

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

Operations Committee

Agenda NOTES

December 3, 2024

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The RSU 9 District Office, Main Street Farmington

Members present: Scott Erb, Will Jones, Gerry Provencher, Debbie Smith

Other board members present: Dee Robinson, Jeff Barnum

Staff present: Chris Elkington, Monique Poulin, Nicole Iburguen

Other staff present: Galen Dalrymple, Rodney Spiller, Brenda Medcoff, Kevin Bremner

1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair Erb

- a. Meeting was called to order at 4:59

2. Previous Committee Minutes- [11-19-2024](#) - Chair Erb

- a. Questions?
 - i. None

3. New

- a. Forestry Harvesting need - Rodney Spiller, Brenda Medcoff & Galen Dalrymple
 - i. Review

1. Rodney shared the background for the need and approval to harvest wood based on the amount of land to be harvested, and the purpose of the harvest. For land management purposes, an Application was submitted to the Forest Service with a harvest plan and an intent to harvest. The Forest Service then assigns a Forest Operations Notifications (FON) number.
2. These FON numbers must be posted on the area to be harvested. This identifies who is authorized to conduct logging operations on a site and monitors whether they are conducting legal forest practices."
3. What is to be harvested allows for space for the new FCTEC maple syrup operation and cleaning up of trails.
4. Nicole Iburguen is listed as the Agent or in the case of RSU 9 Agent representative of the Land Owner.
5. If over two acres, the group will come before the committee again.
6. Every two years, Forestry is required to come before the committee.
7. The committee was in support of this project.

- b. Leach Field at Cape Cod Hill School needs - Iburguen
 - i. Possible next steps?

1. We can potentially leave the current leach field (under the parking lot) and construct another. This will save construction, disposal, and DEP expenses. The size of the current tanks holds about 4500 gallons.
 2. There is room enough coming up the driveway to the right in the trees to install a new leach field. The site is being surveyed.
 3. Taylor Construction reported that the initial survey company cannot do the septic. We will need to go with a professional survey company. There is hope that we can move the process forward despite the wait for the professional survey company.
 4. The tank has been pumped three times (Once a week) at the cost of \$1000 per pump. This system has worked so far.
 5. There was discussion about why the paving occurred over the septic system.
 6. Unfortunately, we are at a standstill until we get the survey completed.
- ii. Funding from?
 1. The plan is still to take it from the maintenance reserve.
 - iii. Vote?
 1. No need for a vote at this time.
- c. FY26 Budget Discussions - Elkington
- i. Preliminary #s
 1. We are looking at 1.3 million for salary and benefit increases from FY25 to FY26.
 2. We are asking each cost center to look at their portion of that total.
 - a. MBHS, MBMS, Special Education and Transportation total about 1 million of the figure.
 3. How might each cost center get to reducing their areas so that there is a 0 percent increase to the budget?
 - a. This plan will be submitted to the budget committee.
 4. There was \$2,050,000 in the FY25 budget as carry forward. The hope is to reduce this by at least \$650,000 to get to \$1.4 million for a potential balance forward for FY26.
 5. Question: What is the impact specific to the Operations Committee?
 - a. Operations has been asked to look at \$170,000 as a reduction and not have to take on more of the burden as the district has pushed off too many preventative items for far too long.
 - ii. Next steps?
 1. Will be with admin and Board's Budget Committee.

4. Updates - Ibarquen/Elkington

- a. Work progress
 - i. [FY 25 Operations & Building Projects](#)
 1. Review
 - a. Nicole reviewed some of the 94 work orders received in Nov.
 - b. She also reviewed orders completed.
- b. 10 Yr Plan
 - i. Committee Planning Meeting
 1. Nicole will be scheduling the initial meeting in the near future.
 - a. The committee will first look at preventative maintenance.
 - b. HVAC will be a priority.

2. Question-
 - a. AHS fire suppression system is not prioritized at this time given the cost (\$1,000,000), and that it is not required. One thought is to borrow funds in the next few years to complete larger cost projects, this being one of them. Our debt is reducing at this time so we can borrow funds at a low interest rate.
3. The committee includes Jeff Barnum, Gerry Provencher, Mike Turner, Nicole Ibarguen, Andy Hutchins, and Joe McPherson..

c. MBMS

- i. Bjorn Center
 1. Culinary Center
 - a. Fire Marshal Occupancy
 - i. Still awaiting approval based on some curriculum adjustments that were made.
 - b. Next steps
 - i. Ready to order but on hold.
- ii. [MBMS Sprinkler Suppression System Failure](#)
 1. GYM
 - a. Bleachers
 - i. 12/16 install is still planned.
 - b. Floor
 - i. Sanding and sealing is done, working on the lines at this time.
 - ii. Should be set for the return to school on January, 2nd.
 2. Air Assessments
 - a. [AIQ MBMS Basement](#)
 - b. [AIQ Basement](#)
 - c. Important findings?
 - i. No elevated mold spores. Areas are clean.
 - ii. Are there needs for checks in other areas of the building?
 1. The area was sealed for the entire cleaning. No concerns have been reported.
 2. Nicole will double check to see what area/wing was tested early on.
 3. Basement
 - a. Progress?
 - i. Sheetrock contractors are well underway. Specialty Services is also starting their work.
 - b. Next steps?
 - i. To keep our contractors moving forward.
 4. Any insurance changes?
 - a. Concerned with the Specialty Services quote due to wording about new piping. Insurance wants us to reinstall the piping that is currently there. Which we will do. This should move forward by the end of the week.
 5. Questions?
 - a. Will there be any testing on the pipes to check the rate of corrosion on the system? Gerry will follow up with an email to Nicole and Chris.

- d. [MBMS Kitchen Expansion Proposal](#)
 - i. Next steps?
 1. We are on hold at this time. Nicole will be meeting with Chef Andy on next steps for ordering equipment.
- e. District Phone Upgrade - Bremner
 - i. [Phone System Migration Committee Report](#)
 - ii. Question answers review
 1. Kevin reviewed answers to the questions from the last meeting, at the bottom of the document.
 2. It makes sense to have all of the servers located and maintained off-site because of costs and efficiencies. The feedback on the company with the best bid has been very positive.
 3. The cost difference is \$10,000 over what we are paying now with large savings starting in 21 months.
 4. There is significant concern with the response from the current company when our phones go down. Which they do too often.
 5. The last update was at least 8 years ago.
 6. It will be important to ensure that folks understand the rationale-it is a cost savings over time. There was a request to have this information consolidated for budget discussions in the future.
 - iii. Recommendation (FY26 budget item)
 1. There was support for this proposal to move forward.
 - iv. There was a concern raised regarding the lack of historical knowledge specific to our structures and work that has occurred in the past. The superintendent shared that we are developing systems to better track going forward. There is a need for longitudinal data across the district in several areas. We hope that our migration to a one database will assist with this area of need.

5. Next Mtg. January 7, 2025

6. Adjourned at 5:55.

7. Future Agenda Items

- Ten Year Maintenance Plan
 - [Building Assessments](#)
 - [Projects already completed](#)