

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 Minutes

DATE: October 14, 2025
PLACE: The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus
TIME: 6:30pm
LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

Board Members Present: Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayhew, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Lance Harvell 6:37

Board Members Absent: Jeff Barnum, Gloria McGraw,

Student Reps Present: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds,

Student Reps Absent: Brynne Fournier, Rowan Shanti

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Katie Merrill

Other Staff Present: Andy Hutchins, Amanda Clark

I. Call to Order - Chair Gwen Doak

A. Called to order at 6:30

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Doak

A. [BCA - Board Member Code of Ethics](#)

1. "J & K"

a. Read by Chair Doak

V. Communications

A. [Superintendent's Newsletter - 9.26.2025](#)

1. No questions

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

A. FTC Director Galen Dalrymple -

1. Forestry students - They have put together a logging plan for behind Cascade Brook School - Nina's Woods. Made forestry plans with a forester, developed property lines in question, and students helped with the mapping. It was a big project with lots of learning. They are also putting up posted signs where people shouldn't be hunting.
2. Rich Ruhlin shared that he heard/saw - clean worksite, respectful kids.

B. MBHS Principal Joel Smith -

1. Last week was homecoming week. They had games, relays, and the dance. Over 400 students attended the dance.
2. High school quiz show team
 - a. 2 student reps on the team
 - b. We qualified pretty high - 1st place out of 20 teams and got a BYE.
 - c. Compete Monday and if they do well they go onto compete the following week up to December 5th. Get money for classes for every win.
 - d. Students took a quiz to qualify for the team - Winners were Julian Reynolds, Lincoln Tierney, Casey Adams, Brynne Fournier
 - i. Alternates are Connor Greenleaf and Finley Clark

C. Superintendent Elkington

1. FTC to be on Maine Loves Public Schools
 - a. Episode 2 - apprenticeships forming career paths
 - b. Showing on October 30th @ 5:45pm here in the Forum

D. CE on behalf of Monique Poulin

1. Communities of Practice (CoP's) are going well. Staff wanted to choose and work in areas they felt were important to their present assignment needs. Getting great feedback from staff and the groups. CE has visited several and been impressed with the conversation and work happening. Variety of individual, small and large group settings.

VII. Public Comment

A. None

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 9-23-2025
- C. This is TERRIFIC!!!!!!!

D. Current Class Sizes

1. Number of variances:
 - a. There are different ranges of grade levels at each school
 - b. We have both small and large schools

E. Admin Protocol Learning

1. Learning more about how to facilitate better discussions and learning in groups.

F. Government Shutdown means what for Federal Funds?

1. Told by the State that funds should keep coming
 - a. \$2,000,000 is coming to us. Will it be held?
 - i. Friday several Federal DOE employees were fired because of the shutdown
 - (a) Finance office related positions
 - (b) So now we are not sure
 - b. A Board Member asked if we have any contingency plans for loss of funds.
 - i. We are in good shape to hold off for now.
 - ii. If this continues we will need to come back to the Board for down the road plans to make reductions or spend certain funds for salaries.
 - iii. Line of credit may be an option
 - iv. May have to go back to the voters to use balance forward.
 - c. MDOE said funds would continue because they are essential to us.

G. Priority Notice: Credentialing of Educational Personnel Chapter 115

H. Other questions - CoPs, - what will come of these?

1. Groups are doing all kinds of differing activities.

IX. Administrator Reports

A. [School Nutrition](#) - Director Chef Andy Hutchins

1. Renovation of MS kitchen - It still had the same footprint as it did when there were only 2 grade levels at that school. Staff have been working hard and “very closely” with now 3 grade levels- 5 people and 3 work stations. The remodel increased safety and everyone has their own work station area. Cold storage was added onto the outside of the building. Renovations started the day school got out this past June as soon as the buses were gone and the kitchen was back together by mid august. Operating much more efficiently. Thanks to the maintenance team for helping with the project. We saved money instead of contracting it out.

Subbed out HVAC, worked with Taylor Construction on concrete and IEC electrical.

