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

**Date:** Monday, April 20, 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
Cristian Lepe, Director of Transportation

**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**
(*Members of the public may address the committee. Time limits may apply).*
There were no public comments.

**3.0 Discussion/Presentation: Transportation Director Cristian Lepe will provide high-level insight and understanding on how we provide services to our Mt. Diablo Unified School District student population.**

Transportation Director Cristian Lepe provided a high-level overview of the services delivered to students within the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, along with key operational, financial, and regulatory considerations.

Mr. Lepe discussed the District's transition to electric buses, noting a goal of expanding the fleet to 40 electric buses by 2027. Each bus has an approximate cost of $370,000; however, these purchases have been largely funded through grant opportunities, resulting in minimal direct cost to the District. He also highlighted preparations for upcoming state requirements mandating the transition to zero-emission buses by 2035.

Cost-efficiency strategies were also addressed, including the use of white vans in place of larger buses when appropriate to reduce transportation expenses. Additionally, Mr. Lepe emphasized that utilizing in-house transportation services, rather than external vendors, is projected to save the District over $300,000.

Mr. Lepe reviewed compliance requirements, including Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) regulations, medical certifications, and mandatory drug and alcohol testing for all drivers. He also outlined key safety protocols such as evacuation drills, as well as the use of onboard cameras and GPS tracking systems across the fleet. He emphasized the importance of maintaining student safety while balancing the need for timely transportation, noting that safety remains the top priority.

An overview of the transportation budget was provided, including financial strategies to manage costs, such as leveraging grant funding and investing in electric buses. Mr. Lepe discussed the challenges of balancing competing departmental needs while navigating state and federal regulations that impact transportation funding and operations.

Finally, Mr. Lepe reviewed the range of transportation services offered by the District, including support for field trips, athletic events, and emergency situations. He highlighted the ongoing challenge of meeting the diverse needs of the student population within existing financial constraints. He also emphasized the importance of staying informed about legislative changes and adapting services accordingly, as well as exploring potential policy updates to better support students and their families.

**4.0 Discussion/Approval: Approval of March 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
Joanne made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mark seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**5.0 Planning: Agenda Preparation for Next Meeting:**
Educational Services are planning to attend the next meeting, but are not confirmed. In the June 10 meeting we will present the LCAP and the proposed budget. And June 24 the adoption.

**6.0 Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

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| Date: | Tuesday, June 16, 2026 |
| Time: | 5:00 PM |
| Location: | Boardroom, Dent Center<br>1936 Carlotta Drive<br>Concord, CA 94519 |

Respectfully submitted,
Anastasia Carter