

Budget Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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The video recording of this meeting can be found at the BETV YouTube site [BAC Recorded Meeting 3/16/23](#)

### **BAC Meeting Packet 3/16/23**

**1. Welcome:**

Mr. Delaney opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Public Comments:**

Mr. Delaney opened the meeting up to public comment.

Paul Leach – Mr. Leach is a member of the Budget Advisory Committee and a resident of Buxton. To hear Mr. Leach's full statement please refer to minute marker 02:02 of the 3/16/23 meeting.

Peter Burns – Mr. Burns is a member of the Budget Advisory Committee and a resident of Buxton. To hear Mr. Burns' full statement please refer to minute marker 03:29 of the 3/16/23 meeting.

Ben Bussiere – Mr. Bussiere is a member of the Budget Advisory Committee and a resident of Hollis. To hear Mr. Bussiere's full statement please refer to minute marker 06:33 of the 3/16/23 meeting.

**4. Rules for Public Comments at BAC Meetings:**

Mr. Delaney referred the Committee to page 4 of the meeting packet should they wish to view the Rules for Public Comments.

**5. Ground Rules & Norms:**

Mr. Delaney referred the Committee to page 5 of the meeting packet should they wish to view the Ground Rules and Norms.

**6. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Motion by Ms. Creutz seconded by Mr. Burns

**To approve the March 9, 2023 Budget Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented.**

All in favor and motion carries.

**7. Questions from Previous Meeting:**

There were no questions from the previous meeting.

**8. Complete Review of Revised Supplemental/Instructional Budget:**

The full discussion can be viewed at minute marker 10:32 of the 3/16/23 BAC meeting.

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Mr. Brockman briefly reviewed where the committee ended this discussion from the previous meeting.

- Initial draft of the baseline budget (does not include supplemental requests) which came in at an overall baseline increase of 2.83% and an overall increase to local assessments of 6.32%.
- Baseline Revision 1.0 which shows an overall baseline increase of 2.15% and an overall increase to local assessments of 3.42%.
- Baseline Revision 2.0 which shows an overall baseline increase of 2.00% and an overall increase to local assessments of 3.12%.

#### Instructional/Supplemental Requests:

With previously identified reductions, the Instructional Supplemental requests have been reduced to a total of \$611,666. Items remaining within Instructional Supplemental Requests include:

- BEHS Ed Tech III McKenney-Vento full funded in an increase of \$20,000
- Hollis Ed Tech increase in hours from 3 hours a day to 7 hours for an increase of \$20,000
- Pre-K Expansion program for an increase of approximately \$301,666
- BCES Special Education Teacher for an increase of \$160,000
- BCES Sign Language Interpreter for an increase of \$45,000
- District Wide New Math Program (partially funded through grant) for an increase of \$65,000

The above can be found on page 37 of the 3/16/23 meeting packet.

#### **9. Begin Review of Supplemental/Operational Requests:**

Mr. Brockman informed the committee that the BAC was not expected to prioritize the items listed but to come away with a good understanding of what has to be dealt with and that the district has to find a mechanism on how to fund these identified areas. Mr. Brockman reminded the committee that a Facilities Assessment had been completed and the district is working with Harriman to develop a long-range plan to address needed repairs and renovations. With Harriman's assistance, the district hopes to be able to access State funding the next time these funds become available.

Mr. Thibodeau reviewed the Capital related Supplemental Requests provided within the meeting packet on pages 45-51 of the 3/13/23 meeting. This discussion begins on minute marker 24:28 He reviewed requests based on location and answered questions specific to each location.

#### Questions/Discussion:

##### BEHS

- Ms. Boedeker at minute marker 34:30 and Mr. Leach inquired to the frequency of repairing the gym floor. Mr. Thibodeau replied that it was costlier at this point as repairs are needed but ongoing costs for maintaining gym floors that do not need repairs should be less than the \$8,000 noted in the request..

