

# Educational Policy Committee

## Agenda Minutes

February 6, 2024

7:00 - 8:15 pm

The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

### COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

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Members: Gwen Doak, Amanda Caruso, Kyle Fletcher, Debbie Smith, Will Jones (arrived at 7:14)

Other Board Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Greg Kimber (for technology presentation)

Staff: Monique Poulin, Christian Elkington

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bremner, James Black, Katie Duchesne, Mary Redmond-Luce, Doug Hodum, Joel Smith

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#### 1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair Doak

- a. Meeting was called to order at 7:06

#### 2. Previous Committee Minutes [1-2-2024](#)

- a. Questions?
  - i. None

#### 3. [24-25 & beyond Student-Staff Tech Upgrades](#) - Kevin Bremner

- a. Kevin reviewed the slideshow noting options for the RSU #9 Tech Upgrade (laptops, hybrid, iPads). There are varied financial implications with each model and few curriculum implications. iPads and laptops have similar capabilities. We want to stay Apple because of all of the software support and quality of machines. The two biggest concerns
  - i. We need to have a direction and plan moving forward as we can't keep discussing what the plan is for next year based on possible funding as it wastes time, energy, and is not a systemic, long-term solution.
- b. Next steps
  - i. The presentation was for informational purposes for both committees.
  - ii. A recommendation will be made as part of the budget process. If we save \$150,000, it can equal two staff members.
- c. Questions/Comments
  - i. What is being used beyond high school?
    - 1. This varies in the workforce.
    - 2. What about capabilities?
      - a. There was much follow up and a very lively discussion on these two points with varied opinions.
    - 3. Will there be a concern with staff and students if we go totally iPad?
      - a. Students will adapt.
      - b. Staff would have both devices and extra training support until the following refresh in the transition.

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4. What will happen K-5?
  - a. Allocations will stay the same. K-4 is 2 students:1iPad.  
Those devices have been purchased and are not leased.

### 4. Updates

- a. [Nutrition Grant](#) - Elkington
  - i. Approved to keep moving forward with the grant.
  - ii. Not sure what we will do if we are approved as there are varied considerations for proper implementation.
- b. BARR Funding - Poulin
  - i. The state is now able to fully fund coaching for year 2.
  - ii. Feedback and some initial data is positive with the work completed so far this year.
  - iii. We got in at a perfect time to receive the second year of funding as the state is not funding new schools in 2024-2025

### 5. Presentations:

- a. Math (MBMS) - Black/Duchesne
  - i. Textbook change
    1. Why?
      - a. MBMS has not had a consistent resource for math for many years and has had quite a bit of turnover in staff so the purchase of a highly research-based text was important.
      - b. They started reviewing resources and collaborated with MBHS/MBC on the selection of a resource. Reveal Math will allow for consistency in programming, delivery, and is aligned to CCSS. Teachers are more easily able to differentiate for all students.
    2. 1st semester progress
      - a. Teachers feel that they are on track with pacing. It has been user friendly with many ready to use resources.

### 6. Grants

- a. [Connectivity Hub - Franklin](#) - Director Mary Redmond-Luce
  - i. Review
    1. This is a grant connected to the funding of a building.
    2. The intention is to find a place that is more accessible with multi-faceted outcomes to include workforce development, Adult Education and telemedicine. Having all resources in a central location is at the foundation of the request.
    3. Digital literacy is vital to our community, and our county has recently increased access but needs some training. This project will assist with that goal.
    4. The feedback from Board Members was incredibly strong.
    5. As an aside, a move would free up space for MBHS and FCTEC.

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6. We will know by May, 2024 if the grant is funded. We would need to move into the building by August, 2026.
    - ii. Approval
      1. All were in favor of Director Redmond-Luce moving forward with the grant 5-0.
  - b. RFA - First Ten Community Grant - Poulin
    - i. [Application](#)
      - a. The application focuses on CCHS as an extension of the Community Schools grant.
      - b. There will be three years of funding.
      - c. A position will be funded to look at the opportunities to expand what we now do.
      - d. This would be an opportunity to expand our knowledge base and build capacity both at CCHS and within RSU 9
    2. Review
      - a. Long term costs
        - i. In year 2 we might look to fully fund by reducing another district position
      - b. We hope to learn from the process and potentially consider expanding to other schools.
    3. Questions?
  - ii. Approval
    1. All were in favor of moving the grant forward 5-0
- c. Educator Workforce Shortages Credentialing Support Grant - Poulin
  - i. Review
    1. The intent is to support Maine educators currently teaching with an emergency, conditional and/or waived certifications to meet the requirements for a professional learning credential. We applied for the funds allocated to us for \$92,000 to be spent on courses from 7/1/23-8/30/24.
  - ii. Questions?
  - iii. Approval
    1. All were in favor of moving the grant forward 5-0.

## 7. Policy Work - Elkington

- a. [23-24 Monthly Index - policies assigned by month.docx](#)
- b. Policy Folders
  - i. Review (or no meaningful changes)
    1. [BBAB to BBBAA](#) Student Representation on the Board of Directors
      - a. All were in favor of moving forward with changes.
  - ii. Basic Updates and Changes
    1. [ADAA](#) Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior
      - a. Discussion/Questions?
      - b. Next steps?

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2. [IHBGA](#) HOMESCHOOLING - PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS
    - a. Discussion/Questions?
      - i. How are homeschooled families held accountable if they do not meet the expectations? It is very difficult for the district to assess accountability.
      - ii. The superintendent is working on communications to send to families to best relay all that RSU #9 can offer.
      - iii. Homeschooled students can access available courses, as well as extra-curricular activities.
    - b. Next steps?
  3. [IKF](#) Graduation Requirements
    - a. Discussion/Questions?
    - b. Next steps?
  4. These three policies will go before the board at the next meeting for review and approval with one reading. All were in support.
- iii. Brand New
1. [IKFB](#) Differentiated Diploma Pathway
    - a. Discussion/Questions?
      - i. This is designed for students requiring an alternative pathway to graduation.
      - ii. There was feedback to add that teachers would be able to make the referral as well. This will be added to the final draft.
      - iii. It would be helpful to have clarification on the panel membership.
      - iv. The referenced link needs to be added as well.
    - b. Next steps?
  2. [IKFB - E1](#) Differentiated Diploma Program- Graduation Plan
    - a. Discussion/Questions?
    - b. Next steps?
      1. This policy and form are brand new and will go before the board at the next meeting for review and approval with two readings. All were in support of this to include the suggested edits.

**8. Next Mtg.** March 5, 2023

**9. Adjourned** at 8:30.

### **10. Future Agenda Items -**

- Presentations:
  - March
    - Curriculum Cycle Plan
    - SEL
  - April

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- Literacy/Phonics
- 24-25
  - Mystery Science
- Volunteer Hour expectations for school boards
- Building Use Discussion
  - [KF](#) Community Use of School Facilities
  - [KF-R1](#) Community Use of School Facilities
  - [Facilities Use Brochure](#)
- Grant Updates:
  - Transitions & Goals
    - Community Schools
    - ESEA
    - ESSER
    - Special Ed.
    - BARR
    - Other?