

Mt. Blue Regional School District

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA - Minutes

DATE: February 13, 2024

PLACE: The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

TIME: 6:30pm

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

In attendance: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Janice David, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson

Student reps present: Abbey Goodspeed, Addie Collelo, Brielle Tinker

Absent: Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw

Staff present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other staff present: Carol Kiesman, Nichole Goodspeed, Joel Smith, Greg Henderson, Todd Demmons, Melissa Williams, Rich Wilde, Doug Hodum, Melanie Prescott, Regina Savage

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

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Robinson

A. [Code of Ethics](#) - B

V. Communications

A. Staff Members of the Month for December and January

1. December-Congratulations to Bev Vollrath-Finance Manager/Office Coordinator at MBC and to Reilly Romanoski-Grade 6 Science Teacher at MBMS!

2. January-Congratulations to Nathan Reeve-Maintenance in RSU #9 and Nicole Lesperance-Technology Integrator in RSU #9!

B. RSU 9 Superintendent's Newsletter - [2-2-2024](#)

C. [Tech Talk Newsletter](#) - February 2024

D. [Why Adult Education?](#) - Franklin County Adult Ed. Trifold Brochure

E. Feedback from the Boosters regarding Artificial Turf and Fundraising - Rich Ruhlin

1. Thanks to the Boosters for their time and commitment to our student athletes.
2. Educational experiences in our district consist of more than academics, with athletics and other extracurriculars working to support student development.
3. The Boosters are disappointed in the lack of clarity that they have been given, which has led to an impasse in talking to potential donors. They have ceased all fundraising efforts for the moment and may seek to be compensated for what has been expended to date.
4. The meeting was positive and collaborative, but their efforts are currently on hold.

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. The Eagle has landed at AHS!
- B. Autumn Hensley won a state CTE Business Academy competition and will be traveling to Florida to compete.
- C. FCTEC sent program students and staff to CCHS on Monday to work with students. It was well received. Trips to other schools will be
- D. MBHS-Student of the Quarter Recognition-40 students were recognized; first Unified Basketball Game was tonight - please attend in the future; winter athletes continue to dominate; Colin Logan won the states and headed to Chicago for a Debate championship.
- E. Blue Crew Robotics competition will be broadcast on Channel 11-Out of the Blue-airing this Saturday.
- F. CTE month-Many activities and celebrations are taking place at FCTEC.
- G. Hosting nordic championships at Titcomb
- H. The Middle School FAST Team dominated their nordic races today.
- I. Regina Savage was recognized for teacher excellence by being named an Outstanding Educator, Microsoft Certified Educator!

VII. Public Comment

- A. None

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Executive Session Requirements pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(4)
 1. We are in compliance.
- C. SCA Review Letter
 1. We passed with flying colors.
- D. Changes for CDS Services
 1. Maine is one of two states not currently responsible for specialized services for three and four year olds. By the fall of 2026 these students will be under the oversight of each school district. We will be working on crafting procedures, and we continue to await some of the details from the state.

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. None

X. Presentations

- A. None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
B. Board Minutes [1-23-2024](#)
C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 1. Operations Committee - [2-6-2024](#)
 2. Personnel & Finance - [2-6-2024](#)
 3. Educational Policy - [2-6-2024](#)
D. Motion

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Janice David, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson Nays: Abstained: Vote:882/0/0	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed
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XII. New Business

- A. Trip Approvals
1. [Senior Trip Approval](#) -
 - a) Review/Questions/Discussion
 - (1) Advisor Prescott explained info
 - b) Motion
 - c) Vote
 2. [ECTEC Business Academy Trip](#)
 - a) Review/Questions/Discussion
 - (1) Teacher Savage explained info
 - b) Motion
 - c) Vote
 3. [Blue Crew Trip](#)
 - a) Review/Questions/Discussion
 - (1) Advisor Wilde explained coming events
 - (2) This will be streamed by MBTV.
 - b) Motion
 - c) Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Senior Trip as presented</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Janice David, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson Nays: Abstained: Vote:Vote:882/0/0	Motion: Libby Kaut Seconded: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed
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<i>Motion to approve the Business Academy Trip as presented</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Janice David, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson Nays: Abstained: Vote:882/0/0	Motion: Debbie Smith Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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<i>Motion to approve the Blue Crew Trip as presented</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Janice David, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson Nays: Abstained: Vote:882/0/0	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Will Jones Motion: Passed
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B. Plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

1. [ARP Reminder](#)
 - a) We are required to review the most recent updated version, which is captured in the link below.
2. Review [Grant Award Notification/Completed Application](#)
 - a) Our most recent updated version is on the district website.
 - b) ESSER Grant Adjustments
 - (1) Are also explained on the website

