

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

Board of Directors Board Meeting Agenda Minutes

DATE: March 25, 2025

PLACE: Mt. Blue Campus Forum

TIME: 6:30pm

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

Members present: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Kyle Fletcher, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner

Members absent: Rich Ruhlin

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

Student members absent: Rowan Shanti

Staff present: Chris Elkington, Monique Poulin, Alison Gamache

Other staff members present: Tracy Williams, Carol Kiesman, Nichole Goodspeed, Cyndi Pratt, Richard Joseph, Galen Dalrymple, Mary Redmond-Luce

I. Call to Order - Chair Robinson

A. Called to order at 6:30

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. **Communications:** [Norway Savings Bank Loans](#)

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Robinson

A. [Code of Ethics](#)

1. N

V. Communications

A. **Communications:** [Norway Savings Bank Loans](#)

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. Forestry at CCHS-At the conclusion of the project, CCHS students interacted with the instructors and the equipment. A great collaboration!
- B. Congratulations to Galen-the Farmington Town Report was dedicated to him.
- C. Congratulations to all recognized at the FBLA State Conference!
- D. An old Farmington HS Yearbook-Was shared as a gift by Wayne who picked it up at the used bookstore and gave it to Joel Smith as current high school principal.
- E. Band O'Rama was a huge success overall!
- F. 3/14 workshop day-Excellent feedback from a large # of participants! Thanks to the many individuals who presented and those who assisted with all the details.
- G. Our Unified Basketball teams continue to impress-kudos to all involved!

VII. Public Comment

- A. None

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 3-25-2025
- C. What can MTSS look like?
- D. Homework in math and science does matter in high school!
- E. School Nutrition Regulation Changes

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Athletics](#) - Director Cyndi Pratt
 - 1. Nine unified games were played this year, and the season ended with a game between the MBMS and MBHS teams and a celebratory pizza party.
 - 2. Boys and Girls nordic skiing-earned state championship and sportsmanship awards!
 - 3. Girls State Wrestling Championships were held here. It was a wonderful day to showcase a great group of female athletes and our school.
 - 4. Hoping the snow melts quickly for spring sports!
- B. [Transportation](#) - Director Richard Joseph
 - 1. Many thanks to all staff for all they do for the district.
 - 2. We are "community" and are involved in many area events.
 - 3. Over 300 students and staff were transported to Titcomb for the Mallett Winter Fun Day.
 - 4. Second workshop for CPR and First Aid was held on 3/14.
 - 5. MAPT Regionals-will be hosted here again in April.
 - 6. Waste oil furnace-Heats 80% of the bus garage and has for 30 years.

7. Driver retention question- We are down three staff members, two out on medical and we are in the process of hiring a new bus aide; a new driver trainee just took a position, but we are now short a custodian.

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

1. Many thanks for all the support overall with the Connectivity Grant proposal.
2. Maine Stars snapshot-We have 105 students enrolled in academic programming, with 8 additional students at the correctional facility involved in Adult Basic Education programming.
3. Three grants that support specific categories-Maine College and Career Access Grant, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AFLA), Digital Literacy Partnership/Franklin Economic Development Council support our programming.
4. The Board thanked Mary for extraordinary effort on the Ingalls Project. At our next board meeting, we will vote on accepting the numbers. Thanks to those who came out to vote.

X. Presentations

A. [FY 26 RSU 9 Budget Draft Proposal - Elkington/Gamache](#)

1. Program & Position Adjustments
2. Expenditures
3. Revenue
4. Reserve Accounts
5. Budget (Overall & Local #s)
6. Town Assessments

B. Presentation of the draft budget was reviewed by Superintendent Elkington and Director of Finance Gamache.

C. Questions/Comments:

1. ESSER funds-there are no carryover ESSER projects in our FY26 budget.
2. What is the total amount we get from grants?
 - a. 3.2 million for Title, IDEA and ??
3. If we lose \$200,00 or more from federal grants, can we access other funds? Yes, we have a special education reserve account we can access if the voters again agree for the Board to use it if needed.
4. Curriculum question-What do we mean about curriculum? Standards that are in line with our state expectations.
5. The state sets the valuation and not the district. It is based on a three year average; a state assessor comes to each town and asks for properties

sold in the previous year and then uses those figures in their formula to adjust each town's valuation.

