

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: February 10, 2026

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, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner

Board Members Absent: Patty Hastings

Student Reps Present: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Brynne Fournier

Student Reps Absent: Rowan Shanti

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Andy Hutchins, Cynthia Bernstein, Galen Dalrymple, Carol Kiesman, Anita Stevens, Kevin Bremner, Joel Smith, Lisa Dalrymple

I. Call to Order - Chair Gwen Doak

- A. Meeting called to order at 6:30

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

- A. None

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Doak

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

- 1. "E & F"

- 2. Booster Liaison

- a. New appointment

- a. Amanda Caruso has agreed to serve
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V. Communications

- A. [Letter to the Editor](#) - Superintendent Elkington
- B. [Superintendent's Letter to Families & Staff](#)
- C. Staff Persons of the Month
 - 1. Professional
 - a. December-Nicole Walton, Math Interventionist, WGM
 - b. January-Maria Watson, Nurse, CCHS
 - 2. Support/Other
 - a. December- Laura Hoefft, Ed Tech III, MBMS
 - b. January-Xiaofang Clark, Bus Driver

VI. Good News Stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. Staff of the month award presentations went well last month!
- B. Regina Savage (FTC) is one of several RSU 9 teachers who have been nominated for Franklin County Teacher of the Year. Others include Kirsten Brann (MBMS), Cameron McAllister (CBS), Leigh Welch (MBMS), Leah Stevens (CBS), and Jamie LaBrecque (Leo) from AHS!
CONGRATULATIONS!
- C. MBC-No cell phones policy has a nice feel. The food services team is amazing!
- D. MBHS/MBC-International Student Program-Students took a field trip to the Maine Mall and Mariners game with 40 in attendance. The wrestling state meet is on Saturday. The boys' basketball playoff game is at 4PM on Saturday. The Cheer Team won the sportsmanship award! Nordic and alpine state meets are coming up. There was a safe response at MBC to the fire with a corrective action plan now in place.
- E. With the Farmington Rec building under construction, they are grateful to have use of our buildings. Our young students are excited to be playing in their future high school gymnasium!

VII. Public Comment

- A. Policy [BEDH: Public Participation At Board Meetings](#)
 - 1. None

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
 - 1. The five support staff separations are immediate (2 weeks notice given) and three professional separations are end of year. We will

be filling the Maine Care billing position with a contracted service for the rest of the year at a similar cost.

- B. Openings as of 01/27/2026
- C. RSU 9 Administrative Review No findings Final Letter
- D. Daily Bulldog - We are excited that Franklin Adult Education is offering workforce trainings
- E. The 26-27 Budget Process is in full swing

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [School Nutrition](#) - Director, Chef Andy Hutchins
 - 1. Director Hutchins reviewed the highlights of his report.
 - 2. Are there any changes from the federal government? Nothing concrete yet from the FDA that impacts schools.
 - 3. Did any threatened cuts become reality? Nothing impacting school nutrition at this time.
 - 4. Menu software-Menu Freedom seems a good match after some research of other platforms. On the user end, families will be able to see all nutritional info by the meal. We need to ensure that the data is accurate based on what we serve. It will assist with the big picture with School Nutrition. What is required with the regs is complex!

X. Presentations

- A. [Cohort 3 Update](#) - Director Bernstein
 - 1. RSU 9 Special Services/CDS 4 year olds
 - 2. Review
 - a. Director Bernstein reviewed the overview with a shout out to Cheryl Webster, Special Services Coordinator, for her work on this transition. The funds received will be an allocation based on a state formula for all districts in the state and not a dollar for dollar amount based on our final costs. This means we may or may not brake even with taking on these services per the state mandate and law.
 - 3. Discussion/Questions?
 - a. None
 - 4. Next Steps

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.

- B. Board Minutes - [1/27/2026](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - [2.3.2026](#)
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - [2.3.2026](#)
 - 3. Educational Policy - [2.3.2026](#)
- Motion/Vote

<p><i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Brynne Fournier</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>927/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Scott Erb</i> <i>Second: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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XII. New Business

- A. CCHS Grant Applications - Principal Kiesman and Anita Stevens
 - 1. [Community School Grant](#) and [Fisher Charitable Foundation Grant](#)
 - a. [Community School Grant through MDOE - Summary](#)
 - b. Review
 - c. Discussion/Questions?
 - a. What accounts for the increase in need for this program? Families are requiring before and after school care due to their work schedules and trying to make ends meet. Is there a demographic change that has accounted for this? No, not really, the program is free of charge and families are happy to access this program. 25 students (all we can take) currently attend based on staffing. There is a wait list.
 - b. The grant is designed to be at zero at the end of the program with no carryover funds.
 - c. Likelihood and timeline? Fairly high and within a week after submitting. The state is investigating back up plans to sustain funding for the rest of this year.
 - d. Improved attendance due to before and after school care? Yes!

e. Plans for 21C grant? Moving forward on it will be based on other grant determinations.

