

Mt. Blue Regional School District - RSU 9



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: December 9 December 16, 2025

PLACE: The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

TIME: 6:30pm

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

Board Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner

Board Members Absent: Gloria McGraw, Scott Erb

Student Reps Present:

Student Reps Absent: Reed Cousineau, Brynne Fournier, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Cyndi Pratt, Mary Redmond-Luce, Kevin Bremner, Richard Joseph, Cynthia Bernstein, Mike Hanson, Galen Dalrymple, Joel Smith, Nichole Goodspeed, Carol Kiesman, Stacey Gilbert

I. Call to Order - Chair Gwen Doak

A. Meeting called to order at 6:34.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Moment of Silence

A. In remembrance of Director Griffin Mayhew

1. Prior to the moment of silence, Superintendent Elkington read a letter that was sent to Griffin Mayhew's family.

IV. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. Bus safety letter crafted for families will be added to Richard Joseph's transportation report.

V. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Doak

- A. [BCA - Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
 - 1. "P & Q"

VI. Communications

- A. Superintendent's Newsletter - [12.9.2025](#)
- B. [Letter of Support UMF RAISE Initiative](#)
 - 1. In support of AI learning and collaboration.
- C. [HUB 4 award](#)
- D. Staff Persons of the Month
 - 1. September
 - a. Professional Staff Member-Courtney Fish, Math Teacher at Mt. Blue Middle School
 - b. Support Staff Member-Anne Marie Cornelio-PreK Ed Tech at Cushing School
 - 2. October
 - a. Professional Staff Member-Olivia Brown, 5th grade teacher at Cascade Brook School
 - b. Support Staff Member-David Cardinale, Food Service Specialist at Cascade Brook School

VII. Good News Stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. FCTEC-Chester Greenwood Parade-27 students, four different programs, Monopoly Board-lots of fun and cold!
- B. International Student Program students were invited to Mallett School to present to second grade students this week. It went so well, they will return for other grade levels in the new year.
- C. Staff members of the month will receive a certificate and their choice of RSU #9 mug. A designated Board Member (Deb Smith) will present their certificate to them at their school. The staff member will go to the District Office with the included letter to choose/pick up their mug.
- D. RSU #9 District Office participated in the Chester Greenwood Parade by giving out cookies and hot chocolate; kudos to all RSU #9 floats!
- E. Titcomb Mountain recently dedicated their new T-Bar (replacing 75 year old T-bar). It is safer and more reliable than the old one and will support our ski teams. Mt. Blue alums contributed to the fundraising.
- F. Many thanks to all those involved in supporting Debbie Smith after her accident last week.

VIII. Public Comment

A. None

IX. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Christian Elkington

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 12-16-2025
- C. Services for Director Griffin Mayhew
- D. Do Public Schools Matter
- E. Snap Portal Announcement

X. Administrator Reports

A. Adult Education - Director Mary Redmond-Luce

- 1. Mary Redmond-Luce reviewed the highlights included in the report.
 - a. Question about being at capacity
 - i. Mary shared that they don't run waiting lists, that they are busy but currently have staffing to accommodate.

B. Athletics - AD Cyndi Pratt

- 1. Cyndi Pratt reviewed the highlights included in the report.
- 2. Two more sportsmanship awards were received for this fall!!!!
- 3. Unified Basketball schedule will be updated.

C. Technology - Director Kevin Bremner

- 1. Kevin Bremner reviewed the highlights included in the report.
 - a. Isaac Libby has been a wonderful protege for Naomi Doughty as she transitions to retirement. We are fortunate that Naomi will stay on as a consultant beyond retirement.

D. Transportation - Director Richard Joseph

- 1. Richard Joseph reviewed the highlights included in the report.
 - a. Thanks to support staff members for all that they do.
 - b. Candyland float won first place!
 - c. Superintendent Elkington shared a letter that will be sent to families and staff and another that was sent to bus garage staff by Richard Joseph. These are both related to the two recent bus tragedies in our state.
 - d. Is there adequate time in between runs? Yes, it all runs according to the scheduled plan.
 - e. Do we have student safety data related to bus operation? We should communicate all positives and protocols to our community (video, checklist, etc.). We excel in in-district training and participating in state training. All in the department are involved.
 - f. Complaint process-what is it?

- i. Office assistants take complaints and relay the information to Director Joseph. He then does an investigation, in part by using camera footage. As necessary, they make the corrections, reminders, extra training as quickly as possible. If there are multiple complaints or some sense of urgency, the concern is addressed by the superintendent. With GPS on every single bus, it allows for real time oversight.

