

# 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 6, 2025

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The RSU 9 District Office, Main Street Farmington

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

**Members Absent:**

**Other Members Present:** Amanda Caruso

**Staff Present:** Monique Poulin

**Other Staff Present:** Alison Gamache

#### **1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair McGraw**

- a. Called to order 6:03

#### **2. Previous Committee Minutes- [03/04/2025](#) - Chair McGraw**

- a. Approved at 3.11.25 Board meeting
- b. Any questions?
  - i. None

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

- a. Questions?

#### **4. New - Gamache**

##### **a. [Corrective Action Plan](#)**

##### **i. [State determination 5-2-2025](#)**

- 1. FY23 Corrective Action was turned into the state.
- 2. They will not withhold any state subsidy

##### **ii. FY24**

- 1. Separation of duties was a concern and so we will have that finding on FY24.
- 2. We have the corrective action plan, and it has been sent back to the auditor.

##### **iii. Future years**

- 1. The auditors have staff, but not the most overall qualified staff. It is better than in years past. We hope to have the pre-audit info in a timely manner.

##### **b. Water Heater concerns - Ibarguen**

- i. Mallett & MBC
  - 1. Both schools have aging water heaters. One domestic water heater for the entire building. It has had a hard time keeping up with the demands. It started leaking in February and is at the end of its life span. The quote is for \$45,000 for an LPG unit for efficiency. The propane vendor will supply the second tank. MBC has the same concern but there are two units
- ii. Potential costs?
  - 1. \$45,000 for each-Nicole has a plan to fund the replacement at Mallett. MBC has a little wiggle room for time, but they have not discussed the financing.
- iii. Are there other options for more efficient systems?
  - 1. TBD
- iv. Are there any options for softening the water?
  - 1. TBD

## 5. Updates - Gamache

- a. FY26 Budget
  - i. [Theme & Pillars](#)
    - 1. The plan will be to include these in all communications.
    - 2. There was discussion about these pillars and looking ahead to future budget years.
  - ii. Budget mailer review
    - 1. Copies to review
      - a. These will be mailed this week.
    - 2. Pamphlet will be next
  - iii. Mt. Blue TV
    - 1. CE taped budget show
- b. [24-25 Monthly Budget Update](#)
  - i. March & April Review
  - ii. Freeze & End of year outlook
    - 1. We have a greater interest earned account than we anticipated.
    - 2. With the freeze in place the revenue shortfall will be absorbed no need to access reserve accounts.
    - 3. We are very careful with any requested items that are proposed at this time.
- c. Net Energy Billing
  - i. Two Bills which will hurt us in Augusta
    - 1. [LD32](#)
    - 2. [LD257](#)
  - ii. Update?
    - 1. It is one of the ways that we save money, and these bills could impact our solar electrical savings.
- d. Cost changes
  - i. CCHS Leach field

1. Progress
  - a. Roads are posted and so Taylor cannot make much progress. The latest they open is 5/15.
- ii. MBMS
  1. Bjorn Culinary Center
    - a. Equipment delivered in two days. Need to make plans for next steps.
  2. Basement
    - a. Univents in locker rooms are almost complete.
    - b. Specialty Services replaced the pipes in the hallway. The last piece will be completed in June when school is out of session. Clean up will take place in July.
  3. Kitchen expansion
    - a. Taylor completed the concrete pad over the break. Awnings will be reused at the middle school and Academy Hill.
- e. RFP suggestion - Gamache
  - i. We currently offer a Flexible Spending Account through one company. These are pre-funded and could be an issue if staff members access the funds and then leave the district before the funds have been deducted. Even though we have reconciled the accounts, the company is saying that we owe \$14,000.
  - ii. We would like to find another FSA provider. VOYA was suggested.
  - iii. All set to move forward with an RFP.
  - iv. OMNI charges us monthly (\$300) for the cost of covering a benefit. The plan has been changed and will save us about \$100. We will continue to collaborate with OMNI on our plan.
  - v. We will also research options for medical and dental plans.
- f. Office Staff Change
  - i. Michele Hill is no longer working at the district office. Cindy Dixon, who worked here in the past, will start by June 30th.
- g. Question-Is AI assisting with efficiencies in the district office?
  - i. This is happening in pockets.

## **6. Next Meeting - June 3, 2025**

## **7. Adjourned at 6:5**

## **8. Future Agenda Items:**

- 23 Audit Balance Forward