

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

May 5, 2026 | 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Holman House/District Office Conference Room

Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins

Members Absent: Rich Ruhlin

Other Members Present: Gwen Doak

Staff Present: Alison Gamache, Chris Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present:

1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair Robbins

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:02.

2. Previous Committee Minutes- [4-7-2026](#)- Chair Robbins

- a. Approved at 4.14.26 Board meeting
- b. Any questions?

3. [25-26 Warrant Schedule](#) - Director of Finance Gamache

- a. Questions?
 - i. None.

4. Updates - Director Gamache

a. [25-26 Monthly Budget Update](#)

- i. April 2026
 - 1. Alison reviewed the figures.
- ii. End of year projection?
 - 1. Questions?
 - a. In previous years some spending for special ed mistakenly has come out of regular instruction, and Article 2 has been underspent. Director Gamache is monitoring the FY26 budget on a monthly basis to be sure that spending is allocated to appropriate accounts. She meets almost weekly with the Director of Special Ed. We believe that the FY26 Budget will properly account for all SPED costs.

b. 2025 Audit

- i. Auditors will be coming to our next meeting
 - 1. This will be a virtual connection during our meeting (15-20 minutes).
 - 2. If committee members have questions, please send them to Alison ahead of time. Thanks!
- ii. There were two findings in the Audit. This is quite an improvement from the last two audits.

c. [Solar on Demand](#) - Discussion w/ Bangor School Department

- i. Alison reviewed the discussion as captured in the notes.

- ii. It seems more straightforward than Camden, with a 15% savings off our total CMP bill.
- iii. Jody Harmon works on this project monthly.
- d. 26-27 Budget Development - Elkington
 - i. Next steps
 - 1. Communication planning
 - a. Five or six articles will be released to the press over the two weeks before the district budget meeting.
 - i. There is a request for the most straightforward articles to be released.
 - 1. Topics include but are not limited to MaineCare and special ed funding, the focus on the district's strategic plan, our per-pupil #s as compared to neighboring districts, the creation of programs to meet student needs.
 - b. The budget newsletter is set to go to voters.
 - i. Feedback going forward:
 - 1. Using two different ways to denote a negative number (parentheses and negative signs) seems confusing. This is attributed to the formatting of some of the platforms that are used.
 - 2. The town assessment total is in red. That seems to imply a negative number, which is not accurate. We used RED to get people to focus on it.
 - c. The budget pamphlet will also go out in a couple of weeks. This will have more details about individual articles.
 - 2. Annual Budget Meeting on May 26th
 - a. Paul Mills is confirmed to moderate.
 - ii. Possible IRS Fine
 - 1. Update
 - a. During the transition of the 2021-2022 school year, we did not submit our 1095 upload (this involves health insurance and has no monetary value).
 - b. We were notified of this omission by the IRS in 2024. We immediately uploaded it as soon as someone could show us what and where.
 - c. It took them several years to let us know and now they are going to back charge us a fine???
 - d. We are working with our attorney for counsel.
 - e. We have not paid a cent yet.

5. New - Elkington

- a. Student move-ins
 - i. [Three year review](#)
 - 1. Superintendent Elkington reviewed this document.

2. If a family moves in and does not enroll their children there is not much we can do. If we hear about it, we follow up and contact them and tell them they have two choices, enroll or homeschool.
- b. \$160,000
 - i. [One time Funding for districts with High Economically Disadvantaged Students](#)
 - ii. [Estimate Additional FY 27 One-Time Funding for SAUs with 40% or more disadvantaged percentage Per Supplemental Budget](#)
 - iii. We will need more time
 1. Superintendent Elkington continues to collaborate on the creation of this plan to be presented in hopefully the near future.
 2. There was a conversation about instructional rounds and what we are learning about our assets and opportunities for growth.
 3. It is important to ensure that our instructional leaders are also involved in the new learning.
 4. We shared information about strategic plan goals and alignment in our action steps.
 - c. School Picture pilot - Gamache
 - i. WGM has not signed a service agreement with LifeTouch for the year ahead. They will be piloting another company, and Alison has put out an RFP due in August.
 - d. Question: Does a recent policy decision from Augusta mean that MSMA and MDOE will provide guidance? We assume so.
 - e. Finance Director Gamage and Superintendent Elkington are going to meet with the Chesterville Select Board this coming Thursday night.

6. Additional Agenda Items

- a. [Budget Newsletter](#)
- b. Public Relations
 - i. Scheduling Virtual Town Halls
 1. Thursday May 14th @ 6:30 - Board Members only
 2. Mark your calendars info to follow

7. Next Meeting - June 2, 2026

8. Adjourned at - 7:00.

Next Agenda:

- Audit Review

9. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Digitize Warrant Signing
- b. The Superintendent's Evaluation timeline and process needs to be changed and updated.