E. Special Services - Director Cynthia Bernstein

- 1. Cynthia Bernstein and Mike Hanson reviewed the highlights included in the report.
 - a. Child care providers have been excited to be partnering with RSU #9 on CDS services going forward.
 - b. Resource Room transfer numbers were high this year, and we have been able to accommodate.
 - c. We have been contracting with outside agencies to fill open Ed Tech positions. The cost is about 25% more, but filling the positions is vital.

XI. Presentations

- A. None

XII. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [11/18/2025](#)
- 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>Yea: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nay: Abstain: Rich Ruhlin Student Yea: Student Nay: Student Abstain: 709/0/50</p>	<p>Motion: Lance Harvell Second: Patty Hastings Motion: Passed</p>
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XIII. New Business

A. FY27 Budget Discussion

1. Baseline #s to consider
 - a. Projected salaries and insurance (10%)
 - i. Increase of 1.3 million covering these two items.
 - b. Balance forward
 - i. Almost 5 million dollars due to not using any balance forward in the 24-25 budget and reimbursement for special education services being higher.
2. Board Member thoughts
 - a. Areas of:
 - i. Focus
 - ii. Concern
 - b. May need to move 1/18 as the first Budget Committee Meeting date.
 - c. Will we be able to compress the schedule?
 - i. We will not extend the schedule; we will just move the meetings.
 - d. A projected 1.3 million increase represents 2% increase to the budget.
 - e. There are concerns about Title I and Local Entitlement funding for FY27. This totals about \$2 million currently.
 - f. No consideration for current spending freeze given our present balances. We could do so as directed by the board if concerned about funding going forward. There will be a review at the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting in January.

B. Donation to the scholarship fund being started in memory of Griffin Mayhew

1. Superintendent's Proposal
 - a. The Mayhew family is starting a scholarship in his honor.
 - b. There was a suggestion to put \$250 towards the scholarship.
 - c. Rich Ruhlin made a motion for \$500.
2. Discussion
 - Motion/Vote

<p><i>Motion to approve the donation of \$500.</i></p>	<p>Yea: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nay: Abstain: Student Yea:</p>	<p><i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed</i></p>
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	<p>Student Nays: Student Abstain: 759/0/0</p>	
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C. [Policy Work](#) - Policy Folders

1. Required Per New State Law (first of two readings)
 - a. [EBBD - Temperature Standards for Schools](#)
 - i. Info Docs
 - (a) [#1](#)
 - (b) [#2](#)
 - (c) [#3](#)
 - ii. Review
 - (a) First of two readings.
 - iii. Discussion/Questions?
 - (a) The upper limit is 84 degrees, how did they land there? Based on outer limits of suggested standards.
 - (b) Southern Maine districts developed a scale of 40-100; as there are no national standards.
 - (c) We can move students to different locations as necessary. We will be proactive as temps rise or drop.
 - (d) Can we do some tracking over time for classrooms with concerns?
 - (e) Involve Tech Department to track known hot rooms. Is this possible?
 - (f) Academy Hill School has high temp issues.
 - (g) Next September is the implementation date.
 - (h) We also belong to a state system where air quality issues are shared by email with Superintendent Elkington and that are forwarded to building leaders if a concern arises.
 - (i) We are always looking at systems, and we respond when issues arise.

XIV. 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.

<i>Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Labor Contract Negotiations</i>	Yea: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yea: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 759/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed
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Entered Executive Session at 8:04.

Exited Executive Session at 8:21.

- B. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - For the purpose of discussing Duties of Officials/Employees
 - Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - For the purpose of discussing Duties of Officials/Employees

<i>Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Duties of Officials/Employees</i>	Yea: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yea: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 759/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed
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Entered Executive Session at 8:22.

Exited Executive Session at 8:38.

<i>Motion to extend the meeting until 8:50</i>	Yea: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yea: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 759/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Patty Hastings Motion: Passed
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<i>Motion to go back into Executive Session to discuss Duties of Officials/Employees</i>	Yea: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed
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	<p><i>Nays:</i> <i>Abstain:</i> <i>Student Yeas:</i> <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i> 759/0/0</p>	
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Exited Executive Session at 8:50.

XV. Adjourned without objection at 8:50.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

Board Reports - AHS, GDGS, CCHS

- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - CBS, MBMS, WGMS*
 - *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

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

- *Board Reports - School Nutrition, McKinney Vento/FESS*
 - *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *Tiered Schools?*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS - No December Meetings

Operations - January 6, 2026 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Personnel & Finance - January 6, 2026, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Educational Policy - January 6, 2026, - 7:00pm - 8:15pm - The Holman House, District Office