##### BEMS

- Mr. Blier at minute marker 41:32 inquired if the oil tank that feeds both the generator and the furnace could be separated. Mr. Thibodeau responded that the generator requires a 24-hour run time and also does a weekly check which would still require a sizeable oil tank and logistically that site has no where to put one. Mr. Thibodeau also added that the current generator is very old and beyond its use life expectation.

##### BCES

- Mr. Bussiere at minute marker 47:21 inquired what the age of the building is, who did the masonry work and who was the architect for the building. Mr. Thibodeau believes the building opened in 2011 and is not sure who did the masonry work as they would have been subcontracted through the General Contractor. Harriman was the architect firm for the building.
- Ms. Higgins at minute marker 48:21 questioned why there was not a wheelchair accessible ramp at door 9. Mr. Thibodeau and Mr. Pendleton responded that the school building has accessible ramp(s) however, since then, programming has been relocated to this spot and has created the need.

- Mr. Blier at minute marker 49:25 asked about accessing Efficiency Maine funds for LED lighting upgrades rather than budgeted funds. Mr. Thibodeau responded that he is utilizing this funding source for reimbursement but noted that it is an ever-changing environment of what specific funding is available. The scope of the project also determines what type of funding is available through Efficiency Maine and as such there is no set guarantee.

Edna Libby

No questions

GEJ

No questions

Hollis

- Mr. Bussiere at minute marker 1:50:17 would like to know if expanding Hollis Elementary and bringing students in from HB Emery is part of a long-term consolidation plan. Mr. Gleason responded that they are working on long-range plans but still too early in the process to determine these types of specifics. By working with Harriman, they will assist the district in looking at different scenarios.
- Ms. Hoffman at minute marker 1:03:25 asked about future plans to address better traffic flow during drop off and pick up times at the school. Mr. Gleason agreed that this is an issue and unfortunately occurs at several school sites. There are more parents transporting students now than in the past. Mr. Gleason added that while there were no immediate solutions, this would be an area that would be looked at through Facilities Master Planning.

Steep Falls

No questions

HB Emery

- Discussion on the portable bathroom install and the cost associated. Is it possible to relocate students to the school and not use the portable? Further research is required.

Transportation

No questions

Frank Jewett

- Mr. Bussiere at minute marker 1:15:57 would like to know what programs are at Frank Jewett and can they be consolidated in to BCES?. Mr. Gleason responded that these are high school students and could not be incorporated into BCES but he is not opposed to finding a better place for them within the district should something be identified through the Facilities Master Planning process. Ms. Napolitano responded that Frank Jewett houses the Alternative Ed program as well as a Special Education Day Treatment program.

Jack Memorial (Adult Ed/Technology)

No questions

Facilities

No questions

Athletics

No questions

Food Service

No questions

Central Office – *Renovation to Human Resources (was not included in original meeting packet) and is budgeted at \$35,000.*

No questions

**10. Other Questions/Discussion:**

- Mr. Blier at minute marker 1:32:16 asked Mr. Thibodeau how he came up with the costs associated to the requests and are these contractor prices. Mr. Thibodeau responded that some were based on quotes and some are based on experience and they are at contractor pricing. Mr. Blier inquired if he would be able to use in-house personnel to do some of the work associated with the requests as had been done with the Science Lab project. Mr. Thibodeau noted that he does not intend to pull the crew from their day to day operations. They may be used to assist in a limited capacity.

Ms. Napolitano added that although the district had an in-house Supervisor/Carpenter overseeing the Science Lab renovations, most of work was sub-contracted out i.e. electrical, plumbing, etc.

- Mr. Delaney spoke to the development of the Budget Advisory Committee and the important part the committee plays in bringing forward a budget to the School Board and to the community. To hear Mr. Delaney's full statement please refer to minute marker 1:38:55 of the 3/16/23 meeting

[BAC Recorded Meeting 3/16/23](#)

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**11. BAC Schedule and Budget Timeline:**

**Next meeting:** Will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at Central Office

**Adjournment:**

Moved by Ms. Creutz; seconded by Ms. Hoffman

**Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.**

All in favor and meeting is adjourned