C. Transportation Purchases

1. Review

- a) Need for?
 - (1) We had our spare van damaged in an accident. The spare was being used full-time so it needs to immediately be replaced and we need a spare.
 - (2) Director Joseph looked around several dealerships and found one new and one used vehicle. Purchasing both will fit our needs.
- 2. [Rowe Ford & Central Maine Motors documents](#)
- 3. [RSU 9 Mt. Blue RSD Lease Proposal](#)
 - a) A rate under 6% and paying it over 5 years will reduce the expense to the budget. The \$ from insurance will help pay for some of the first year lease costs.
- 4. Review/Questions
- 5. Motion
- 6. Vote

<i>Motion to approve as presented</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso,, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson Nays: Janice David Abstained: Vote:798/84/0	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed
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D. 24-25 Budget Parameters

- 1. [RSU 9 Strategic Plan](#)
- 2. Where does the Board want the focus to be?
 - a) Portrait of a Grad focus-how we get there? Looking for aspirational but attainable goals for our students.
- 3. Discussion
 - a) What are the intentions?
 - (1) Asking for priorities from board members to include fiscal guidelines or focus areas.
 - (2) Difficult for some Board members to weigh in due to lack of details on potential budget increases.
 - (3) Board members do not have context in order to weigh in. It is helpful to have the numbers and ideas in a proposed budget in order to prioritize as a board.
 - (4) Given that there are things over which we don't have control, it is nice to know what is put forth and then make determinations.
 - (5) Educational excellence overall is the goal at the cost of not adding new programs.
 - (6) A focus on great staff is a priority.
 - (7) What are the items that we do have control over?

- (a) We will need to take a close look at them.
- (8) Superintendent shared:
 - (a) Last year's budget started at around 9% and we landed on 5.17%, which was approved by our voters.
 - (b) It is challenging to put together a budget that is too high and then have to pull back many of the hopes school admin may have.
 - (c) It could be a challenging budget for FY25 given built in costs. We are at 3.5% increase with the built in costs for salaries, benefits, and state funding.
 - (d) Special Education costs continue to rise, although we are seeking other revenue sources.
 - (e) It is important to note that each town is impacted differently by an overall budget increase.

E. Policy Review

- 1. Basic Changes/Updates (One reading)
 - a) [ADAA](#) Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior
 - b) [IHBGA](#) Homeschooling - Participation in School Programs
 - c) [IKE](#) Graduation Requirements
 - d) [JLDBG](#) Reintegration of Students from Juvenile Correction Facilities
 - (1) Ed Policy Committee Chair Doak reviewed the above.
 - e) Motion to approve all

<i>Motion to approve all as written</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Janice David, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson Nays: Abstained: Vote:882/0/0	Motion: Debbie Smith Seconded: Amanda Caruso Motion: Passed
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- 2. Brand New / Major Changes / Updates (**Second** reading)
 - a) [JLCC Communicable Diseases](#)
 - (1) Questions?
 - (2) Suggested changes?
 - b) [JHB Truancy](#)
 - (1) Questions?
 - (a) Why is there an Attendance Coordinator need?
 - (i) State law expectations.

- (ii) Superintendent chooses someone to fill this role.

(2) Suggested changes?

(a) None

<i>Motion to approve as presented</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Janice David, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson Nays: Abstained: Vote:882/0/0	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed
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3. Brand New (First Reading)

a) [IKFB](#) Differentiated Diploma Pathway

(1) Superintendent explained:

- (a) This is a replacement for the State of Maine High School Diploma that was put forth during the pandemic, which will sunset.
- (b) That alternatives for students and families in difficulty must be planned for as conditions for each student and family are different.
- (c) A plan such as this will enable students to get across the finish line when grave difficulty gets in their way. The adjusted diploma will still expect effort and follow-through on the student's part and could help reduce students who see no path forward and decide to drop out.

(2) Questions?

(a) None

(3) Suggested changes?

(a) None

b) [IKFB - E1](#) Differentiated Diploma Program- Graduation Plan

(1) Questions?

(a) None

(2) Suggested changes?

(a) None

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

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

A. Motion

B. Vote

<i>Motion to go into executive session at 7:41 pm</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney, Jeff Barnum,	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Josh Robbins Motion: Passed
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	Amanda Caruso, Janice David, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson Nays: Abstained: Vote:882/0/0	
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- Out at 8:02 pm

XIV. Adjourned without objection at 8:03 pm.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

February 27, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - Adult Ed, WGM

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

- Board Reports - Special Services

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - March 5, 2024 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Personnel & Finance - March 5, 2024 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Educational Policy - March 5, 2024 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus