

Mt. Blue Regional School District - RSU 9



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

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Chesterville | Farmington | Industry | New Sharon | New Vineyard | Starks | Temple | Vienna | Weld |
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Board of Directors Board Meeting Agenda Minutes

DATE: April 14, 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, 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, Reed Cousineau

Student Reps Absent: Rowan Shanti, Julian Reynolds

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin, Alison Gamache

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bremner, Katie Merrill, Carol Kiesman, Keith Acedo, Mike Hanson, Cynthia Bernstein and Stacey Gilbert

- I. **Call to Order** - Chair Gwen Doak
 - 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 Doak

- A. [BCA - Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
 - "M & N"
- B. Resignation of Board Member
 - One Farmington seat now vacant

- a. The Selectboard is meeting tonight to discuss an appointment until next spring. There are currently two applicants.

V. Communications

- A. [Sun Meals 2026 Eligibility Notification](#)
- B. Staff Members of the Month - March 2026
 - Professional
 - a. Cheryl Webster-Special Services Coordinator-District
 - Support/Other
 - a. Michelle Ladd-Ed Tech III-GDC

VI. Good News Stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. Title I Grant awarded for summer programming at the elementary level
- B. Recognition at CBS-Exploravision Winners and also an Honorable Mention Team were celebrated today!

VII. Public Comment

- A. Policy [BEDH: Public Participation At Board Meetings](#)
 - None

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 4/14/2026
- C. Community School Grant
- D. Student Data Collection System Change
 - What data is being collected? The same data that is currently collected; it is just a different platform.

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Academy Hill & GD Cushing School](#) - Principal Keith Acedo
 - Principal Acedo reviewed the highlights of the report.
 - There was a question about fire inspections. The superintendent will follow up and get back to the board.
- B. [Cape Cod Hill School](#) - Principal Carol Kiesman
 - Principal Kiesman reviewed the highlights of the report.
 - There were questions related to the current status of the before- and after-school program. The program is currently capped at 25 students with an active waiting list. While it provides vital

five-day-a-week academic assistance and other activities, staffing remains the primary barrier; officials estimate the program could double in size if more personnel were available. There may also be funding needs.

- There were questions regarding the district response to the increase in student dysregulation. The district has successfully filled four behavior intervention positions—one for each elementary school—to shift from reactive to more preventative support. Each of these staff members are completing 35 hours of intensive training (including Safety Care and BHP certification) and will assist in implementing the BARR program and Regulated Classroom models to minimize disruptions and improve student engagement for the upcoming year. Our hope is to have these four positions filled to start the school year next year!

X. Presentations

- A. None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [3/24/2026](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - Operations Committee - [4/7/2026](#)
 - Personnel & Finance - [4/7/2026](#)
 - Educational Policy - [4/7/2026](#)
- Motion/Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Katie Martikke Seconded: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed</p> |
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XII. New Business

- A. [Professional Staff 2nd year nominations](#)
 - Discussion/Questions?
 - Motion/Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to approve the Professional Staff 2nd year nominations as presented.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: <i>Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</i></p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: <i>Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau</i></p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p><i>917/0/0</i></p> | <p>Motion: Katie Martikke Seconded: Scott Erb Motion: Passed</p> |
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B. [Policy Work](#) -

- None

XIII. Deliberation and Approval of the FY 27 RSU 9 District Budget

A. Suggested budget changes or adjustments from the Board

- 1.5% increase in overall budget; 1.29% to the towns

*A fifteen minute recess was called to recheck numbers. **Back in session at 7:38.**

- Three individual figures were corrected with no change to the bottom line and adjustments were distributed to the Board.
- Article 15 (to set at sum of 1-14)
 - a. First item to vote on for tonight (included in the first motion tonight)
- Board member question- Why are Weld's 2 numbers the same for the appropriated amount and the total raised?
 - a. Answer from Finance Director - It is because Weld is a minimum receiver. It is not a typo.
- Article numbers will be added in.
- Confirmed that the figure is what came out of the Budget Committee.

