

Mt. Blue Regional School District



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

227 Main Street, Farmington, ME 04938
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Chesterville | Farmington | Industry | New Sharon | New Vineyard | Starks | Temple | Vienna | Weld | Wilton

Board of Directors Board Meeting Agenda - Minutes

Members present: Greg Kimber, Gerald Libby, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Dina Spenciner (6:38 arrival), Kyle Fletcher (6:38 arrival), Scott Erb (arrived at 6:48)

Members absent: Katie Martikke

Student members present: Brielle Tinker, Addie Collelo, Julian Reynolds

Student members absent: Rowan Shanti

Staff members present: Chris Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other staff members present: Richard Joseph, Carol Kiesman, Cynthia Bernstein, Mike Hanson, Joel Smith, Galen Dalrymple, Keith Acedo, Mary Redmond-Luce, Nichole Goodspeed, Anita Stevens

DATE: December 10, 2024

PLACE: Mt. Blue Campus Forum

TIME: 6:30pm

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

- I. **Call to Order** - Chair Robinson
 - A. The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

 - II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

 - IV. **Report of the Chairperson** - Chair Robinson
 - A. [Code of Ethics](#)
 1. P & Q
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V. Communications

- A. Superintendent's Newsletter - [11/15/2024](#)
- B. [Academy Hill School Class and AMVETS Partnership Earn National Recognition](#)
 - 1. Article from the Sun Journal
- C. Staff Members of the Month for October
 - 1. Elizabeth Tracy, Ed Tech III at CCHS-Support Staff Member of the Month
 - 2. Gracie Libby, CCHS & CBS, Music Teacher-Professional Staff Member of the Month

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. MBHS-A great start to winter athletics and excellent music concerts
- B. Cell Phone Committee-Some members visited Morse High School; they use Yondr pouches. It was a very informative visit.
- C. A shout out to all district staff and students involved in the Chester Greenwood Day celebration!
- D. The superintendent had a wonderful visit at MBC with lots of positive student interactions.

VII. Public Comment

- A. Will Jones shared that he has tendered his letter of resignation with appreciation for the support and the new learning. He also expressed appreciation for district and school administration, staff members for their commitment to students in RSU #9.
- B. There was a question about public comment and board member responses. We have a protocol in place to respond at a later time.
- C. Sub-committees have been added to the website.

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 12-10-2024
- C. RSU 9 Transportation expectations and consequence adjustments
 - 1. This item was reviewed as a current priority related to safety.
- D. 74% of Schools had Trouble Filling Teacher Vacancies this School Year | K-12
- E. How Technology and Loneliness are Interlinked
 - 1. This was reviewed as a current concern for student well-being
- F. 2024-2025 National School Foods Study - Summary & Expectations

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Adult Education](#) - Director Mary Redmond-Luce

1. Highlights

- Collaboration with CMCC
- Since the newsletter, one student completed the HiSet and one student earned their Adult Ed Diploma!

B. [Transportation](#) - Director Richard Joseph

1. Highlights

- Shout out to drivers and all staff regarding safe driving as the winter begins.
- Chester Greenwood Parade
- Stuff the Bus
- Thanks to schools for all they did during bus driver appreciation week.

X. Presentations

A. Connectivity Grant - Mary Redmond-Luce

1. Review answers to board questions

- Mary reviewed a new PowerPoint presentation with streamlined information.
- Potential for lease revenue-\$247,000 per year to start
- DOL, Career Center and DHHS have looked at the space that is available.
- Currently, a large percentage is leased.
- They are investigating solar panels and expanding heat pumps as well.
- If the Board chooses to go forward and taxpayers support the purchase, the district office would be responsible for making future determinations about the property.
- Do we have capacity at the district office level? If it moves forward, we will do everything that we can within our current staffing.
- No matter where the building lands, we will need to support the programming, much as we are now.
- We are considering adding programs for FCTEC and so the Adult Ed buildings could be used by MBC and FCTEC.
- Potential revenue for leasing-might some be accessed to fund increased staff expectations related to the addition of the building?
- We would also reduce the Adult Ed cost to our 10 towns if revenue from leasing is as expected.

