

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: March 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, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner

Board Members Absent:

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

Student Reps Absent: Rowan Shanti

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Mary Redmond-Luce, Cyndi Pratt, Amanda Clark, Stacey Gilbert, Joel Smith

- 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. "I & J"

 - V. **Communications**
 - A. [Superintendent's Newsletter - 3/2/2026](#)
 - B. [Wilton Meadow Brook Bridge Memo from MDOT](#)
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- C. [Governor's Commission on School Construction Issues Final Report](#)
- D. Staff Members of the Month - February
 - 1. Professional Staff-Jan Rackliff-FCTEC-Career Exploration Instructor
 - 2. Support Staff-Kirk Libby-MBC-Lead Custodian

VI. Good News Stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. WGM-160 8th graders visited the school last week and read together. Such a wonderful experience for all involved!
- B. MBHS/MBC-Climate workshop day was held last week with a focus on employment opportunities and challenges facing the future. Theater-Students performed at the One Act Festival. Rowan Shanti and Margaret Bremner were recognized for their performances.
- C. Our district had two opportunities for colleague classroom visits last week-the Rural THRIVE Foundations Spring 2026 Retreat organized by UMF for new to the field educators and the second session of RSU #9 Instructional Rounds in alignment with our strategic plan.

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
- B. Openings as of 3/10/2026
- C. 2025-2026 Maine School Age Immunization Assessment Survey
 - 1. Do we have a large number of students who have plans in place?
 - a. We are happy to share that we only have a few.
- D. Support for UMF Grant Opportunity - Mathematics
- E. Maine Appropriations & Financial Affair- RSU 9 3.2.2026
 - 1. Superintendent Elkington also briefly reviewed some of the details and potential impacts of the suggested adjustments to the state funding formula.
 - a. Changes would not take effect for this funding year.
 - b. There are two MSBA meetings (3/18 and 3/26) for input on the bill.
 - c. It will be a priority to collect economically disadvantaged data due to its impact on the formula. It will be a focus area going forward.

F. New ADHD Research Findings

IX. Administrator Reports

A. [Adult Education](#) - Director Mary Redmond-Luce

1. Mary reviewed the highlights of the report.
2. Is Adult Basic Education at capacity? There is always room for one more, and we never turn anyone away. We need to meet them where they are at the moment.
3. Mary reviewed the numbers noted in the report-204 actively enrolled with 17 at the Franklin County Correctional Facility.
4. Workforce development is a priority.

B. [Athletics](#) - Director Cyndi Pratt

1. Cyndi reviewed the highlights of the report.
2. Girls Wrestling-state champs!
3. New sportsmanship banners - Were earned by Boys' Alpine, our Cheer Team, and Boys' Nordic.

C. [McKinney Vento/FESS](#) - Family Engagement Coordinator Amanda Clark

1. Amanda reviewed the highlights of the report and the specific definition of "unaccompanied youth."
2. The CEFAM grant and an associated action plan are being used to increase family engagement and address chronic absenteeism at CBS.
3. Counseling support is currently being expanded by accessing interns.
4. Kristen Wroble from the Farmington Food Pantry continues to be a wonderful partner for the program.
5. The program has established excellent partnerships with CMP and local oil companies to provide direct support to families.
6. Maintaining consistency between schools and support services remains a top priority.
7. Future data will include attendance and absenteeism to track the results of current efforts, although causal data is difficult to isolate.
8. Amanda's outreach to families often succeeds even when school-level efforts have failed.

X. Presentations

- A. None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [2/24/2026](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - [3/3/2026](#)
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - [3/3/2026](#)
 - 3. Educational Policy - [3/3/2026](#)
- 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, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Julian Reynolds, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 1001/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Angie LeClair Second: Scott Erb Motion: Passed</i></p>
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XII. New Business

- A. [26/27 Draft Academic Calendar](#)
 - 1. EAC suggested changes
 - a. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the suggested adjustments to the calendar. Long weekend for Labor Day and two weeks at the December break. Suggested by and supported by the EAC (and staff survey?)
 - b. Motion to accept as proposed-Scott and Lance; all in favor except Katie Martikke opposed;

<p><i>Motion to approve Draft #2 of the 26/27 Academic Calendar as proposed.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Katie Martikke Abstain: Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Julian Reynolds, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 966/35/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Scott Erb Second: Lance Harvell Motion: Passed</i></p>
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B. Strong & Kingfield possible HS Tuition Agreement

