

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

Minutes

DATE: October 22, 2024

PLACE: Mt. Blue Campus Forum

TIME: 6:30pm

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

Board Members Present: Dee Robinson, Dina Spenciner, Gwen Doak, Katie Martikke, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Greg Kimber, Gerald Provencher, Scott Erb, Gloria McGraw, Debbie Smith, Will Jones (6:37 arrival time)

Board Members Absent: Wayne Kinney, Josh Robbins

Student Reps Present: Addie Colello, Rowan Shanti, Brielle Tinker

Student Reps Absent: Julian Reynolds

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Andy Hutchins, Galen Dalrymple, Carol Kiesman, Amanda Clark, Nichole Goodspeed, Joel Smith, Greg Henderson, Lana Swett, Marian Harrison, Tom Harrison

I. Call to Order - Chair Robinson

A. Meeting called to order at 6:30

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Robinson

A. [Code of Ethics](#)

1. L & M

V. Communications

A. Superintendent's Newsletter - ~~10-18-2024 (to be linked)~~ Postponed

B. [Maine Science Assessments](#)

C. [Integrated Youth Health Survey](#)

1. We will be collaborating with a professor at UMF and her Statistics class on a MIYHS data dive.

D. Staff Persons of the Month - for July, August & September

1. July Support Staff Member of the Month-Bonnie Oliver-CCHS-Driver and Lead Custodian
2. August Professional Staff Member of the Month-Katie Joseph-MBHS/MBC-Social Studies Teacher and Tech Coach
3. August Support Staff Member of the Month-Mark Gibson- Technology - Computer Technician
4. September Professional Staff Member of the Month-Kim Allen-MBHS/MBC Special Education Teacher
5. September Support Staff Member of the Month-Dillon Baker- FCAE - Communication Support Specialist

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. Thank you to those who attended the Holman House Open House. We welcomed many community members, and excellent snacks were provided by Chef Andy.
- B. The superintendent wanted to thank the students at AHS for their warm hellos on a visit and walk-around he made last week. He also wanted to thank the front office staff at each school for their kind assistance and warm welcome when he visits.

VII. Public Comment

- A. None

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 10-22-2024
- C. Superintendent's Newsletter now going to?
- D. Turf Committee Notes
- E. ESSER Extension
 1. Shout out to Deb Lajoie and Sherry Wyman for their work on federal grant accountability.
- F. Efficiency Maine Rebate!
- G. Maybe it's time to change up high school to improve student attendance?
- H. Immunization Update
 1. State of Maine - Immunization Requirements for School Children
 2. September 2024, Incomplete Immunization Expectations
 - Numbers change monthly based on immunization requirement schedule.
 - 12-24 students are working on plans to get back into compliance.

- When are they not allowed in schools? They are not allowed in schools if not up to date or if they do not have a plan from a doctor. There are different definitions of “plan”.
- We follow the statute.

IX. Administrator Reports

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

1. Highlights

- August training-fortunate to host it and have staff members participate
- Facelift to Cushing with a paint job
- Fresh fruit and veggie program back on track this year
- Collaboration with local vendors is increasing.

B. [McKinney Vento](#) - Family Engagement Coordinator, Amanda Clark

1. Highlights

- Summer engagement helped students to transition back to school.
- Numbers are currently the same as last year.
- Focused on identifying and supporting students and families.
- Success stories
 - (1) Grant awarded and can support families who are at risk of becoming homeless.
 - (2) Collaboration with the state and a neighboring M-V liaison to support a family who moved from a different state.
 - (3) Facebook Page created to share resources.
- Goals
 - (1) Increase identification
 - (2) Staff training
 - (3) Collaboration with local organizations
 - (4) Following up with families after identification
- Questions
 - (1) Our numbers are about average for our district size.
 - (2) When does ongoing support cease? Families are found eligible for the school year. We lessen support as they transition to stable situations with housing and food.

C. [MBHS](#) - Principal, Joel Smith

1. Focus on engagement

- Homecoming adjustments were well received.
- Museum of Art visit-cross-curricular connections
- Olympia Snowe Leadership Institute
- International student program-14 students representing many different countries; investigating a trip to the Canary Islands
- Unified Sports-Bocce was a fall focus. Shout out to Laurel Dingley for organizing!

2. Chronic absenteeism-Numbers are the same as last year at about 92%.

D. [FTC](#) - Interim Director, Galen Dalrymple

1. Additional highlights beyond what was noted in the report-
 - Galen and Joel Smith attended the National CTE Conference in Portland, OR in line with MBC27 goals.
 - Engagement and collaboration with high school is growing.
 - Career Pathways-working to develop at a younger age
 - Community and parental involvement
 - Student Services at FCTEC and School Counseling at MBHS are collaborating well together in support of shared students.
 - There are several other collaborations happening within FCTEC programs.
 - November 8th-Totally Trades continues. It is designed for 9th grade female students to introduce them to varied career opportunities.

X. Presentations

- A. Aquaponics Presentation - Tom & Marian Harrison, Tori Lands (not in attendance) & MBC students - Lucy Bobson, Andrew Dunham, and Gabe Harrison
 - The presenters distributed a packet that detailed the summer program and that included the background of aquaponics.
 - The students did an excellent job sharing details about their learning journey and the benefits of aquaponics. The result of their learning is a system that is currently growing vegetables and fish that could be consumed.
 - English, math, science and plumbing standards were all integrated in the experience. There was significant support from Springworks Farm, an aquaponics greenhouse in Lisbon.
 - The Alternative Learning Program at MBC will now be supporting and overseeing the system during the school year.

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [10.8.24](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 1. Operations Committee - None
 2. Personnel & Finance - None
 3. Educational Policy - None
- D. Vote

<p><i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.</i></p>	<p><i>Yeas: Dee Robinson, Dina Spenciner, Gwen Doak, Katie Martikke, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Greg Kimber, Gerald Provencher, Scott Erb, Gloria McGraw, Debbie Smith</i> <i>Nays:</i> <i>Abstain: Will Jones</i> <i>Student Yeas: Addie Colello, Rowan</i></p>	<p><i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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	<i>Shanti, Brielle Tinker</i> <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i> <i>802/0/84</i>	
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XII. New Business

A. Board Legislative Advocacy opportunities

1. Questions have been raised by Board Members on how they can become better advocates for our students and staff
2. Two subjects in particular have come up
 - Legislation on dysregulated students
 - The Governor’s “new” School Construction and Reconstruction commission
3. Discussion
 - Board members should feel free to organize and reach out to legislators on these topics.
 - Rich Ruhlin shared that Steve Bailey of MSBA is a great resource for policy questions and concerns. Rich is willing to be the contact if board members care to organize and represent RSU #9 as a group on these topics.

B. Policy Work

1. None

XIII. Adjourned without objection at 7:45

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

November 12, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - Athletics, Special Services, Technology*

December 10, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - Adult Education, Transportation*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - November 19, 2024 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, Mt. Blue Campus

Personnel & Finance - November 19, 2024 - 6:00pm - The Holman House, Mt. Blue Campus

Educational Policy - November 19, 2024 - 7:00pm - The Holman House, Mt. Blue Campus