

Budget Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The video recording of this meeting can be found at the BETV YouTube site [BAC Meeting 1/11/24](#)

[BAC Meeting packet 1/11/24](#)

Call to Order: 6:03 p.m.

1. **Welcome:**
BAC Chair, Kate McDonald, welcomed all those in attendance.
2. **Membership:**
There are still a few openings if residents/municipal officers would like to submit an application to serve on the committee.
3. **Rules for Public Comments at BAC Meetings**
Rules for Public Comments which can be reviewed within the meeting packet on page 3.
4. **Ground Rules & Norms:**
Ground rules and Norms that can be found in the meeting packet on page 4.
5. **Public Comments:**
Mr. Delaney encourages Representatives and Municipal Officers to attend upcoming BAC meetings.
6. **Draft BAC Minutes:**
The minutes from 12/7/23 will be amended to reflect that the Vice-Chair motion was seconded by Ms. McDonald rather than how it was reported out as Mr. Delaney.

Moved by Mr. Kuntz; seconded by Mr. Burns

To Approve the BAC Minutes from 12/7/23 as amended.

VOTED: "Yes," unanimous

7. **Facilities Supplemental Update:**
Mr. Thibodeau provided a Facilities Supplemental Report on pages 11-16 of the meeting packet. Of the original \$1,500,000.00 designated within the FY'24 budget as supplemental funds:
 - There has been \$880,702.00 spent to date
 - There is \$269,215.00 that has been encumbered for ongoing and/or future projects
 - There is a remaining balance of \$350,083.00

With the remaining balance; Mr. Thibodeau has identified specific areas to target these funds:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Hollis – Gymnasium Rooftop Unit Replacement | \$ 70,000 |
| • BEMS – Carpet Demo/Flooring upgrades | \$135,000 |
| • BEHS/BEMS – Parking lot repairs/Seal and Stripe | \$145,000 |

Discussion/Questions:

- Mr. Delaney informed the committee that there is a Community Forum on the Facilities Master Planning scheduled for Wednesday, January 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the high school

- Ms. Frechette inquired as to why the district was changing from oil heat to propane. Mr. Thibodeau responded that currently it is more cost effective as the district receives better pricing on propane. Many of the district's boilers use dual fuel which would allow for changing between heating oil and propane.
- Ms. Frechette wanted to know what type of flooring would be used to replace carpet at BEMS. Mr. Thibodeau responded that they will be replacing the carpet with a solid surface material.
- Mr. Burns is very appreciated of this report and the detail provided.

8. Differences in Budgeting:

Ms. Pooler presented the differences in budgeting between three types of budget: school, home, and business. This overview can be found in pages 18-19 of the meeting packet.

Discussion/Questions:

- Mr. Kuntz added that there is funding from Grant sources as well. Mr. Gleason agreed but noted that with grants there are usually stipulations and requirements that have to be met.
- Ms. Higgins reminded the committee that the State is required to provide subsidy at 55% but the 55% refers to total school funding and not necessarily to each district.

9. School Budget 101:

Ms. Pooler presented information on the school budget format which identifies the 11 Articles that the district must use per State requirements. Ms. Pooler also identified the process of bringing a school budget to referendum vote. Complete details can be accessed in the meeting packet on pages 20-23 and can be heard in its entirety at minute marker 36:56.

[BAC Meeting 1/11/24](#)

10. Historical Budget Data:

Ms. Pooler prepared historical data for expenditures and revenues for the committee to review ranging from FY'15 through FY'24. This information is discussed on pages 24-25 in the packet and can be viewed at minute marker 59:25.

Ms. Pooler noted that in reference to recent news information discussing the cliff due to the ending of Covid funding, the district has absorbed any staffing that was deemed necessary post pandemic into the budget of FY'23.

11. Student Enrollment Study:

Mr. Gleason shared with the committee that a Student Enrollment projection study had been recently completed for the district. The full document has been made available on the district website under the budget tab: [Student Enrollment Projection Study](#)

Mr. Gleason provided a snapshot of the report within the meeting packet on pages 26-28 noting that there is a small decline overall in the district but with a small uptick in Standish.

12. Community Forum Master Facility Plan

Mr. Gleason informed the committee of a Community Forum for an update on the Master Facility Plan is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2024 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the high school auditorium.

The district is planning to submit an application to the State for consideration of State Construction funding. With the assistance of Harriman Architects, stakeholders and community feedback, the district will determine what the scope of a school construction project will be.

13. Group Q&A:

- Ms. McDonald inquired how information on the community forum is being sent. Mr. Gleason responded that in addition to messages being sent to parents, notices are sent to each town and they are also hoping to have information up on Saco River Television.
- Mr. Delaney asked about Steep Falls and the plan to expand the grade levels there. Mr. Gleason responded that last year's third graders had to the option of attending 4th grade at Steep Falls or going to G.E. Jack. Mr. Gleason will add a 5th grade classroom to Steep Falls for the next school year.
- Mr. Kuntz noted that should a new school be in the district's future than additional services may be an option to offer the community such as a child care site.

14. Next meeting: Will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024

15. Public Comment:

There were no public comments at this time in the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.