B. Public Comments

- None

C. Final deliberations/thoughts

- No further comments were made.
- *Motions to approve the 2026-2027 RSU 9 Budget items, as presented, to move forward to the Annual Budget Meeting:*
 - [FY 27 Warrant Article Motions Draft](#) - Reference Doc

Article 15

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| <p><i>Motion to set the 2026-27 Mt. Blue Regional School District budget amount at \$46,229,943.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Wayne Kinney Motion: Passed</p> |
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Article 16

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| <p><i>Motion for the Board to appropriate \$723,868 and raise \$212,875 as the local share for Adult Education.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Wayne Kinney Motion: Passed</p> |
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Article 13 and 14 are included in Article 15.

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| <p><i>Motion to set the Annual budget meeting for Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Bjorn Auditorium at Mt. Blue Campus.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Wayne Kinney Motion: Passed</p> |
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| <p><i>Motion to set the Budget Validation Referendum for Tuesday, June 9, 2026.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> | <p>Motion: Patty Hastings Seconded: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed</p> |
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| | <p>Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 917/0/0</p> | |
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| <p><i>Motion to have open articles at the May 26, 2026 Annual Budget Meeting.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Katie Martikke Seconded: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed</p> |
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Article 17

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| <p><i>Motion to authorize the district to expend state, federal and other aid grants it may receive during the fiscal year provided these funds do not require expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Dina Spenciner Seconded: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed</p> |
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Article 18

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| <p><i>Motion to add an additional article to the Annual Budget Meeting warrant that authorizes the School Board to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Angie LeClair Motion: Passed</p> |
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| <p>2026-2027 fiscal year. Provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget.</p> | | |
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Article 19

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| <p>Motion to add an additional article to the Annual Budget Meeting warrant that authorizes the School Board to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase the allocation of finances in a reserve fund approved by the School Board and/or decrease the local cost share expectation for local property taxpayers for funding public education.</p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Angie LeClair Seconded: Dina Spenciner Motion: Passed</p> |
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Article 20

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| <p>Motion to authorize the School Board to transfer up to \$100,000 to Technology Reserve Fund from available fund balances at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board</p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Angie LeClair Motion: Passed</p> |
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Article 15 was a collective of all articles 1-14.

XIV. Executive Session

- A. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - For the purpose of discussing Labor Contract Negotiations with the Professional Association

- Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - For the purpose of discussing Labor Contract Negotiations with the Professional Association.

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| <p><i>Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - For the purpose of discussing Labor Contract Negotiations with the Professional Association.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Angie LeClair Motion: Passed</p> |
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Exited Executive Session at 8:35.

B. Meeting Extension

- Motion/Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>917/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Angie LeClair Motion: Passed</p> |
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XV. Vote to Call and Approve Warrants - Chairperson Gwendolyn Doak

A. Motion

- *I move that the Vote entitled, "Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Budget Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted," be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.*
 - Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to move the Vote entitled, "Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith,</p> | <p>Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Gloria McGraw Motion: Passed</p> |
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| <p><i>Meeting and the Budget Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted," be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.</i></p> | <p><i>Dina Spenciner</i></p> <p>Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 917/0/0</p> | |
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XVI. Signing of Warrants - Board

- A. Reference - [Policy EHA Electronic Signatures](#)
- B. Board members provided electronic signatures on each town’s warrant and notice of election and the warrant to call.
 - Copies will be made and delivered to municipal offices by the district resident.

XVII. Adjourned

- A. Adjourned without objection at 8:45pm.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

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

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

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - School Nutrition, McKinney Vento/FESS*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

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

- *Annual Budget Meeting*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS -

Operations - May 5, 2026 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office
Personnel & Finance - May 5, 2026, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office
Educational Policy - May 5, - 7:00pm - 8:15pm - The Holman House, District Office

Budget Meetings & Other Important Budget Dates

Annual Budget Meeting - Tuesday, May 26, 2026 - 7:00pm - Bjorn Auditorium - Mt. Blue Campus
Budget Referendum - Tuesday, June 9, 2026 - Individual Polling Hours and Locations by Town