- Motion/Vote

<p><i>Motion to approve the Community School Grant and Fisher Charitable Foundation Grant as presented.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Brynne Fournier Student Nays: Student Abstain: 927/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Josh Robbins Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed</i></p>
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B. [Dual Diploma Proposal](#) - Joel Smith/Dr. Dalrymple

1. Review

- Dr. Dalrymple reviewed the proposal. Monique Poulin and Joel Smith added a few details.

2. Discussion/Questions

- Homeland Security questions-we have to certify with Homeland Security and the State Department-they review our files and visit our school; they are involved and in support of our work. Certification for continued programming is every two years. New requirement-no issues to date and we remind students about expectations constantly.
- Host families-We have a dorm room option at UMF as well as host families; our host families are vetted.
- If they write something on social media, can it be a concern? We keep an eye out and make sure students and their families understand the need for zero problems on it.
- Language expertise-Tepeyac is a dual language school-students are fluent in two (or three) languages.
- Tuition-Lisa shared details on the history of ISP. Superintendent Elkington clarified that funds go into an account, and we have set a threshold in order to know that we can maintain the structure. It will also depend on what model we move forward with.

- Motion/Vote

<p><i>Motion to approve the Dual Diploma Proposal as presented.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Brynne Fournier Student Nays: Student Abstain: 927/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Scott Erb Second: Angie LeClair Motion: Passed</i></p>
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C. Field Trips

1. [Nordic State Ski Meet](#) and [Alpine State Ski Meet](#)
 - a. Review
 - b. Discussion/Questions
 - i. Alpine housing-insurance issues? We are covered.
 - Motion/Vote

<p><i>Motion to approve the Field Trips as presented.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Brynne Fournier Student Nays: Student Abstain: 927/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Wayne Kinney Second: Josh Robbins Motion: Passed</i></p>
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D. [Policy Work](#) -

1. Revisions (one reading)
 - a. [DO- Draft Rev Trust-Funds](#)
 - b. Discussion/Questions
 - Motion/Vote?

<p><i>Motion to approve the Policy as presented.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain:</p>	<p><i>Motion: Wayne Kinney Second: Scott Erb Motion: Passed</i></p>
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	Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Brynne Fournier Student Nays: Student Abstain: 927/0/0	
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2. Brand New (First of two readings)
 - a. [DIA DRAFT NEW Fund Balance](#)
 - b. [GBCC Draft Employee Use of Cell Phones](#)
 - c. Discussion/Questions
 - a. Cell phone-If a person is using their cellphone in a potentially illegal manner we refer the concern to law enforcement, this happens anyway-concern of inappropriate use, it would already go there.
3. Eliminate (one reading)
 - a. [GA-Personnel-Goals-Priority-Objectives](#)
 - b. [IC Length of School Year](#)
 - c. [IHAE-Physical-Education](#)
 - d. [IIB-Class-Size](#)
 - e. Discussion/Questions
 - Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to eliminate the above 4 policies as presented.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Julian Reynolds, Brynne Fournier Student Nays: Student Abstain: 927/0/0	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed</i>
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XIII. Other

A. Budget Committee Update

1. Review/Questions

- a. We are currently reviewing the presentations and proposals. There are lots of ideas to consider and cost concerns to be resolved. There will need to be reductions. Our goal is to

present a responsible budget that will be supportive of the district and supported by the voters.

XIV. Adjourned without objection at 7:45.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

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*
 - *Proposed FY27 Budget*

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

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

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS -

Operations - March 3, 2026 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Personnel & Finance - March 3, 2026, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Educational Policy - March 3, - 7:00pm - 8:15pm - The Holman House, District Office

NEXT SCHEDULED BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Thursday, March 5, 2026 - 6:00pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

Monday, March 9, 2026 - 6:00pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus