

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 NOTES

September 3, 2024

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The RSU 9 District Office, Main Street Farmington

Board Committee Members Present: Greg Kimber, Rich Ruhlin, Jeff Barnum, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins
(6:07 arrival)

Other Board Members Present: Dee Robinson, Amanda Caruso

Staff: Monique Poulin, Alison Gamache, Christian Elkington

Other Staff Present:

1. **Call Meeting to Order** - Chair McGraw
 - a. Called to order at 5:59
2. **Previous Committee Minutes- [8-6-2024](#)** - Chair McGraw
 - a. Any questions?
 - i. None
3. **[24-25 Warrant Schedule](#)** - Director Gamache
 - a. Questions?
 - i. None
4. **Updates** - Gamache
 - a. [23-24 Monthly Budget Update](#)
 - i. We have three articles that were over budget. We have 1.6 million unspent and are waiting on revenues to be finalized. MaineCare revenue is more than initially thought due to the late start but still short of projections. Section 28 is generating revenue at \$100,000/month for FY24, we should see the increased numbers planned for in FY25 Budget.
 - b. [24-25 Monthly Budget Update](#)
 - i. July and August
 1. Things are on target for this time of the year. There is a plan for pacing some spending over the course of the year.
 2. Building and program leaders will be expected to have a stronger sense and oversight of their spending.
 - ii. Important FYIs
 - iii. Questions?
 - c. 23 Audit
 - i. Anything new?

1. Director Gamache spoke with Ron Smith this morning. We are down to the last nitty gritty. Davis-Bacon-procurement was not followed to the letter, and so that will be an issue. If we use federal funds to buy equipment or wages, we need to have documentation that the people we use pay the prevailing wage. We will see it in our findings for FY23 and FY24. We do not believe that we need to file another extension as we have the drafts and should have the audit in the near future. We are currently working on gathering items for FY24. Most of the issues were with the increased expectations with ESSER FUnding, which we had to tackle quickly.
 2. What might we do to address this going forward? Alison Gamache and Nicole Ibarguen meet every week, which should assist with anticipating issues.
- d. [Per student costs per town](#)
- i. It all depends on how you break down the #s
 1. Weld did receive a reduction from the state that assists with their total.
 2. We hope this document sets a common foundation with a common formula
 3. Average per pupil cost is around \$10,550 with state funds added.
 4. Average per pupil cost is for \$6,942 for what taxpayers pay
 5. It will be good to round out this information with state funding by town, etc.
 - ii. Review
- e. MBC Gym - Elkington
- i. Progress
 1. Will not cost us anything due to warranty coverage. Will start painting lines this week and hope to have access by the end of the month.
- f. MBMS Gym & Basement - Elkington
- i. Timeline Review
 - ii. Gym
 1. Next Steps
 - a. Air issues in the gym are caused by what is underneath the floor.
 2. Insurance says
 - a. The replacement of the gym floor will be covered. Wood is actually being milled in Wisconsin.
 3. Questions?
 - a. Unsure of timeline for completion.
 - b. Not sure when they haven't started the demo of the floor.
 - iii. Basement
 1. Progress
 - a. Everything needs to first be cleaned, then taken down, and then replaced.
 - b. There are three rooms remaining to clean in the basement before demo.
 - c. Contacted three companies to do the rebuild but only one has called us back. They are reputable but busy. Timing will be an issue.
 - d. Positive attitude demonstrated by staff members and students.
 2. Insurance says
 - a. Right now the insurance company says all covered- after the \$50,000 deductible
 - b. Sprinkler system-TBD
 - c. We must track all costs. The liability may land on someone. Will costs for tent rental, busing, etc. be covered? The Answer is probably. Might accountability land elsewhere?
 - d. Sprinkler company comes twice a year, every year, to check the system.

- 3. Questions?
 - a. PE will be outdoors as long as they can. We may need to get a tent depending on the timeline. Maybe share a gym with CBS or Farmington Rec (by bus)?
- iv. Fire Suppression System
 - 1. Expert says
 - a. We need to look at replacing sections of the system and budgeting for it.
 - 2. Questions?
- g. Bjorn Center - Elkington
 - i. "Houston, we have a small problem..." Pieces Left out
 - 1. Badge Swipe System
 - a. This is being resolved.
 - 2. Phone, Wifi, Intercom
 - a. These were not in the specs. Wires are present, just not connected. This will need to be completed and will have a cost since it was not part of the budget.
 - ii. Culinary
 - 1. Progress
 - a. Some progress is being made with more work taking place this week.
 - iii. "Extra" Funding found
 - 1. There is a significant carry forward that has been found in restricted funds of about \$200,000. It was designated years ago for Bjorn middle level programming. This money was not all used and so could be accessed for the culinary program. The Operations Committee suggested that we use this in addition to the reserve account funds to complete the Bjorn Center. These funds would need to be designated for middle level CTE programming by the board.
 - 2. These funds plus the reserve account funds could complete the project.
 - 3. It seems to be a straightforward decision if we can validate that the funds were to be used in this way.
 - 4. Chris will follow up with Dick Bjorn so that he is clear on how things have unfolded.
 - 5. Voted to send it to the full board for approval (if details are validated).
- h. Bus Accident
 - i. [Repair Estimate](#)
 - 1. Does not include our labor, prep and paint of the hood and install of the bumper. We are not putting in an insurance claim.
 - 2. The accident is our fault. We will need to cover the damage to the other vehicle and any injury costs.

5. Workers Comp Premium Credit Program - Gamache

- a. Review
 - i. We are looking to join this program.
 - ii. Will review at a future meeting.
- b. Questions?

6. Connectivity Hub Grant - Elkington

- a. [Connectivity Hub Grant document](#)

- b. We have a Lease Option
- c. Meetings with partners taking place
 - i. Will meet with an outside organization who might be willing to replace us as the lead.
 - ii. UMF would be happy to have us lease as would the owners of the old Ingalls School.
- d. Next steps
 - i. TBD

7. Adjourned at 6:58

8. Future Agenda Items:

- Audit & Corrective Action Plan
- ESSER Funding Update
- Budget Development Timeline Adjustments
- Staff Leaving Survey
- ED279 Update