Tom Gray, Superintendent of Schools
Kelly Wentworth, Director of Finance & Human Resources
Mandy Lewis, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Elisha Morris, Director of Instructional Support

Finance Committee Minutes
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
5:00 p.m. - Freeport High School Library

Committee Members Present: Kelly Sink, Michelle Ritcheson, Christopher Savaiano
Committee Members Absent:
Administrators: Tom Gray, Kelly Wentworth, Donna Casavant

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:10 p.m.

1. Establish Norms for how Finance Committee Work will align with Strategic Plan Goals -
   a. The Committee settled on the following norms for the FY27 school year:

Resource Stewardship & Equity (Systems & Sustainability)

- **Forward-Thinking Sustainability:** Prioritize long-range planning over short-term fixes, using data from enrollment trends, facility audits, and the Systems and Sustainability Study to anticipate future impacts (5B.2).
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Balance the necessity of robust student programming with careful, transparent stewardship of community tax dollars (5B).

Inclusivity & Community Engagement (Culture & Connection)

- **Accessible Communication:** Present financial data, budgets, and audit findings in clear, jargon-free, and universally accessible formats so the public can easily understand how resources are managed.

Collaboration & Productive Struggle (Emotional Intelligence & Character)

- **Model Civil Discourse:** Practice the same emotional intelligence expected of students by engaging in respectful, structured dialogue when navigating differing viewpoints or complex financial trade-offs (3D.4).
- **Embrace Reflection and Revision:** View budget challenges and

constraints as opportunities for "productive struggle" and innovation, remaining flexible and willing to adjust financial approaches to reach district goals.

2. FY26 Audit Update -
    a. Director Wentworth reported that the Auditor had been on site the previous week and completed the necessary onsite work. There are a few follow up items that will be sent along shortly, largely related to student activity accounts.
3. FY28 Budget Process Update -
    a. Superintendent Gray reported that he had been conducting Budget Listening Sessions for staff and will also be sending out a staff survey to seek staff feedback on the budget. We are early in the process and possible additions may include actions taken from System & Sustainability Study, Early Childhood Programming which may exceed DOE reasonable and necessary definition, and Transportation Department needs. There will be a brief report out at the November 4, 2026 Board meeting.
4. Other -
    a. Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Assistant Director, Donna Casavant, reported that there was an issue with the Maine Department of Education (DOE) second quarter enrollment reporting. The newly implemented state system, Connect, was having communication issues with Powerschool reporting. Second quarter ECSE payments will be delayed.
    b. Director Wentworth brought forward a request from the Town of Freeport Planning Department for the establishment of an Performance Guarantee Escrow Account or the submittal of a Letter of Credit in the amount of $203,342 for the FHS Tennis Court replacement. The Committee raised the question regarding whether or not the Escrow account earns interest that would belong to the RSU. The Committee wants Director Wentworth to explore both options and utilize whichever option saves the most money.
    c. Next meeting of the Finance Committee, November 18, 2026 @ DCS

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 P.M.