

Budget Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

The video recording of this meeting can be found at the BETV YouTube site [BAC Meeting 1/5/23](#)

BAC Meeting Packet 1/5/23

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

1. Welcome:

BAC Chair Mr. Delaney welcomed those present for the meeting. Mr. Delaney asked for a moment of silence for employee Deb Silver who recently passed away. Ms. Silver was a long-time employee of the district in the Transportation Department. Ms. Silver was instrumental in starting the district's backpack program and will be missed by those that had the privilege of knowing her.

2. Public Comments:

Mr. Delaney opened the meeting up to public comment. Mr. Delaney asked that those who wish to speak, to please keep to a three-minute timeframe and be mindful that comments should be focused around the budget building process.

The public comment session may be viewed in the recording of the January 5, 2023 BAC meeting which is posted on the BETV YouTube site <https://www.youtube.com/@bonnyeaqletv/playlists>

Julie Anderson – Ms. Anderson is a member of the School Board and a resident of Limington. To hear Ms. Anderson's full statement please see minute marker 5:25 of tonight's meeting

Nancylou Stiles – Ms. Stiles is a member of the Budget Advisory Committee and a resident of Standish. To hear Ms. Stiles full statement please see minute marker 8:19 of tonight's meeting.

Benjamin Bussiere – Mr. Bussiere is a member of the Budget Advisory Committee and a resident of Hollis. To hear Mr. Bussiere's full statement please see minute marker 10:48 of tonight's meeting.

Mr. Delaney shared an inquiry that he received asking why the Pledge of Allegiance was not held at the start of each meeting. Mr. Gleason noted that while it was not normally done at sub-committee meetings he would see no issue in doing so at future meetings if that was the will of the committee.

Motion by Mr. Kuntz; seconded by Mr. Burns

To add to the agenda for future meetings to conduct the Pledge of Allegiance

By a majority show of hands in favor, the motion passes.

3. Ground Rules & Norms:

Mr. Delaney referred the Committee to page 4 of the meeting packet should they wish to view the Ground Rules and Norms.

4. Rules for Public Comments at BAC Meetings

Mr. Delaney referred the Committee to page 5 of the meeting packet should they wish to view the Rules for Public Comments.

5. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion by Ms. Hoffman; seconded by Ms. Creutz

To approve the December 15, 2022 Budget Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented.

All in favor and motion carries.

6. Unfinished Business from Previous Meeting:

Mr. Brockman noted that within the meeting packet were a list of questions that had been asked at the December 15th meeting. He would like to continue to capture any questions that the committee may have. If members would prefer, they can email Chair Mr. Delaney, Vice-Chair Mr. Kuntz or Tina Plummer in the Business Office.

- Mr. Burns spoke to the previous year's discussion surrounding the failing Treatment Plant that was being discharged into a class A waterway and would like an update as to where the district is on this matter.

Mr. Brockman updated the committee that with State DEP approval, a new Wastewater Treatment Plant was installed using a subsurface system and no longer discharges into a class A waterway. This was partially funded through a grant and the balance came from the district's Capital Fund.

- Mr. Bussiere would like to look more in depth at facility costs as well as consolidation opportunities, specifically at Steep Falls..

Mr. Brockman shared that the district has recently completed a Facilities Assessment and will begin to review this information and will be beginning to develop a ten-year plan based on this information. An analysis of consolidating buildings will be part of the process and is sure that Steep Falls will be part of that analysis. Mr. Brockman anticipates beginning this process within the next month.

The district has contracted with Harriman to oversee this process and Mr. Brockman expects to have most of the process done within 9 months. Mr. Gleason asked for the committee to be mindful that closing a school is not as simple as relocating students. It involves a legal process that has to be followed which includes a vote that has to be put forth to the community. As far as a possible construction opportunity, in order to be considered for State funding part of the application process is that the State will review how many issues can be resolved within an approved construction project.

- Mr. Leach is looking for measurable data/test scores as it relates to student learning and achievement. Mr. Brockman responded that they are working on a presentation for this question and hope to have it for the next meeting.
- Ms. Higgins noted an increase in new housing in Standish, specifically in the Steep Falls area and the committee should keep this in mind when considering budgetary needs.
- Mr. Bussiere would be interested in comparison history as it relates to student enrollment and new building permit increases within the Town of Standish. Mr. Delaney will follow up with the town to obtain historical data.

7. School Budget 101:

There are many new members on the BAC this year and as such, Mr. Brockman has provided information beginning on page 9 through 30 of the meeting packet. [BAC Meeting Packet 1/5/23](#)

The information details the steps and process used in creating and bringing a budget forward for voter consideration and approval following Maine State Law requirements. Other items addressed include Multi-Year Financial Planning and Fund Balance

The committee reviewed an overview of the current 2022-2023 budget and historical financial data comparisons for the previous 15 years identified within pages 31-39 of the meeting packet.

Mr. Brockman urged members that after reviewing this information, to please bring any questions forward so they can be addressed.

- Is the Strategic Plan available on the website? Ms. Creutz replied that it can be found on the district website under the drop down heading of District. Link is provided here: [MSAD 6 Strategic Plan](#) Mr. Brockman will also have this as part of the next meeting's packet.

8. Group Q&A:

- Ms. Boedeker would like further research as to why enrollment has been decreasing.
- Mr. Bussiere also would be interested in why enrollment throughout the State is declining

Mr. Brockman added that this is information that the consultant Harriman will be conducting on the district's behalf through the Facilities Assessment – long term planning process.

- Mr. Leach asked for further details as to whether the district goes through the 12 Elements each budget cycle that were identified on page 17 of the meeting packet. Mr. Brockman responded that yes, the district does, adding that some of these steps may be from a more global view but all are included in developing the budget.
- Student Representative Addy Thibodeau asked for further clarification on where salaries reside. Mr. Brockman shared that salary expenses are within the different budget articles and reside there depending on staff job function and location.

Next meeting: Will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at Central Office

Moved by Mr. Kuntz; seconded by Ms. Stiles

Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

All in favor and meeting is adjourned