

Mt. Blue Regional School District - RSU 9



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

"Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all."

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Chesterville | Farmington | Industry | New Sharon | New Vineyard | Starks | Temple | Vienna | Weld | Wilton

Board of Directors Board Meeting Agenda Minutes

DATE: January 13, 2026
PLACE: The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus
TIME: 6:30pm
LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

Board Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner

Board Members Absent: Gerald Provencher, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber

Student Reps Present: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds

Student Reps Absent: Rowan Shanti, Brynne Fournier

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Carol Kiesman, Keith Acedo, Cynthia Bernstein, Mike Hanson, James Black, Katie Duchesne, Stacey Gilbert

- I. **Call to Order** - Chair Gwen Doak
 - A. Meeting call to order at 6:30.

- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

- III. **Adjustments to the Agenda**
 - A. None

- IV. **Report of the Chairperson** - Chair Doak
 - A. Welcome & Introductions Ms. Angela Leclair (new Wilton Board Member)
 - 1. [BBBE - Unexpired Term Fulfillments/Vacancies](#)
 - B. [BCA - Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
 - 1. "A & B"
 - C. Board members welcomed Ms. Leclair and thanked her for joining the Board!

V. Communications

- A. Textbook Notification Reviews ([Policy IJJ](#))
 - 1. [How to Adult, Personal Finance](#)
 - a. MBHS/FTC Bridge Academy
- B. New Sharon - [Notice of Public Meeting](#)
 - 1. Sandy River Bridge
- C. Letters from Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
 - 1. RE: Chester Greenwood Day
 - a. [1st Place Parade Float Winners](#)
 - b. [Thank You Letter](#)
- D. Staff Persons of the Month
 - 1. November
 - a. Professional Staff Member-Jessie Gray, School Nurse, Mt. Blue Middle School
 - b. Support Staff Member-Kim Judkins. Library Ed Tech, W.G. Mallett School

VI. Good News Stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. Staff member monthly awards were presented, and Debbie Smith recognized the positive climates at each school she visited for Oct's honored staff!
- B. MBMS- Foxglove Shultz is the school spelling bee champion. RSU #9/MBMS will host the Franklin County Bee in February.
- C. MBHS-The Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony was held on Saturday night with an excellent slate of honorees and a good crowd to honor them.
- D. Instructional Rounds (cross district classroom visits) took place on 1/5/26. 36 classrooms were visited by 36 participants. The feedback was positive and collective data was shared with all staff. We will hold two more rounds in March and May. This will be a powerful tool and a building block for future instructional improvement.
- E. AHS-We received word that Academy Hill has made sustained growth and no longer qualifies for state academic improvement support. They have received funds for professional development and have worked collaboratively as a school community over the past six years, with the assistance of a coach, to support students in their growth and achievement. Well done!

VII. Public Comment

- A. Policy [BEDH: Public Participation At Board Meetings](#)

1. Chris Graves from Farmington shared some concerns and questions. The superintendent will get back to him.

VIII. [Superintendent's Report](#) - Superintendent Christian Elkington

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 1-13-2026
- C. Girls Lacrosse at MBMS
- D. Special Ed Playground @ AHS
- E. RSU 9 FY 24 Special Ed. Fiscal Monitoring Complete
- F. Finance Poses Top Concern for Superintendents This Year, Survey Shows
- G. Addressing Questions Surrounding the Provision of Special Education Services
- H. RSU 9 McKinney Vento Highlighted by DOE

IX. Administrator Reports

A. [Academy Hill & Cushing Schools](#) - Principal Keith Acedo

1. Principal Acedo reviewed the highlights of his report.
2. AHS was identified as a Tier 3 School in Maine's Model of School Support several years ago. An intense plan was created by the team, supported by a coach supplied by the Maine Department of Education. This was a staff driven process, and professional development would take place based on the recommendations of the coach. This year the school came off the identified list. Kudos to GDC as the feeder school as well as to all the staff at AHS.
3. Question-What did the coach do?
 - a. The coach guided plan development and attended leadership team meetings to help shape the work and adjust the plan based on data review. She directed the school to specific professional development based on the areas identified for growth.
 - b. How is this connected to attendance?
 - i. RSU #9 has several district initiatives per their strategic plan
 - ii. Improved success connects students to their school.
 - iii. If kids are feeling more successful, they are more likely to attend school.
 - iv.

B. [Cape Cod Hill School](#) - Principal Carol Kiesman

1. Principal Kiesman reviewed the highlights of her report.
2. The focus at CCHS is certainly on community as a priority!