- There was a concern shared that new information is presented at each meeting.
 - (1) F/T job to oversee the leasing.
 - (2) Why aren't we leasing?
 - Budget concerns were shared
 - (1) That since we need to reduce we can't continue to add; we can't have it both ways. It was noted that one board member would support it in a minute if another agency were to be overseeing it. Why are we the ones providing support for the services? We need to give this a lot of thought.
 - If the project goes belly up and we have to sell the building, the federal government has a formula to determine what would need to be paid back to them.
 - Purchase of the building-allows for us to expand in the future; which could benefit the district in the future.
 - Meets community needs and makes our district better; we are in the best position to oversee this. Shout out to Mary.
2. [144 High Street Inspection](#)
 3. [Healthy Community Coalition Letter](#)
 4. [Community Resource Center - Visual](#)
 5. [Q/A for MCA-Infrastructure Grant](#)
 6. Discussion/Questions
 7. Motion-Move the project forward to the voters to approve-WK and SE
 - Speaking in favor
 - (1) Mary has done an incredible job. Adults in FC deserve the services that AE can provide.
 - (2) Superintendent would guide that (What?)GK's question
 - (3) Building in AE
 - (4) Conversation for the Operations Committee to consider. Admin portable for AE behind MBC.
 - Commercial real estate management-be prepared for what you might find. Will look forward hearing what voters have to say.
 - Vote 882/84/0-Gloria McGraw no.

B. Snow Day Practice Review - Elkington

1. [Article](#)

2. Previous use
 - Chris shared a memo directed to the board. He does not believe in remote school learning for a snow day; there are inequalities with mix-connectivity, food insecurity, parental support etc.
3. Discussion about Remote Learning
 - The value is not the same as in person.
 - Kids should experience snow days now and again as they can help with mental health.

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [11-12-2024](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 1. Operations Committee - [11-19-2024](#), [12-3-2024](#)
 2. Personnel & Finance - [11-19-2024](#), [12-3-2024](#)
 3. Educational Policy - [11-19-2024](#), [12-3-2024](#)

<p><i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.</i></p>	<p><i>Yeas:</i> Greg Kimber, Gerald Libby, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Dina Spenciner, Kyle Fletcher, Scott Erb <i>Nays:</i> <i>Abstain:</i> <i>Student Yeas:</i> Brielle Tinker, Addie Collelo, Julian Reynolds <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i> 966/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Scott Erb</i> <i>Second: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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XII. New Business

- A. First Ten Grant review & update - CCHS Coordinator Anita Stevens and Principal Carol Kiesman
 1. Anita Stevens (First Ten Coordinator) reviewed the handout that was distributed.
 - PreK Bridge with K and the school is a focus area.
 - Foster family partnerships
 - Collaborate with Adult Ed
 - The Community Resource list is in development.
 - K teachers plan to join PK spring conferences with the students to assist with the transition.

- Transportation initiative-Neighbors Drive Neighbors
- 511 frequency
- This type of work is in alignment with the Navigator model that was supported by the state a couple of decades ago. The more help that we provide to families supports our students.
- Partnerships for books and clothing support
- Our other schools have some systems in place to fill these needs.
- Keep up the good work!

B. Overnight Field Trip (MBHS/Music)

1. [Franklin County Fiddlers to Downeast Music Dance Festival](#)

- Review
- Discussion/questions

(1) Application

(a) Who are the chaperones? MBC Principal Smith will make sure we have the names sent to the Board.

- Motion
- Vote

<p><i>Motion to approve the field trip as presented.</i></p>	<p><i>Yeas:</i> Greg Kimber, Gerald Libby, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Dina Spenciner, Kyle Fletcher, Scott Erb <i>Nays:</i> <i>Abstain:</i> <i>Student Yeas:</i> Brielle Tinker, Addie Collelo, Julian Reynolds <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i> 966/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>

XIII. Executive Session

A. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - Sabbatical

- *Motion to go into* Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - Sabbatical
- Motion
- Vote

<p><i>Motion to go into executive session to discuss sabbatical at 7:47 pm.</i></p>	<p><i>Yeas:</i> Greg Kimber, Gerald Libby, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Dina Spenciner, Kyle Fletcher, Scott Erb <i>Nays:</i> <i>Abstain:</i> <i>Student Yeas:</i> Brielle Tinker, Addie Collelo, Julian Reynolds <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i> 966/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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Came out of executive session at 7:57.

- Action?

<p><i>Motion to approve the sabbatical as presented.</i></p>	<p><i>Yeas:</i> Greg Kimber, Gerald Libby, Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Dina Spenciner, Kyle Fletcher, Scott Erb <i>Nays:</i> <i>Abstain:</i> <i>Student Yeas:</i> <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i> 966/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Scott Erb</i> <i>Second: Wayne Kinney</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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XIV. Adjourned without objection at 7:58.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

- January 14, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
 - *Board Reports - AHS, GDSCS, CCHS*
- January 28, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
 - *Board Reports - WGMS, CBS, MBMS*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Operations - January 7, 2025 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, Mt. Blue Campus
- Personnel & Finance - January 7, 2025, 2024 - 6:00pm - The Holman House, Mt. Blue Campus
- Educational Policy - January 7, 2025, 2024 - 7:00pm - The Holman House, Mt. Blue Campus