rich Ruhlin
Seconded by: Gwen Doak
Passed by Audience Vote*

Discussion/Q&A's:

Article 18 - Authorizes Transfers Among Cost Centers

ARTICLE 18: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

*Motion by: Rich Ruhlin
Seconded by: Gwen Doak
Passed by Audience Vote*

Discussion/Q&A's:

Article 19 - Authorizes the Disposition of any Additional State Subsidy Received

ARTICLE 19: In the event that the RSU receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Board be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the School Board, increase the allocation of finances in a reserve fund approved by the School Board, and/or decrease the local cost share expectation, as defined in Title 20-A, section 15671A(1)(B), for local property taxpayers for funding public education as approved by the School Board?

<i>Motion by: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Seconded by: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Passed by Audience Vote</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's:</i> <i>Do we expect any additional funding?</i> Not at this time.
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Article 20 - Authorizes A Transfer To And Expenditure From The Technology Reserve Fund

Article 20: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$100,000 from available fund balances, including revenues from sales of RSU-purchased electronic devices, at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed at the discretion of the School Board. to the Instruction Technology Reserve Fund and to expend said funds needed at the discretion of the School Board?

<i>Motion by: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Seconded by: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Passed by Audience Vote</i>	<i>Discussion/Q&A's:</i>
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VIII. Notice of Amounts Adopted

- A. Board Signs
- B. Superintendent Signs

IX. Adjourned at 7:49.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

Thursday, June 11, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - MBHS, FTC, McKinney Vento*
- *Tentative Presentations or Other Business*
 - *Certify Budget Referendum Results*

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - Athletics, Adult Education*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS -

Operations - June 2, 2026 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Personnel & Finance - June 2, 2026, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Educational Policy - June 2, 2026 - 7:00pm - 8:15pm - The Holman House, District Office

Other Important Budget Dates

Budget Referendum - Tuesday, June 9, 2026 - Individual Polling Hours and Locations by Town