

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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Personnel & Finance Committee

Agenda Notes

September 9, 2025 | 5:30 pm - 6:20 pm

The Mt. Blue Campus Library, Farmington

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

Members Absent:

Other Members Present: Gwen Doak

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin, Alison Gamache

Other Staff Present: Joel Smith, James Black

1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair Robbins

- a. Meeting called to order at 5:31.

2. Previous Committee Minutes- [08-05-2025](#) - Chair Robbins

- a. Approved at 8.12.25 Board meeting
- b. Any questions?

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

- a. It has been updated. Greg Kimber has been removed and Amanda Caruso has been added.
- b. Questions?

2. Updates - Elkington/Gamache

- a. Turf Field Fundraising update - MBC Admin
 - i. Joel shared and reviewed a document that was crafted to update efforts to fundraise for the turf field/repairs etc.. The Sports Boosters have determined that this task is no longer something they can focus on. That with all the funds they now raise for MBHS Athletic Teams that they cannot take on any more projects. That taking care of the needs of the field should be the district's responsibility.
 - ii. One donor has pledged \$125,000 to finish the project.
 - iii. Cindy, James and Joel plan to meet with the Boosters to see what the district can do to take charge of this initiative.
 - iv. Griffin Mayhew is the current board liaison to the Boosters.
 - v. The Finance Committee needs to discuss better collaboration with the Boosters to support athletics in RSU #9?
 - vi. The price will continue to increase as time goes by.

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

i. July & August #s

1. Director of Finance Gamache reviewed the updated figures.
2. Based on when personnel contracts start some lines in the budget are accessed on 7/1 and some on 9/1.

c. Committee Functions & Duties draft

i. [Finance Committee functions draft](#)

ii. Review

iii. Questions/Discussion

1. Suggestions?

- a. It was approved with a suggestion to split it into two paragraphs.

iv. Motion to send to full Board

v. Vote

1. All in agreement

3. New - Gamache/Elkington

a. Convenient MD

i. [Sponsorship Agreement Mt. Blue High School Athletic Department 2025-28.docx](#)

1. What is it?

- a. Banners as signage exclusive (no other health facilities).
- b. \$15,000 over three years
- c. Reputation has been in question in some states.
- d. Request for an SOP-is there an expectation to send students there?

2. Why agree?

3. What is "exclusivity"? What does the exclusivity clause mean? Is that advertising or referring? We should not refer to any place specific. They could have an exclusive banner but not a referral.

4. We need to hear more before moving forward.

5. What does referral mean?

6. If included in game announcements and social media, it makes it sound like we are "partners".

7. They are asking a little more than some of our other partnerships.

8. We want "Partner" to be changed to "sponsor".

9. The district will follow up with Convenient MD.

b. Camden Solar Project - LD177 - Harmon

i. [CAMDEN SOLAR PROJECT - LD 1777.pdf](#)

ii. Review

1. Page 4-Year 4-What we are paying is 9 cents on the dollar to receive 20, or 18 cents of benefit.
2. January 1, the rates will renew and will be lower, but our billing rate would be the same.

3. Page 3-Savings after the LD takes effect. Every January, rates will be adjusted.
 4. Will Camden Solar maintain revenue?
 - a. It seems so.
 5. We are in year 4 of a 20 year contract.
 6. One other option, due to what Camden Solar produces, can we switch our credits to someone who produces less?
 - a. They are all fully subscribed at this time.
 7. We are stuck and in a holding pattern for the moment. It seems to be forecasted as a slow reduction but time will tell.
- iii. Questions
1. We can count on a minimum of a 25% loss in the savings we have been seeing over a period of one year.
- c. [MSMA PMFL Comparision](#)
- i. Why did we have to do this?
 1. Contracting with a private company is a cost savings to us. Through MSMA we will contract with Guardian. The district will pay 0.95% of all earnings to be split 50/50 with employees vs. the 1% state rate proposed.
 2. MSMA chose this company (Guardian), and so likely a better choice than the state plan.
 3. Can the rate change? Yes, but if we keep our experience rate low (#s of staff using this state mandated benefit), it will keep the rate consistent. We also have plans for more workplace safety training to support less injurious actions.
 - ii. Options were?
 1. Cost savings determined the choice.
 - iii. Questions?
- d. 24-25 Updated Revenue-TABLE
- i. Q325 MaineCare Seed Adjustment
 1. Updated #s?
 2. Questions?
- e. MDOE 24 Audit-TABLE
- i. What did we learn?
 1. Any patterns?
 2. What did they say we did well?
 3. What items do we need to work on?
 - ii. Acceptance and Corrective Action Plan
 - iii. Updated Balance Forward #s
- f. Derra Bus Request
- i. What is it?
 1. Grant program [DERA Funding.docx](#)
 - ii. Save 33% if we buy new now
 1. Replace old bus
 2. [Dera Funding Bus.pdf](#) Quote

3. Funds will come from where?
 - a. 5yr lease (\$20,000 from transportation budget this year and each year going forward)
 - b. Cost savings over time.
4. Are the funds for the program secure?
 - a. As secure as any other federal funds at this time. If we do this quickly we might not have to worry.
5. Vote to move forward
 - a. Moved by Gloria McGraw
 - b. Seconded by Rich Ruhlin
 - c. Unanimous

4. Next Meeting - October 7, 2025

5. Adjourned at 6:19 without objection.

6. Future Agenda Items:

- CDS transition
- Fiscal Monitoring SPED
- FY25 Estimated Balance Forward