2. Summer program - 4 days a week through the end of July.
 3. Local foods - received a gift allotted up to 10,000 per district every 2 dollars we spend on local food we get 1 dollar back. Funds will be used by late October or early November, but we will continue to buy locally as much as possible.
 4. Partnered up with a new entity called Peak Fresh Produce. Farms all over the state. Coming to Farmington every other week. We've offered to be a site where other districts can pick up products. It gets more local food into schools
 5. Students are here after school for many reasons, clubs, sports, etc... We now have an after school meals program for every school but Cushing. MS and CBS started this week. We started with AHS CCHS and WGMS first. - looking at 1200 meals a week and we are reimbursed a set rate for every meal served. They can take it with them. Should bring in 150-180,000 in revenue for the year
 6. Upgrade in MBHS cafeteria - Graphics and furniture for school spirit
 7. Shout out to Steph Gaboury for earning RSU 9 Employee of the Year!
 8. Breakfast menus are up and running - revamped last spring. Making products in house to reduce processed food and sugar.
 9. Word of caution - the food costs and inflation is expected to continue rising for the next several months. Keeping an eye on it. Looking at the overall menu and incorporating more plant based proteins to help offset costs.
 - a. Chicken nuggets are here to stay!
 10. Rich Ruhlin - Comparison summer 24 to summer 25 - rough estimate is within a couple of hundred meals. We will get exact numbers to Board Members. Last summer was Monday - Friday this year was only Mon - Thursday but students could take an extra meal on Thursday if needed.
 11. Spent \$350,000+ on renovation - paid for by School Nutrition funds. Had a balance for years that's been added to. Same for MBHS upgrade.
 12. Enlarging the freezer. Can we purchase more in bulk? - We already buy in bulk. We get good pricing for our volume and are part of a food buying group with other districts.
- B. The superintendent shared - That Andy's constant initiative is amazing
1. Andy thanked his staff - they are doing it for the right reasons. They care about the performance and number and quality of meals they are serving.

- C. Katie Martike - Nice to hear when budgets are tight that there's still a focus on quality and students are learning about where their food comes from. Local, healthy.
- D. 80% of students eating lunch
- E. 50-55% are eating breakfast
- F. Enrollment is fairly flat - finding new ways to bring in revenue - I like to "Grow out of problem" don't make cuts.
- G. [McKinney Vento/FESS](#) - Family Engagement Coordinator Amanda Clark
 - 1. Numbers Reassessed every year - currently at 41 (Prek - 5 is at 19, and 6-12 is at 22). Expects numbers to go back up.
 - 2. 7 of 41 are unaccompanied which means they are living with adults that are not their guardian.
 - a. 12 of the MV students are considered chronically absent
 - i. Taking a big focus to look at these numbers.
 - 3. Continuing to train staff in the Regulated Classroom - A lot of neuro science behind it.
 - a. Positive feedback from admin about its possibilities.
 - b. Co regulation
 - c. Trained at AHS and GDC, and Mallett will be getting training, a refresher is scheduled for CBS.
 - 4. BARR programming at CBS, AHS/GDC, CCHS - whole child, whole family.
 - a. Utility assistance
 - b. Case management
 - c. Community resources
 - d. Helping hand to families
 - 5. New partnerships for counseling in elementary schools
 - a. Outside contractors are being planned so that kids can services here at school.
 - 6. Facilitating one of the CoP's. Non instructional.
 - a. Talking about things relevant to our work
 - 7. Spotlight - RSU 9/CBS has been part of a grant - part of CoP to increase family engagement and reduce chronic absenteeism. Working with Dr. Goodspeed and other staff (team of 5). What are families looking for that can help them in our district?
 - 8. Low Income assistance program
 - a. Credit on electricity.
 - b. Great connection w/ CMP to work with families
 - i. Payments plans
 - ii. Plans to keep electricity on.

9. Focus areas - identifying MV families, Family engagement/resources. Though the focus is on CBS the tools and information can be brought elsewhere.
10. Board Member thoughts - reflect on our numbers? - Rapidly growing. A big piece is the funding for families on the verge of becoming homeless. It's growing fast as there's instability in our county.
 - a. Income based and working with CMP for payment plans.
11. Superintendent - Regulated Classroom may be an option for how we can better support all of our staff with dysregulated students.
 - a. Staff want/need more training.
 - b. Neuro science - Brain development. Individual attention is key.
 - c. It adds focus on the educators working with the students.
12. Amanda Clark is the connection between many families and schools and community resources.

X. Presentations

- A. Attendance Data Update - - Elkington
 1. [District & School Data](#) (resharing)
 - a. We were getting better each year until last year. The exception is high school kept improving.
 - i. We are looking at this. 33 RSU 9 district leaders are meeting once a month looking at the data and discussing. Going to look further back at our data. Chronic Absenteeism 2016 - 2021 to compare to the most recent 5 years.
 2. [LAW/Early Release Data](#)
 - a. Attendance is worse these days, which makes sense, but we need to put time into this to see if there's another way to provide our staff with needed PD and time.
- B. [Home Instruction #'s](#)
 1. As of 9/18/2025
 2. 2nd largest HS #'s in the state?
 - a. Driven by a lot of move-in's during/after covid as we have a lot of groups and co-ops.
 - b. Immunizations also play a big role.
- C. Overall MBRSD enrollment - Down about 80 students this year from last year. Across the board, we will watch the number.
- D. New Sharon Homeschool numbers are way up - Amish population, maybe?

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [9/23/2025](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - [10/7/2025](#)
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - [10/7/2025](#)
 - 3. Educational Policy - [10/7/2025](#)
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.</i>	Yeas: Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayhew, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 876/0/0	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Deb Smith Motion: Passed</i>
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XII. New Business

A. [JMG Boston Field Trip](#)

- 1. Review
 - a. Director Dalrymple - created as a collaborative effort between FTC instructors and Lisa D. for international student programs. Freeport Amtrak to Boston.
 - i. Need 2 different bus drivers
 - ii. Funded by award to FTC and Somerset Tech Center. For STEM
 - iii. Will visit MIT Harvard, Harvard medical school. See work from bio tech students. Boston aquarium.
- 2. Discussion/Questions?
 - a. Date clarification? November 10th
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Field Trip as presented.</i>	Yeas: Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayhew, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 876/0/0	<i>Motion: Deb Smith Second: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed</i>
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B. Donation acceptance from Aubuchon Hardware

1. [Review](#)

- a. Incredible opportunity for our school's programs. Remodel of store and had full displays of circuits, light switches, screws, nuts, fasteners, etc... Will benefit the entire tech center. Something for all programs.
- b. They want to be part of our career fair. Aubuchon is very good to us.

2. Discussion/Questions

- a. Letter of thanks from the Board? FTC? Students?
 - i. Galen already drafted and had a plaque created (preengineering program students)

• Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to accept the donation as presented.</i>	Yeas: Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayhew, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 876/0/	<i>Motion: Josh Robbins Second: Patty Hastings Motion: Passed</i>
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C. [Policy Work](#) - Policy Folders

1. Minor Revisions (1 reading)

- a. [JJIF - Concussion Policy](#)
- b. [DL-R - District Credit Card Use](#)
- c. [DLA - Payday Schedules](#)
- d. [JCAA - Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion](#)
- e. [JCAA-R - Procedures on Physical Restraint and Seclusion](#)
- f. Review
- g. Discussion/Questions
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the above policies as a group</i>	Yeas: Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayhew, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Katie (stepped out) 7:37 - 7:40 Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti	<i>Motion: Wayne Kinney Second: Griffin Mayhew Motion: Passed</i>
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	Student Nays: Student Abstain: 841/0/35	
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2. Brand New (first of two readings)
 - a. [DIDA - Fixed Assets](#)
 - b. [DJA - Purchasing Authority](#)
 - c. Review
 - d. Discussion/Questions?
3. Per present practice and to allow us to further explore other options (first of two readings)
 - a. [Electronic Signature and Filing](#)
 - i. Review
 - ii. Discussion/Questions?

XIII. Executive Session

- 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.

<i>Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Labor Contract Negotiations with the Professional Association.</i> 7:41pm	Yeas: Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayhew, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 876/0/125	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Patty Hastings</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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Entered Executive Session at 7:41pm

XIV. Adjourned

- A. At 8:22 pm

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

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

- *Board Reports - FCTEC, MBHS*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - Adult Education, Athletics*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *Tiered Schools (waiting for state to release new data)*

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - Special Services, Technology, Transportation*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Educational Policy - November 18, 2025, - 5:15pm - 6:15pm - MBC, Library