

Mt. Blue Regional School District



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

227 Main Street, Farmington, ME 04938
(207) 778-6571 | (Fax) 778-4160

Chesterville | Farmington | Industry | New Sharon | New Vineyard | Starks | Temple | Vienna | Weld | Wilton

Public Hearing - Connectivity Hub Grant Ingalls School Purchase Referendum

DATE: March 11, 2025

PLACE: Mt. Blue Campus Forum

TIME: 6:00pm

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

Board of Directors Board Meeting Agenda NOTES

DATE: March 11, 2025

PLACE: Mt. Blue Campus Forum

TIME: 7:00pm

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

Members present: Gerry Provencher, Wayne Kinney, Greg Kimber, Josh Robbins, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw, Lance Harvell, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dee Robinson

Members absent: Katie Martikke, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Dina Spenciner

Student members present: Brielle Tinker, Addie Colello, Julian Reynolds

Student members absent: Rowan Shanti

Staff present: Chris Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other staff members present: Cynthia Bernstein, Mike Hanson, James Black, Kevin Bremner, Andy Hutchins, Joel Smith

I. Call to Order - Chair Robinson

A. Called to order at 7:14.

- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Adjustments to the Agenda**
 - A. None
- IV. **Report of the Chairperson** - Chair Robinson
 - A. [Code of Ethics](#)
 - 1. I & J
- V. **Communications**
 - A. [Wilton Bridge/Road Closure](#)
 - B. Staff Members of the Month
 - 1. January 2025
 - a. Professional Staff
 - (i) Janneke Strickland-School Nurse at Cascade Brook School
 - b. Support Staff
 - (i) Alycia Paige - Ed Tech III at Cape Cod Hill School
- VI. **Good news stories from the Board or Administrators**
 - A. Unified Basketball at MBHS and MBMS -You must go to support the athletes! It is amazing!
 - B. Gratitude to Chris for his presentation tonight.
 - C. Class of 2025 - Students vs. staff game-staff won.
 - D. Mt. Blue High School-Unified sports provides incredible engagement opportunities for all athletes involved. Shout out to Patti Millette and Kerry Schlosser for a successful climate science workshop with many reps in the industry presenting.
 - E. Mali Obomsawin - **Class of 2013 nominated for an OSCAR! WOW!**
 - F. 3/14 workshop-We are putting the final details together for a staff choice workshop on Friday.
- VII. **Public Comment**
 - A. None
- VIII. [Superintendent's Report](#) - Christian Elkington
 - A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
 - B. Openings as of 2-11-2025
 - 1. Is this the same as last year?

- a. We have had more retirees come forward this year than last. The number of openings will continue to grow, we believe. The number ebbs and flows.

C. How Schools Can Fight Growing Ransomware Attacks

D. Maine Learning Technology Learning Initiative - Opt in Agreement

E. Vector Solutions Security Breach

IX. Administrator Reports

A. [School Nutrition](#) - Director Andrew Hutchins

1. Saving \$150 a week buying in bulk.
2. FB posts have been well received.
3. Training has gone well and we are very excited to host culinary skills training again this summer which will take place the first week of August.
4. Last year we received \$8,000-9,000 in extra food assistance to buy from local farmers. The USDA cut the funds for this project. This will be a hit for our program, but we will still do our best to buy local.
5. Harvest of the month-What is a Brassica? Dark green vegetables!
6. Potential cuts to federal funding? Andy is concerned about community eligibility provision rules - allows districts with higher levels of poverty but not the highest to provide meals to all with no annual certification. The complicated system of 25% direct certification may now go to 60% which would put us out of this funding model. With the looming change we will try to get covered for the next 3 yr cycle before the change happens. Universal free school meals at the state level will be fine if the legislature continues the funding, but otherwise, we will have to go back to the annual F/R application which we are hearing will likely need to be verified-request tax returns to approve a family's application. Families are less likely to share that information which will reduce our #s. Per our practice, if that were to happen, we feed all, and we will start incurring debt again.

B. [Technology](#) - Director Kevin Bremner

1. Phone upgrades at CCHS went well. CBS and the bus garage will take place over the April break.
2. PowerSchool breach-no additional info to add to what PS has released. PS has sent out communications to staff and will be sending to families.
3. ERate reimbursement rate-set to 65% last year-based on F/R lunch numbers; back to 70% this year-this is a credit to schools getting back to school (BTS) paperwork in. If we do see the F/R accountability system adjusted, this number will likely reduce along with our reimbursement rate. We use Erate for anything network infrastructure related and for services

that we need to keep it running. This year, we anticipate getting about \$12,000 back.

