



Mt. Blue Regional School District
227 Main Street | Farmington, ME 04938
(207) 778-6571 | (Fax) 778-4160

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

Personnel & Finance Committee Agenda Minutes

Personnel & Finance Standing Committee Description

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 | 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The RSU 9 District Office | Main Street, Farmington

Members Present: Angie LeClair, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin

Members Absent: Gloria McGraw, Jeff Barnum

Other Members Present: Ruth Gauvin, Doug Hiltz, Gwen Doak

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin, Alison Gamache

***Action Item - Requires a Vote:** *The Committee must collectively decide to approve, reject, amend, or table the item. Decisions on action items are recorded in the official minutes.*

I. Preliminary Business

- A. Call to Order - Superintendent Elkington as Chair Pro Tem
 - 1. The meeting was called to order at 6:02.
- B. [School Board Member Core Responsibilities and Requirements](#)
- C. *Call for Nominations and Votes - Superintendent Elkington as Chair Pro Tem
 - 1. Committee Chair - no seconds needed
 - a) Rich Ruhlin nominated Angie LeClair; the vote was unanimous.
 - 2. Committee Vice Chair ("New" Chair) - no seconds needed
 - a) Rich Ruhlin nominated Josh Robbins; the vote was unanimous.
- D. [Standing Committee Description](#) - Elkington
- E. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes - approved at 6/23/2026 Board meeting
 - 1. [June 2, 2026](#)
 - 2. [7-1-2026](#) - Emergency Mtg.
 - 3. Any questions
 - a) None
- F. Notes approval discussion - Elkington
 - 1. Order of approval
 - a) Proposal
 - b) Decisions stand
 - c) Wait for the following mtg. to approve notes by the committee
 - d) Discussion/Questions
 - (1) Proposal-The committees will approve the meeting notes during the first part of the consent agenda at the first meeting of the month and then the full board approves during the second part of the consent agenda, with any required adjustments made prior to the final board vote.

II. Presentations

- A. None

III. Updates - Director Gamache

- A. 2026/27 Warrant Schedule

B. Monthly Budget Update

1. [June 2026](#)

- a) Budget Overages & Cost Drivers: Spending overages occurred in system administration (ERP Pro transition), with health insurance, school board liability, professional services, school administration (contract adjustments for secretarial staff), and operations. Late-year spending limitations helped limit the impacts.
- b) Overages & Board Vote: The budget remains above in the black. Total overages exceeding 5%, will need a future board vote to move funds and protect FCTEC carryforward funds.
- c) Higher-Than-Expected Revenues: Revenue exceeded initial estimates, including an extra \$50,000 in unorganized territory tuition (\$170,000 actual vs. \$120,000 budgeted), \$470,000 earned in interest (\$200,000 used), and \$1.6 million in MaineCare revenue (vs. \$900,000 anticipated).
- d) Fund Balance & Reserves: Instead of using \$800,000 to balance the budget, only \$560,000 will be needed—leaving \$240,000 in the fund balance. No reserve accounts were tapped this year.

2. FY26 Preliminary Ending Balance

- a) Unofficially \$240,000 is left at the moment. Some bills will probably still come in late over the next few weeks

C. ERP Pro Launch

1. Transition

2. Training

- a) Progress
 - (1) Much slower than anticipated
- b) Training Manual
 - (1) We had too many trainers because people left the company
- c) Concerns
 - (1) Hours
 - (2) Other
 - (3) Have shared concerns with the company

3. Teamwork

- a) Finance Staff
 - (1) Did an excellent job overcoming poor training follow-through
- b) Growth Mindset
 - (1) Bravo!

D. Solar on Earth

- 1. Split into two farms
- 2. The rate of return will still be about 15%.

E. End of year vehicle purchase

- 1. Lost two high mileage vehicles
 - a) Replaced by one
 - (1) Pacifica (8,000 miles)
 - (2) Cost \$39,000 - \$3,900 from selling three vehicles
 - (3) This purchase is reflected in year end preliminary balances for FY26 mentioned above.

F. Audit Prep

1. Next Steps

- a) In full swing.
- b) Cost continues to go up given the demand for auditors and lack of companies willing to do this work.

2. Progress

- a) Is being made
- G. Additional PreK Teacher at Mallett - Elkington
 - 1. Why?
 - a) Numbers
 - b) Mallett numbers have increased (additional teacher required) and Wilton numbers have decreased (but not to the point of entertaining the movement or elimination of a teacher). May adjust the movement of an ed tech.
- H. Class sizes PreK-5
 - 1. Will have an official update for September
 - 2. Will be making decisions on new superintendent and principal agreements in the next two weeks.
 - a) Numbers are reviewed before these are approved.
 - 3. Preliminary concerns
 - a) Cushing PreK #s
 - (1) Numbers are currently low but at this point it would be challenging to reduce as families move during September and October and you just never know.
 - 4. What are superintendent agreements?
 - a) Expectations have changed
 - (1) These are agreements between districts for non-resident students to attend a different district
 - (2) Legislative bills and rules have tightened the process
 - b) Concerns
 - (1) Some in the legislature see this as a way to get more school choice and appear to be building in capacity to take the decision away from the local superintendent/district
 - (2) Added costs and lack of programming
 - (a) Are areas of concern that can limit the requests that would be approved
 - 5. What are principal agreements?
 - a) These are in-district transfers between buildings where students are assigned to a specific school and parents ask for a transfer
 - b) Both principal's agreements and superintendent's agreements will need careful attention so that numbers remain as balanced as possible.

IV. New

- A. *2026-2027 Physician Appointment - Elkington
 - 1. Dr. Emily Jacobs
 - a) All voted in favor for it to go to the Board
- B. Negotiations - Elkington
 - 1. Support Staff
 - 2. Professional Staff
 - a) We need a thoughtful plan that will allow us to be as balanced as possible in our approach.
 - b) Two thoughts:
 - (1) We need to wait to begin the professional staff negotiations until the November election provides clarity, we hope. Another suggestion is to have a formative meeting in the fall.
 - c) We will revisit in September.
- C. MaineCare Funding - Gamache
 - 1. 25-26 (4 quarters)
 - a) Billed just over 1.6M in FY26 38% will be reduced from this total amount

through the state subsidy process to cover SEED (behind the scenes state paperwork etc.)

D. Potential Special Education Staffing Needs - Elkington

1. Support Staff

- a) Because of move-ins, new students, students returning from an outside placement, or IEP adjustments additional staffing will be needed.
- b) Funds will come from extra MaineCare revenue and the full Board will need to approve.

E. [Application Adjustments](#) - Elkington

1. Questions asked

- a) The form was reviewed.

2. Recent supervisor expectation

- a) Add to "Did you resign in the middle of an investigation?"
 - (1) Suggestion "knowing that an investigation may be initiated"?

V. Adjournment

A. Next Meeting - September 1, 2026

B. Adjourn Meeting at 7:01.

Future Agenda Items:

- Digitize Warrant Signing