

Mt. Blue Regional School District



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 NOTES

DATE: January 14, 2025

PLACE: Mt. Blue Campus Forum

TIME: 6:30pm

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

Board members present: Dina Spenciner, Gerry Provencher, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Katie Martikke, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Greg Kimber, Kyle Fletcher, Dee Robinson

Board members absent: Rich Ruhlin, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak

Student board members present: Brielle Tinker, Addie Colello, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti

Student board members absent:

Staff members present: Chris Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other staff members present: Keith Acedo, Carol Kiesman, Joel Smith, James Smith, Cynthia Bernstein, Mike Hanson, Todd Demmons, Galen Dalrymple, Matt Fournier

I. Call to Order - Chair Robinson

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Robinson

A. [Code of Ethics](#)

1. A & B

V. Communications

A. Superintendent's Newsletter - [12/13/2024](#), [1/10/2025](#)

1. No questions

B. Staff Members of the Month for November 2024-TABLED

1. Professional Staff
2. Support Staff

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. MBHS/MBC-The successes of the wrestling team and the Unified Bowling Team were celebrated, as well as the outcomes of the aquaponics project (which is seeing their first cucumbers).
- B. In a visit to CCHS the last week before December break to deliver a Staff Member of the Month award, Debbie Smith encountered a busy and fun school environment!
- C. MBMS-Staff and students are back in the gymnasium with much appreciation to all involved. They will be hosting the Franklin County Spelling Bee. Two sixth grade students won and will represent MBMS. One of our teachers from Canada passed her citizenship test on Monday!

VII. Public Comment

- A. None

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 1-14-2025
- C. Cyber Security Program Grant
- D. Schools Can't Stop Bullying
- E. BDN Op Ed-alignment with Strategic Plan-engagement
 - No questions or comments

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Academy Hill /Cushing Schools](#) - Principal Keith Acedo
 1. Principal Acedo reviewed the highlights of his report.
 2. Questions:
 - a. Chronic absenteeism is seeing a decline in numbers at both schools. BARR is having an impact. Reviewing the data, regular meetings, and focused attention by staff are factors in their improvement.
- B. [Cape Cod Hill School](#) - Principal Carol Kiesman
 1. Principal Kiesman reviewed the highlights of her report.
 2. She relayed that BARR is making a big difference. The system is structured to support communication and looking at students as individuals. BARR aligns with the Regulated Classroom. There will be a focus on increased training.

X. Presentations

A. [Homeschool Data Presentation](#) - Elkington

1. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the process and the parameters from the state.
2. He then reviewed the data on the slides.
3. One interesting data point is that 60% of the homeschooled students have never been enrolled in our schools (some may take a class or two).
4. Attendance prior to transferring to home instruction-We had a hypothesis that families transferred students to homeschool due to attendance issues, but the number was not as large as we had thought.
5. Questions:
 - a. Are there assessment tools that are recommended to homeschool parents? They can submit what they choose (portfolio, standards achievement testing, etc.). A certified teacher must review the portfolio that is submitted.
 - b. We sent a survey to our homeschool families to try and get a better understanding of their reasoning, but we have had very little response.
 - c. We have about 2300 students enrolled in RSU 9. The figure of 260 present homeschool students represents a significant # of students and a potential revenue stream if they were attending as well as potential expenses which would follow as well.
 - d. Is there a significant number of students who are not being educated? Superintendent Elkington relayed that his experience is that one in five have strong programs with strong results, and four out of five have less robust programs. Families homeschool students for a variety of reasons, some of which are not for the best reasons.
 - e. When homeschool students intersect with RSU #9, they are required to have vaccinations. Homeschool numbers increased dramatically for RSU 9 with the change in vaccination requirements.

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [12-10-2024](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 1. Operations Committee - [01-07-2025](#)
 2. Personnel & Finance - [01-07-2025](#)
 3. Educational Policy - [01-07-2025](#)

- Motion/Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Dina Spenciner, Gerry Provencher, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Katie Martikke, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Greg Kimber, Kyle Fletcher, Dee Robinson <i>Nays:</i> <i>Abstain:</i> <i>Student Yeas:</i> Brielle Tinker, Addie Colello, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i> 709/0/0</p> | <p><i>Motion: Wayne Kinney</i> <i>Second: Debbie Smith</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p> |
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XII. New Business

A. [Canary Islands Field Trip](#)

1. Review

- a. The trip was reviewed by Matt Fournier, Todd Demmons, and Joel Smith.
- b. The volunteer’s name (Ingrid Merrill) was shared via email over the weekend.
- c. Students from the Canary Islands visited last year, and we consider them a kind of sister school.
- d. This exchange is an extension of the new Culture Club which supports giving students experiences outside of Franklin County. Our international students bring much to this community, and we hope to expand that impact.

