

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 27, 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, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw

Student reps present: Brielle Tinker

Absent: Rich Ruhlin, Abbey Goodspeed, Addie Colello

Staff present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other staff present: Joel Smith, Tracy Williams, Mary Redmond-Luce, Keith Acedo, Galen Dalrymple, Regina Savage, James Black

I. Call to Order - Chair Robinson

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:32.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. None

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Robinson

A. [Code of Ethics](#) - E & G

V. Communications

A. RSU 9 Superintendent's Newsletter - [2-16-24](#)

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

A. The Franklin County Children's Task Force event at MBC was a success. It is estimated that there were 900 in attendance.

B. There was an acknowledgement of the passing of Meridith Minear, a long time employee of the district. She was a great mentor and friend, and several of her family members were and are employees of RSU #9.

C. MBHS - There is a new mural donated by the Class of 2024 in the gymnasium. The Nordic Teams won the state championships and the sportsmanship awards!

D. Library Tour - Barb Marshall, teacher at CBS, has collaborated with local libraries (in her role on the Board of the Farmington Public Library). The libraries

(Spenciner Curriculum Materials Center, the Mantor Library and the Farmington Public Library) will offer a PD opportunity for RSU #9 staff members to tour our local libraries to investigate resources for themselves and students.

VII. Public Comment

- A. None

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Situational Awareness
- C. Is Too Much Screen Time, Too Early, Hindering Reading Comprehension?
 - 1. We received a literacy grant for \$155,000. We will begin with an audit by an outside consultant to include classroom visits in all schools as well as a survey.
- D. More kids are living with their grandparents. Can safety net policy keep up?
 - 1. Superintendent Elkington believes that the number in RSU #9 is double the national average, somewhere between 15-20%. That we need to be mindful and collaborate with all family members in support of students, as well as be aware of the tensions within families with multiple shared-responsibilities.
- E. Future Changes to our District's Business Software
 - 1. This will be expensive but is required. We will budget for it. This transition will take place in 2026, Jan - Dec.

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Mallett](#) - T. Williams
 - 1. There are many positive parent events taking place with an active PTA at Mallett.
 - 2. Teachers work closely with students to encourage leadership. The weekly news broadcast is a wonderful example of this. There are plans to grow this opportunity.
- B. [Franklin County Adult Ed.](#) - M. Redmond-Luce
 - 1. A Board Member shared that it was wonderful to read the personal success stories.
 - 2. Sabine Klein is off to a great start in her new role.
 - 3. Digital Literacy is a focus for the program and has grown exponentially of late. This is supported by a grant through Connectivity Maine at 100%. It ends at the end of 2024. We will seek to cover this in the local budget for the second half of the 24-25 school year as our educator Paul Haberstroh is working well in differing communities..
 - 4. There are eleven Adult Ed. Graduates so far this year!
 - 5. We have lost some of our Adult Ed funding this year amd we are taking another look at this and are in contact with the state.

X. Presentations

- A. None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [2-13-2024](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - None
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - None
 - 3. Educational Policy - None
- D. Motion
- E. Vote

<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, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw Student Yeas: Brielle Tinker Nays: Abstained: Vote:951/0/0	Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed
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XII. New Business

Before New Business started:

- Carol Coles who was not present at the 2/23/24 Board Meeting offered up her input with regards to support of the structure of a needs based budget but also encouraged leaders to talk about wants as well.
- There was a request for clarification on the reserve accounts, which include Technology, Maintenance, Fuel and Special Education.

A. Trip Approvals

- 1. [FBLA State Convention Trip](#)
 - a) Review/Discussion
 - (1) Seven students and one chaperone
 - (2) Competitions in many areas
 - (3) Workshops with professionals from around the state
 - b) Motion
 - c) Vote

<i>Motion to approve the consent 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, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Carol	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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	Coles, Gloria McGraw Student Yeas: Brielle Tinker Nays: Abstained: Vote:951/0/0	
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B. Review of Plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

1. [Plan](#)
 - a) Review of general guidelines; no new changes from the CDC although we are always watching for them.
2. Review/Questions?
 - a) None

C. Policy Review

1. Brand New (Second Reading)
 - a) [IKFB](#) Differentiated Diploma Pathway
 - (1) Questions?
 - (2) Suggested changes?
 - b) [IKFB - E1](#) Differentiated Diploma Program- Graduation Plan
 - (1) Questions?
 - (2) Suggested changes?
 - c) Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve both 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, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw Student Yeas: Brielle Tinker Nays: Abstained: Vote:951/0/0	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed
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XIII. Adjourn

- A. Adjourn without objection at 7:10

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

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

- Board Reports - Special Services

March 26, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - MBHS Athletics, School Nutrition

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