Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)
Mn Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Dent Center, 1936 Carlotta Drive, Concord, CA 94519

Committee Purpose (Board Approved 12/12/06):
The BAC is a 15-member committee advising the Superintendent on budget-related matters with the purpose to:

(a) Understand the budget development process
(b) Recognize how the budget reflects district educational programs
(c) Communicate budget components to constituents
(d) Provide input on budget enhancements and reductions

Note: Membership reduced to 15 in 2022 by the Governing Board (Measure A representative position eliminated)

BAC Members:

- ☑ Leah O'Kelley, Local 1 CST ('28)
- ☐ Alex Zablah, Teamsters ('28)
- ☑ Kipp Penovich, MDEA ('28)
- ☑ John Ferrante, Measure J ('28)
- ☐ Lisa Buffum, CAC ('28)
- ☑ Joanne Durkee, (Mayo) ('28)
- ☑ Lloyd Mason, (Mason) ('28)
- ☑ Heather Martin, (Khaund) ('28)
- ☐ Marc Joffe, (McDougall) ('28)

Board Liaisons:

- ☐ Keisha Nzewi (Board Member)
- ☑ Tom McDougall (Board Member)

Staff:

Gustavo Aguilera, Executive Director of Fiscal Services
Brenda Barbera, Director of Budget, Accounting and Fiscal Compliance
Anastasia Carter, Administrative Assistant

Agenda:

1.0 Call to Order / Welcome / Introductions (5 minutes)
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Gustavo Aguilera. Mr. Aguilera requested that members introduce themselves and identify the organization or group they represent.

2.0 Public Comment
There were no public comments.

3.0 Discussion/Presentation: Special Education Funding
Dr. Wendi Aghily, Chief of Pupil Services and Special Education, discussed the importance of Special Education and its significant impact on students across the district. She explained that Special Education is funded through a combination of State, Federal, and Local sources and that major costs include staff salaries and benefits, along with related services such as speech, occupational, and physical therapy. Dr. Aghily highlighted the district's ongoing challenges in balancing the high cost of Special Education with other budget priorities, including difficulties in hiring and retaining staff, which has led to increased reliance on contract staff and non-public agencies. She also shared that the district provides a wide range of programs and services, serves students in both general and special education settings, and continues to implement strategies such as hiring additional staff, negotiating with agencies, and seeking additional funding to manage costs while ensuring students receive the support they need.

4.0 Discussion: Budget Development 2026-27 and 2nd Interim
The district is currently developing the budget for the next fiscal year and is meeting with site administrations and support teams to review projected budgets and allocations. Departments are working together to project spending for the remainder of the year and to ensure that all positions are fully accounted for. In addition, the district is preparing the Second Interim budget, which will be presented to the board in March, to confirm that the budget remains balanced and aligned with district priorities. Throughout this process, the district is focused on ensuring the budget meets the needs of all students, including those with disabilities, and that all programs and services are funded appropriately.

5.0 Discussion/Approval: June 18, October 28, and December 16 Minutes
Joanne made a motion to approve the minutes, and Heather seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

6.0 Planning: Agenda Preparation for Next Meeting
Representatives from Educational Services were invited to present at the next meeting, scheduled for March 17, on restricted fund balances and Educational Services programs.

7.0 Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Boardroom, Dent Center
1936 Carlotta Drive
Concord, CA 94519

Respectfully submitted,
Anastasia Carter