2. Discussion/Questions

- a. How many students are in the host school? Los Palmas, an American School with international students, has about 400 students grades K-12.
- b. Expense to the district will be two subs for two days, which is less than \$1000.
- c. Any and all students who were interested could participate. 50 students initially expressed interest, and once it all shook out, 13 committed.
- d. \$2500 per student-ISP is supporting a portion of the trip. Each student has the opportunity to fundraise.

- Motion/Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to approve the Field Trip as presented.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Dina Spenciner, Gerry Provencher, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Katie Martikke,</p> | <p><i>Motion: Debbie Smith</i> <i>Second: Wayne Kinney</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p> |
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| | <p>Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Greg Kimber, Kyle Fletcher, Dee Robinson</p> <p><i>Nays:</i></p> <p><i>Abstain:</i></p> <p><i>Student Yeas:</i> Brielle Tinker, Addie Colello, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti</p> <p><i>Student Nays:</i></p> <p><i>Student Abstain:</i></p> <p>709/0/0</p> | |
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B. International Student Program (ISP) Proposal - Poulin

1. Review

a. Approved by Ed Policy

- (1) Monique Poulin reviewed some background info.
- (2) Shared how ISP wants to look at re-invigorating elementary programming
 - (a) That this plan is connected to the district’s strategic plan
- (3) **No district funds** would be used to support this program change and position addition
 - (a) To look at increasing #s
 - (b) To look at elementary planning
- (4) The hope is that we will increase our overall international student numbers so that funds from those students can then be used to begin to pay for the salary of an elementary teacher.

2. Discussion/Questions

a. Several questions came up about size, cost and future success

- Motion/Vote

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| <i>Motion to approve the ISP Proposal as presented.</i> | <p><i>Yeas:</i> Dina Spenciner, Gerry Provencher, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Katie Martikke, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Greg Kimber, Kyle Fletcher, Dee Robinson</p> <p><i>Nays:</i></p> <p><i>Abstain:</i></p> <p><i>Student Yeas:</i> Brielle Tinker, Addie Colello, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti</p> <p><i>Student Nays:</i></p> <p><i>Student Abstain:</i></p> <p>709/0/0</p> | <p><i>Motion: Wayne Kinney</i></p> <p><i>Second: Josh Robbins</i></p> <p><i>Motion: Passed</i></p> |
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C. [Leach Field request](#)

1. Review

a. Approved by Operations & Finance

(1) Superintendent Elkington reviewed the request.

2. Discussion/Questions

- a. Are we better off waiting for better weather? Tough for materials and weather, but \$1,000 every time we pump is expensive.
- b. There are other contractors but expense, availability, and quality of work are always questions. By the time the ground is warm, concrete work is in full swing.
- c. If the system fails, what to do then?
- d. We might save money by waiting, but there are other costs and risks involved. There is value to getting it done and having a stable situation for students.
- e. The motion does not include a firm timeline. Superintendent can use his best judgement.
- f. A cleaner, better job can be done once we reach a dryer season. It will be messy.
- g. By waiting, we might open it up to more contractors. It is a large system but fairly simple to install.

• Motion/Vote

- a. To approve up to \$250,000 be taken from the Maintenance Reserve Account for payment of a new Leach Field at CCHS

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| <i>Motion to approve up to \$250,000 be taken from the maintenance reserve account for payment of a new leach field at CCHS.</i> | <i>Yeas: Dina Spenciner, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Katie Martikke, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Greg Kimber, Kyle Fletcher, Nays: Dee Robinson, Jeff Barnum, Gerry Provencher (not against the project but concerned about timing) Abstain: Student Yeas: Brielle Tinker, Addie Colello, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 536/173/0</i> | <i>Motion: Josh Robbins Second: Katie Martikke Motion: Passed</i> |
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D. Connectivity Ed. Grant/ Ingalls School Purchase

1. Review

- a. Already approved to go to the voters
- b. Asked to not be part of the district budget vote in June

2. Discussion/Questions

- a. Spending about \$8,000 before taxpayers are contemplating the school budget to put this out prior to June. There could be confusion between the two budgets.

- b. What dates? Sometime in April, final date TBD based on timeline for a referendum.
- c. Are special votes typically on Tuesdays? Unsure.
- Motion/Vote
 - a. To hold a special election for the voters of RSU 9 to vote to determine if RSU 9 will take ownership of the Ingalls School with funding from Connectivity Ed. Grant.

