

# Mt. Blue Regional School District - RSU 9



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

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## Board of Directors Board Meeting Agenda NOTES

**DATE:** January 27, 2026  
**PLACE:** The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus  
**TIME:** 6:30pm  
**LIVESTREAM LINK:** <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

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**Board Members Present:** Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Greg Kimber (arrived at 6:35)

**Board Members Absent:** Patty Hastings

**Student Reps Present:** Rowan Shanti

**Student Reps Absent:** Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Brynne Fournier

**Staff Present:** Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

**Other Staff Present:** Stacey Gilbert, James Black, Nichole Goodspeed, Katie Duchesne, Joel Smith

- I. **Call to Order** - Chair Gwen Doak
  
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
  
- III. **Adjustments to the Agenda**
  - A. Report of the Chairperson
  
- IV. **Report of the Chairperson** - Chair Doak
  - A. [BCA - Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
    1. "C & D"
    2. Booster Liaison
      - a. Please email Gwen if you have any interest.
      - b. There was a request to send the details of the position to all board members for review.
  
- V. **Communications**
  - A. Superintendent's Newsletter - [1/16/2026](#)

B. [Response to Audit Extension Request](#)

**VI. Good News Stories from the Board or Administrators**

- A. School Tours: Tours are scheduled over the next two weeks; the visit to MBMS went well!
- B. Winter Carnival: MBC held activities on Friday, followed by the Winter Carnival dance.
- C. MBC Heat Fundraiser: To date, \$1,300 has been raised for the Franklin County Ecumenical Ministry.
- D. Recognition goes to the Boosters for their contributions to the district.
- E. Athletics: The boys' basketball team continues to do well this season.
- F. Four MBHS students received recognition in the Maine Region Scholastic Art Awards and were awarded scholarships to the Maine College of Art:
  - Tyler Rackliff – Gold Key Award
  - Evelyn O'Donnell – Honorable Mention
  - Wyatt Dorr – Award Recipient
  - Sun Jae Koh – Award Recipient

**VII. Public Comment**

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

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 01/27/2026
  - 1. FCTEC openings are posted for next year.
- C. ECSE Cohort Commitment
  - 1. Question-What funds will be available? There are limits to what they will provide. How many students may be involved? 20-40 students with various plans. Do we have the staff? If not, we will have to hire them.
- D. Maine School Safety & Transportation Conference
- E. Maine Learning Technology Initiative: Eligible Unit Opt-in Agreement School Year 2026-2027

**IX. Administrator Reports**

- A. [Cascade Brook School](#) - Principal Nichole Goodspeed
  - 1. Principal Goodspeed reviewed the highlights of the report.
  - 2. Question-To what do you attribute the success of no truancy reports?
    - a. After three unexcused absences, Dr. Goodspeed calls and one secretary also calls daily.
    - b. Personal connections at school.
    - c. Engagement in the classroom is important and effective.

3. Sub question-How significant is the issue? There is not a big pool and all schools are pulling from it. They do their best to cover!
- B. [WG Mallett School](#) - Principal Stacey Gilbert
1. Principal Gilbert reviewed the highlights of the report.
- C. [Mt. Blue Middle School](#) - Principal James Black and Assistant Principal Duchesne
1. Principal Black and Assistant Principal Duchesne reviewed the highlights of the report.
  2. Questions-
    - a. Average daily attendance remains steady at **91%**, consistent with previous years despite the challenges of transitioning students from smaller schools into a larger unified setting. While daily phone calls and the BARR model provide a strong support framework, attendance is still impacted by seasonal illness, medical hospitalizations, and family vacations. Families sometimes transfer students to homeschool based on attendance calls from the school.
    - b. What is the word that the student won the spelling bee with?
    - c. Chris will send the comparison for the last five years for attendance.

**X. Presentations**

- A. None

**XI. Consent Agenda**

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [1/13/2026](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
  1. Operations Committee - None
  2. Personnel & Finance - None
  3. Educational Policy - None
- Motion/Vote

<p><i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.</i></p>	<p><b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p><b>Nays:</b></p> <p><b>Abstain:</b> Gerald Provencher</p> <p><b>Student Yeas:</b> Rowan Shanti</p> <p><b>Student Nays:</b></p> <p><b>Student Abstain:</b></p> <p>851/0/76</p>	<p><i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i>  <i>Second: Scott Erb</i>  <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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**XII. New Business**

A. [Field Trip](#)

1. Mt. Blue Voices and Jazz Band Perform in NYC
2. Discussion/Questions
  - a. Dates are at the end of a vacation week. No subs are involved.
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Field Trip as presented.</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber., Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> Rowan Shanti <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 843/0/0	<i>Motion: Scott Erb Second: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed</i>
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B. 26/27 Academic Calendar

1. [Initial Draft](#)
  - a. Not two weeks at winter break
  - b. Starting earlier than last year based on the way the calendar falls this year.
  - c. Need to meet with the Association and then will bring it back.
2. Discussion/Questions?
3. Next Steps

C. FY27 Budget Updates

1. Full Day Presentations Start Next Week
  - a. Discussion/Questions?
    - i. Looking to receive a state funding announcement next week.
    - ii. The number of students is down 2.5% and will mean some reduction in overall funding.
    - iii. Second full day meeting on Monday, 2/9.
2. Next Steps?

D. [Policy Work](#) -

1. Required Per New State Law (second of two readings)
  - a. [EBBD - Temperature Standards for Schools](#)
    - i. Info Docs
      - (a) [#1](#)
      - (b) [#2](#)
      - (c) [#3](#)
    - ii. Review
    - iii. Discussion/Questions?
      - Motion/Vote

<p><i>Motion to approve the policy as presented.</i></p>	<p><b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner  <b>Nays:</b>  <b>Abstain:</b>  <b>Student Yeas:</b> Rowan Shanti  <b>Student Nays:</b>  <b>Student Abstain:</b>  927/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin  Second: Jeff Barnum  Motion: Passed</i></p>
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**XIII. Executive Sessions**

A. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - For the purpose of discussing Labor Contract Negotiations with the Professional Association

- Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - For the purpose of discussing Labor Contract Negotiations with the Professional Association.

<p><i>Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the labor contract for the professional association.</i></p>	<p><b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner  <b>Nays:</b>  <b>Abstain:</b>  <b>Student Yeas:</b> Rowan Shanti  <b>Student Nays:</b>  <b>Student Abstain:</b>  927/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Katie Martikke  Second: Rich Ruhlin  Motion: Passed</i></p>
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Entered Executive Session at 7:27.

Exited Executive Session at 7:52.

B. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C) - For the purpose of discussing Economic Development

- Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C) - For the purpose of discussing economic development

<p><i>Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing economic development.</i></p>	<p><b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner  <b>Nays:</b>  <b>Abstain:</b></p>	<p><i>Motion: Lance Harvell  Second: Angie LeClair  Motion: Passed</i></p>
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	<b>Student Yeas:</b> Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti, Brynne Fournier <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 927/0/0	
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Entered Executive Session at 7:53.

Exited Executive Session at 8:09

- Motion to appoint a 3 member committee to negotiate possible 10 Year Student Tuition Agreements

<i>Motion to appoint a 3 member committee to negotiate possible 10-year student tuition agreements.</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b> Wayne Kinney <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti, Brynne Fournier <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 843/84/0	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin            Second: Angie LeClair            Motion: Passed</i>
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**XIV.** Adjourned without objection 8:10.

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

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

- *Board Reports - School Nutrition*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
  - *Cohort 3 Update*

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

*Board Reports - FTC, MBHS*

- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
  - *TBD*

Tuesday, March 10, 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