C. [Special Services](#) - Director Cynthia Bernstein

1. Executive functioning skills-organizing self-this impacts all grades. There are many strategies that help create behavior momentum.
2. Unified sports-You should check out the sportsmanship at these games; everyone has the opportunity to be successful.
3. The Special Ed Advisory Committee met tonight. We are interested in the intersection of special and general education and the positive effects of inclusive practices. Could use two Board Members! May 13 is the next meeting.
4. Staff and student updates-staff openings.
5. Related to the request for info on student transfer data-brought data to share from the last five years.

X. **Presentations**

- A. None

XI. **Consent Agenda**

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [02/25/2025](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
1. Operations Committee - [3.4.25](#)
 2. Personnel & Finance - [3.4.25](#)
 3. Educational Policy - [3.4.25](#)
- D. Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Kyle Fletcher, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith Nays: Abstain: Rich Ruhlin Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Julian Reynolds, Brielle Tinker Student Nays: Student Abstain: 748/0/50	<i>Motion: Wayne Kinney Second: Josh Robbins Motion: Passed</i>
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XII. **New Business**

- A. FY26 Budget Update

1. Met last night and determined that we would move the budget forward to be reviewed by the Board. 0.54% to budget overall and 1.28% average to

communities - with a high of 4% to one town and a low of -10% to another. Range based on valuations. This budget has some positions moving along with reductions in positions in all areas.

B. 25/26 Academic Calendar

1. [Option 1](#) - 12 Day Holiday Break
2. [Option 2](#) - 16 Day Holiday Break
 - a. Chris reviewed the options. Administrators were in favor of option 1 and staff was in favor of option 2.
3. Discussion/Questions?
 - a. For some of our kids that is a long time to be away from school, meals, and connections.
 - b. Staff wonder about the usefulness of coming back for a day and a ½.
 - c. Student focus before Christmas break parallel to the student focus concerns in June.
4. Vote at next meeting

C. Policy Work

1. Minor Revisions (one reading only)
 - a. [BEDA Notification of Board Meetings](#)
 - b. [BEDF Voting Method](#)
 - c. [BEDG Minutes](#)
 - d. [DNA Capital Assets/Other Assets](#)
 - e. [IA Instructional Goals and Objectives](#)
 - f. Discussion/Questions?
 - (1) IA-not brand new; in alignment with Journey of a Learner and our strategic plan. Our Ed Leadership Teams weighed in.
 - (2) BEDF
 - (a) Weighted votes-Are they delineated elsewhere? Apportionment formula will be shared. Changing this is complicated.

g. Motion/Vote

<p><i>Motion to approve the Policy Revisions as presented in a-e above.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Kyle Fletcher, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Julian Reynolds, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>798/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Wayne Kinney</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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2. Replacements (first of two readings)

- a. [BEDB Agenda](#)
- b. [BEDC Quorum](#)
- c. [BEDD Rules of Order](#)
- d. [IJND School System Website](#)
- e. [IJND-R School Unit Website and Social Media Guidelines](#)
- f. [IJND- E Permission to Publish](#)
- g. Discussion/Questions

(1) BED-Greg will email his concern.

(2) BEDD-last sentence-Procedural rules can be suspended-this can happen at any time-why-if you might need to go outside the process with majority vote-example-if you are having more informal conversations without lights and being called on-can this be-can we change how we vote? You can't change any substantive element.

D. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - Employment of Officials

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

<i>Motion to go into Executive Session for Employment of Officials</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Kyle Fletcher, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Julian Reynolds, Brielle Tinker Student Nays: Student Abstain: 798/0/0	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed</i>
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- Possible action regarding Employment of the Superintendent

<i>Motion to have the Board's negotiators meet with the superintendent with all due haste on a contract.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Kyle Fletcher, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 798/0/0	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Josh Robbins Motion: Passed</i>
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XIII. Adjourned

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

March 25, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *Adult Education, Transportation, Athletics*

April 8, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *AHS, GDCS, CCHS*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - May 6, 2025 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Personnel & Finance - May 6, 2025, 2024 - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Educational Policy - May 6, 2025, 2024 - 7:00pm - The Holman House, District Office