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| <p><i>Motion to hold a special election for the voters of RSU 9 to vote to determine if RSU 9 will take ownership of the Ingalls School with funding from Connectivity Ed. Grant.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Dina Spenciner, Gerry Provencher, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Greg Kimber, Kyle Fletcher, Dee Robinson Nays: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso Abstain: Student Yeas: Brielle Tinker, Addie Colello, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 594/115/0</p> | <p><i>Motion: Wayne Second: Josh Motion: Passed</i></p> |
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E. [2025/26 Academic Calendar - DRAFT](#)

1. Review

- a. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the draft.
- b. 12 days off would be a consistent number of days, which we have had in the past.
- c. Would come to school 12/22 and 12/23.
- d. Considered two weeks, but there were concerns with 16 days-extra child care, missing meals, losing the rhythm of the school day...

2. Discussion/Questions

- a. None

3. Next Steps?

F. Policy Work

3. Minor Changes (one reading)

- a. [BEDJ Broadcasting/Taping Board Meetings](#)
- b. [GBEBB Staff Behavior With Students](#)
- c. [JICC Student Conduct on Buses](#)
- d. [JJ Student Clubs, Co-Extra Curricular Activities, Athletic Teams](#)
- e. [JJA Student Organizations](#)
- f. [ADA * District Goals and Objectives](#)
- g. [ADF * Learning Results Commitment](#)
- h. Discussion/Questions

(1) Vice Chair Wayne Kinney reviewed the policies. * indicates mandatory policy.

- Motion/Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to approve above policies as presented, as a block.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Dina Spenciner, Gerry Provencher, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Katie Martikke, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Greg Kimber, Kyle Fletcher, Dee Robinson Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 709/0/0</p> | <p><i>Motion: Debbie Smith Second: Dina Spenciner Motion: Passed</i></p> |
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4. Replacements (first of two readings)
 - a. [BG Policy Process](#)
 - b. [BGB-R Policy Adoption Procedure](#)
(1) Replaces BGB
 - c. [BIB Board Member Development Opportunities](#)
(1) Language
 - d. [JI Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)
 - e. [AD * Educational Philosophy/Mission](#)
 - f. Discussion/Questions?
(1) Bring back to next meeting for second reading.
5. Major Revisions (first of two readings)
 - a. [IHBH Alternative Education Programs](#)
(1) Combines IHB and IHBH
 - b. Discussion/Questions?
(1) Bring back to the next meeting for a second reading.
6. Complete Rewrites (first of two readings)
 - a. [JLDBG * Reintegration Of Students From Juvenile Correctional Facilities](#)
 - b. Discussion/Questions?
(1) Bring back to the next meeting for a second reading.
7. Brand New (first of two readings)
 - a. [ACEA Service Animals](#)
 - b. [BIC-E FOA Training Completion Form](#)
 - c. [JLCDB Students With Severe Food Allergies](#)
 - d. [JLF-R Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Adminstrative Procedure](#)
(1) Replaces JHCA-R
 - e. Discussion/Questions?
(1) JLF-R-last sentence in F needs attention.
(2) Service animals-service and not emotional support animals.
That policy is separate and was reviewed previously.
(3) Bring back to the next meeting for a second reading.
8. Eliminate (one reading)
 - a. [ACE Treatment of People with Disabilities](#)
(1) Covered by AC, ACAA & ACAB
 - b. [ADB Strategic Vision](#)
(1) Covered by the Strategic Plan
 - c. Discussion/Questions

- (1) ACE is an old policy and is covered by the other three policies.
- (2) Question-is it appended to the policies? No, it is an entirely separate document. The superintendent will take a look and report back.

- Motion/Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to eliminate the above policies as presented.</i></p> | <p><i>Yeas:</i> Dina Spenciner, Gerry Provencher, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Katie Martikke, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Greg Kimber, Kyle Fletcher, Dee Robinson</p> <p><i>Nays:</i></p> <p><i>Abstain:</i></p> <p><i>Student Yeas:</i></p> <p><i>Student Nays:</i></p> <p><i>Student Abstain:</i></p> <p>709/0/0</p> | <p><i>Motion: Wayne Kinney</i> <i>Second: Greg Kimber</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p> |
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XIII. Adjourned without objection at 8:06.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

January 28, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - WGMS, CBS, MBMS*

February 11, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - MBHS, FTC, Athletics*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - February 4, 2025 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Personnel & Finance - February 4, 2025, 2024 - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Educational Policy - February 4, 2025, 2024 - 7:00pm - The Holman House, District Office