1. Sue Pratt, Chair of the Strong Withdrawal Committee, outlined the town's intent to navigate the state-mandated 22-step withdrawal process.
2. Secondary enrollment is projected to decline significantly, moving from the current 59 students to 47 within five years, and eventually down to 21 students.
3. The proposed model involves running a K-8 school while providing school choice at the secondary level. The primary goal is "saving the Strong School" rather than reducing costs.
4. To move forward, the committee requires board minutes containing the specific language of the resolution; the plan cannot be submitted to the state without this documentation.
5. Following state review and potential modifications, the plan must go to a public vote. To pass, the turnout must meet a threshold of 50% of the number of voters who cast ballots in the last gubernatorial election.
6. The committee aims to maintain MSAD #58 as an option for families while adding further choices to meet diverse needs. Currently, 20 of the 59 secondary students attend FCTEC. Families will eventually be asked to formally declare their school of choice.
7. Muffy Witham (Kingfield representative) shared previously that they are considering a similar structure but was not in attendance.
8. Passing a resolution at this stage signifies a commitment to the process but does not finalize the withdrawal; a separate vote would still be required to approve the specific tuition plan.
9. Is the Board willing to sign an agreement to take high school students from the towns of Strong and Kingfield if their towns vote to leave MSAD 58?
 - a. Discussion
 - i. Possible Resolution:
 - (a) "RSU 9 will accept secondary students, who reside in the communities of Strong or Kingfield as part of a Strong or Kingfield SAU creation from the withdrawal of Strong or Kingfield from MSAD 58. Student acceptance would follow the creation of a 10 Year Tuition Agreement

between RSU 9 and the Strong and/or Kingfield SAU".

10. Vote

<i>Motion to approve resolution as read.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 1001/0/0	<i>Motion: Scott Erb Second: Lance Harvell Motion: Passed</i>
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C. FY 27 Budget Committee Updates

1. Review

- a. Draft #s & Articles
- b. [3-6-2026 Staff Budget Memo](#)
- c. Draft Town #s

2. Discussion/Questions?

- a. [3-12-2026 Budget Committee Agenda](#)
 - i. The Budget Committee produced a fair proposal by balancing a declining student population and retiree attrition to remain fiscally responsible to member towns.
 - ii. The development process was transparent and disciplined; while not every request could be funded, the result is a passable budget that sits below the CPI and supports the RSU 9 strategic plan.
 - iii. Operations will prioritize immediate repair and maintenance to avoid the long-term costs of deferred upkeep.
 - iv. The fund balance will be applied strategically to prevent a future "funding cliff" while maintaining current stability.
 - v. Staff reductions were limited to mostly retiree positions while working to not overwhelm the remaining workforce.
 - vi. Elementary class sizes remain consistent with last year and stay below state mandates, consistent with

Maine and Vermont having the lowest student to teacher ratios in the nation.

- vii. Public outreach is needed to clarify that property valuations are not set by RSU 9, helping to correct common misconceptions about the tax base.

3. Next Steps

- a. Need to set up a 1hr Board Budget Workshop meeting next week
 - i. A Doodle will be set up to schedule a board workshop next week to go through the budget and to answer board member questions.

D. [Policy Work](#) -

1. Brand New (first of two readings)

- a. [JJIB draft public charter school students participation in activities](#)
- b. [JJIB-E1 Public Charter-School-Student-Application-for-Participation](#)
- c. [JJIB-E2 Public Charter-School-Student-Application-to-Participate-in](#)
- d. [JJIB-E3-Public Charter-School-Verification-of-Eligibility-to-Part](#)
- e. [JJIB-E4-Public Charter-School-Student-Verification-of-Eligibility](#)
- f. These follow the same expectations as our private school applications
- g. Discussion/Questions
 - i. Only language change to RSU 9/

2. Replacement (first of two readings)

- a. [IHBK DNR Draft replacement](#)
 - i. There were concerns around clarity of the old policy.
 - ii. The MSMA provided new language.
 - iii. This is the policy that Nurses and our school physician are recommending.
- b. Discussion/Questions
 - i. Please feel free to reach out to Gwen, Chris or Wayne.

XIII. Adjourned without objection at 7:45.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

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

- *Board Reports - Special Services, Technology, Transportation*
 - *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *Proposed FY27 Budget*

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - AHS, GDCS, CCHS*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

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

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS -

Operations - April 7, 2026 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Personnel & Finance - April 7, 2026, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

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

Budget Meetings & Other Important Budget Dates

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

Budget Committee - Thursday, March 12, 2026 - 6:00pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

Community Forum - Tuesday, March 31, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

Annual Budget Hearing - Tuesday, May 26, 2026 - 7:00pm - Bjorn Auditorium - Mt. Blue Campus

Budget Referendum - Tuesday, June 9, 2026 - Individual Polling Hours and Locations by Town