



LNSU/LNMUUSD Finance & Capital Committee Meeting  
September 30, 2024

Board members Present: Johnson: Mark Nielsen, Waterville: Bart Bezio; Cambridge: Susan Prescott; Mark Stebbins; Hyde Park: Lisa Jones, Patti Hayford  
Administrators Present: Deborah Clark, Cole Hayes, Rene Thibault, Dylan Laflam, Erik Remmers  
Other Present: N/A  
Minute Taker: Savannah Droney

Call to Order by Stebbins at 6:01 pm

Approval of Agenda: Nielsen made the motion to approve the agenda seconded by Jones. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: No public comment

Discussion FY26 Budget Development Timeline and Meeting Dates: Clark shared the Budget Timeline for FY26 Budget Development. The committee will work from town meeting backwards with tentative dates.

Town Meeting & Budget votes- March 4, 2025

MUUSD Informational Meeting- February 24, 2025 (Voted 3/12/24)

MUUSD Annual Meeting- February 17, 2025 (Voted 3/12/24)

MUUSD Annual Reports Available (w/in 10 days of meeting)- February 7, 2025

MUUSD Annual Reports to Printers (no later than)- January 24, 2025

MUUSD Notification of Annual Reports Mailed/Media/Web- January 17, 2025

Warnings to News & Citizen (publish 1/16 – 2/13)

Public Info Presentations created- Jan 14 – Feb 14, 2025

MUUSD Annual Meeting warned- Jan 13 – 17, 2025 (ideally 1/13/25)

MUUSD Budget Adopted - Last possible opportunity Jan 13 – 17, 2025

MUUSD Presentation (possible adoption)- January 13, 2025

LNSU/MUUSD Finance Committee (6:00pm)- January 6, 2025

Presentation(s) to Boards: Feedback and Review (if/as needed)- December 1-31, 2024

Budget Committee Work Continues- December 1-31, 2024

LNSU Budget Presentation (possible adoption)- December 16 & 23, 2024

LNSU/MUUSD Finance Committee (6:00pm)- December 16 & 23, 2024

GMTCC Budget Presentation to RAB (possible adoption)- December 11, 2024 (possible additional meeting on December 18, 2024, if needed)

LNSU Budget Presentation (possible adoption)- December 9, 2024

LNSU/MUUSD Full Board (6:00pm)- December 9, 2024

LNSU/MUUSD Finance Committee (5:15pm)- December 9, 2024

LNSU/MUUSD Finance Committee (6:00pm)- December 2, 2024

2024 "Tax Letter" from VT Commissioner of Taxes - Dec 2, 2024

LNSU/MUUSD Finance Committee Meetings w/Administrators- Oct 21, 2024, November 4, 2024, and November 18, 2024, if needed.

LNSU/MUUSD Initial drafts to Finance Committee- November 8, 2024

GMTCC RAB- Possible Initial budget presentation- November 13, 2024

LNSU Estimated Assessments to GMTCC - November 11, 2024

Initial Budgets submitted by Administrators- October 30, 2024

Known & New Initiatives Budgets Input to ERP Pro (IV)- Oct 2 – Oct 30, 2024

Budget Building Input Groups Established- Oct 2 – Oct 11, 2024

Budget Development Packet to Administrators- Oct 2, 2024

The timeline was discussed. Last year administration was invited to come share budgets, hopes, goals. Prescott stated having the board meet in November is too late. Would like the FCC board involvement earlier. She asked to make sure the board looks at the COVID positions and see if they are still necessary. Most of the COVID positions were eliminated in the FY25 process. Clark ran through the October timeline to see if a meeting could be scheduled sooner than November.

Clark asked what the board would like to see in the budget at this initial meeting. The board discussed a zero increase. Clark will pass the message along to administrators. The committee discussed not much tolerance for significant growth and if there is a zero increase to the budget, that will mean a negative. There is a raise for support staff that is already contracted, and an increase to health insurance by the provider. The FCC would like to meet on October 21, 2024, with administrators earlier; this will give administrators more time. Administrators need to be part of the conversations when the FCC speaks with the community so they can speak on the importance of their budgets. Clark said the budget should be looked at by per student spending instead of the single large number of the whole the budget. Prescott mentioned looking at athletics to see if any cuts are needed there. The FCC would like to start inviting the community upfront to answer any questions. Jones suggests when having meetings with Administrators, not to have them before regular board meetings. This will give them plenty of time and not rush them. Bezio brought up folding capital into this meeting. He would like an update from each department - Hayes, Laflam. Bezio expressed concerns on keeping to zero growth; with technology, there are always increases. Hayes stated for savings there has been work done to combine purchasing; however, there are projects that have been put off over the years. Bezio stated security and safety is important, and we need to make sure we are not skipping this. Need to review the five-year IT capital budget; it has not been updated in a while. The group would like to hear more about those plans.

Adjourn- 6:55 pm, Prescott made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Hayford.