6. What is the tuition rate for students who come to RSU 9 from other districts? We use a # that the state determines based on two-year old costs that does not include transportation costs. There are two #s One for K-8 (RSU 9 = \$9,429/State Avg = \$11,446) and one for 9-12 (RSU 9 = \$10,178/State = \$13,3000).
7. MaineCare funds-has there been talk about a reduction? Not at this time.
8. BARR stipends-Do they come from the federal government? No, we pay for them from district funds. The federal government, through ESSER funds, was helping to pay for training.
9. Question about the longevity clause for support staff? This is included in the contract.
10. Resource room teachers-what will that do for caseloads? Definitely still within legal parameters. This will have caseloads in high teens and low to mid twenties. Could look at adjustment in caseload responsibilities depending on overall needs and teacher experience.
11. Do resignations and retirements from now until the end of the year factor into these #s? We would look to fill positions that are needed.
12. No one is losing a job; there will be opportunities for staff whose positions have been reduced to move to an opening if they so choose.
13. We can replace people as necessary with future retirements or resignations.
14. In the past, the grant writer has been successful. Is the reduction her choice? This position invoices (not writes) grants and she is interested in remaining with us next year in a one day a week capacity. She has been immensely helpful to us. Grants are typically written by staff and financially accounted for by our grant support person.
15. There are two reductions not on the list per reduced class #s-K teacher at Mallett and World Language teacher at MBHS/MBG.

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
 - B. Board Minutes - [03/11/2025](#)
 - C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 1. Operations Committee - None
 2. Personnel & Finance - None
 3. Educational Policy - None
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented</i>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Kyle Fletcher, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson,, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain: Gwen Doak</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Julian Reynolds, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>877/0/74</p>	<p><i>Motion: Scott Erb</i> <i>Second: Debbie Smith</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
--	--	---

XII. New Business

A. Robotics Field Trip -

1. New England FIRST District Championship in Springfield, MA
2. Discussion/Questions?
 - a. April 16-20 is the World Championships, and if we qualify next week, we will be presenting a request to the Worlds using fundraising dollars.
- Motion/Vote
 - a. Approve this trip and add second trip pending approval of paperwork by superintendent.

<i>Motion to Approve this trip and add second trip pending approval of paperwork by superintendent.</i>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Kyle Fletcher, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson,, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</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>951/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Wayne Kinney</i> <i>Second: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
---	--	---

B. 25/26 Academic Calendar

1. [Option 1](#) - 12 Day Holiday Break
2. [Option 2](#) - 16 Day Holiday Break
 - a. Superintendent Elkington recommends this option
3. Discussion
 - a. Some Board Members expressed that it was important to go with 16 days to give teachers and students a longer break with time before the Xmas holiday.

- b. The holiday break is expensive, impromptu child care is expensive, adding two days that families need to find childcare could be more difficult than starting June vacation two days early.

● Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Academic Calendar with Option 2 as presented</i>	<p>Yeas: Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson,, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays: Jeff Barnum, Kyle Fletcher, Katie Martikke</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Julian Reynolds, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>836/150/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Wayne Kinney</i> <i>Second: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
---	---	---

C. Policy Work

1. Replacements (2nd of two readings)

a. [BEDB Agenda](#)

- (i) Second to the last paragraph, second to line-A Board member may offer a motion to add an agenda meeting at the meeting.
- (ii) It should say "to add an agenda _item_ at the meeting."
(a) Adjustment has been made.

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](#)

2. Discussion/Questions

● Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Policies as written with change in BEDB.</i>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Kyle Fletcher, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson,, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</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>951/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Wayne Kinney</i> <i>Second: Scott Erb</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
---	--	---

XIII. Adjourned without objection at 8:12

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

April 1, 2025, 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *Community Budget Presentation*

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

- *AHS, GDCS, CCHS*

April 15, 2025 - 6:30pm The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *Special Board Meeting - Signing of Budget Warrants*

April 29, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *WGMS, CBS, MBMS*

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