X. Presentations

A. None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [12/16/2025](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - [January 6, 2026](#)
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - [January 6, 2026](#)
 - 3. Educational Policy - [January 6, 2026](#)
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Angie LeClair Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds Student Nays: Student Abstain: 748/0/74	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Katie Martikke Motion: Passed</i>
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XII. New Business

- A. FY27 Budget Discussion
 - 1. [Timeline](#) Adjustments
 - 2. 26-27 Budget considerations (Board Member request)
 - a. [Projected/potential cost increases were reviewed](#)
 - i. Salary
 - ii. Health Insurance etc..
 - iii. [Trends for substitute teacher budget lines and staff attendance](#)
 - iv. Other?
 - b. Discussion
 - i. We access the sick bank about four or five times a year.
 - ii. The substitute costs will also reflect increases in pay. We have not once yet budgeted enough money in this area. We will likely be short this year as well.
 - iii. At some schools, staff members will offer to cover for each other during their planning periods to help out. If they do, the

missed planning period is not compensated. Staff volunteer to cover.

B. [Policy Work](#) - Policy Folders

1. Second Reading of Policy Previously Presented on 06/12/25

a. [GBGE-R - Return to Work Regulation](#)

- i. At the 2nd reading admin were asked to clarify a section
- ii. Discussion/Questions
 - Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve policy GBGE-R as presented.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds Student Nays: Student Abstain: 822/0/0	<i>Motion: Scott Erb Second: Lance Harvell Motion: Passed</i>
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2. Minor Revisions (One reading)

- a. [ACAB-R 2025 Rev. Harassment and Sexual Harassment](#)
- b. [ACAA-R-Rev 2025 Student-Discrimination Harassment-and-Title-IX-Sexual-Harassment-Complaint-Procedures](#)
 - i. Renamed from combining ACAA-R1 & ACAA-R2 (nix R2)
- c. [ACAB 2025 Rev Harassment of-School-Employees](#)
 - i. Renamed from combining ACAB-R1 & ACAB R-2 (nix r2)
- d. [ACAA- 2025 Rev Harassment of-Students](#)
- e. [AC- 2025 Rev. NonDiscrimination-Equal-Opportunity-and-Affirmative-Action](#)
- f. [EEA-Student-Transportation-Services](#)
- g. [EEBB-R Use-of-Private-Vehicles-on-School-Business](#)
- h. [JICH-R-Draft Rev. Student-Drug-Alcohol-and-Tobacco-Administrative-Procedure](#)
 - i. Revise to Remove Tobacco Portion (covered under ADC)
- i. Discussion/Questions
 - Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the minor revisions to the above policies as presented. (A-H)</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds	<i>Motion: Lance Harvell Second: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed</i>
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	Student Nays: Student Abstain: 822/0/0	
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3. Eliminations (One Reading)

- a. [ACAA-R2 Student Sex Discrimination/Harassment Complaint Procedure](#)
 - i. Combined with ACAA-R1 and renamed ACAA-R
- b. [ACAB-R2 Employee Sex Discrimination/Harassment Complaint Procedure](#)
 - i. Combined with ACAB-R1 and renamed ACAB-R
- c. [EEA-R- Bussing-Regulations](#)
- d. [FEA-Educational-Specifications-for-Construction](#)
- e. [GBA Equal Opportunity Employment](#)
- f. [GBEA Staff Protection](#)
- g. [GBED-MB Tobacco-Free-School-Policy](#)
 - i. Covered by ADC
- h. [GBED-R-Tobacco-Free-School-Regulation](#)
 - i. Covered by ADC-R
- i. [GCID-R2-Attendance-at-National-Conferences](#)
- j. [GCID-R1-Staff-Visitations-and-Conferences-Regulations](#)
- k. [GCID-E2-Mileage-Voucher](#)
- l. [GCID-E1-Conference-Workshop-Meeting-Form](#)
- m. [GCI-R-Procedure-on-Personnel-Development](#)
- n. [JICG-Student-Tobacco-Use](#)
 - i. Covered by ADC
- o. Discussion/Questions
 - Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to eliminate the above policies as presented (A-N)</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds Student Nays: Student Abstain: 822/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed
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XIII. Executive Sessions

A. None

XIV. Adjourned

A. Chair Doak adjourned without objection at 7:25.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - CBS, MBMS, WGMS*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - School Nutrition*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

Board Reports - McKinney Vento/FESS, Adult Education, Athletics

- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS -

Operations - February 3, 2026 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Personnel & Finance - February 3, 2026, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Educational Policy - February 3, - 7:00pm - 8:15pm - The Holman House, District Office