

# Mt. Blue Regional School District



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:** April 29, 2025  
**PLACE:** Mt. Blue Campus Forum  
**TIME:** 6:30pm  
**LIVESTREAM LINK:** <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

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**Board members present:** Dee Robinson, Gwen Doak, Rich Ruhlin, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Debbie Smith, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dina Spenciner, Katie Martikke, Scott Erb, Gerry Provencher

**Board members absent:** Kyle Fletcher, Lance Harvell

**Student board members present:** Brielle Tinker, Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti

**Student board members absent:** Addie Colello

**Staff present:** Chris Elkington, Monique Poulin

**Other staff present:** Tracy Williams, Keith Acedo, Nichole Goodspeed, Carol Kiesman, Joel Smith, Galen Dalrymple, James Black, Katie Duchesne, Cynthia Bernstein, Mike Hanson, Rod Spiller, Anita Stevens, Randelle Dyke

- I. **Call to Order** - Chair Robinson
  - A. Meeting called to order at 6:30

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Adjustments to the Agenda

- A. New Business (added and is in the New Business section of the agenda)
  - 1. [Senior Field Trip](#)
    - 1. Discussion/Questions
      - Motion/Vote

### IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Robinson

- A. [Code of Ethics](#)
  - 1. M

## **V. Communications**

- A. Superintendent's Newsletter - [4/18/2025](#)
- B. Staff Members of the Month - March
  - 1. Professional Staff Member
    - 1. Tyler Hutchinson-Special Education Teacher-Mt. Blue Middle School
  - 2. Support Staff Member-Lori LaPlant-Administrative Assistant-Cushing School
- C. [MLTI Device Purchase Update](#)
  - 1. Awaiting the impact of tariffs is the cause of the delay.

## **VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators**

- A. Debbie Smith-Celebrated the Windham fire truck and staff member of the month award recipients
- B. MBHS-The Canary Islands exchange went well and Maya Kellett was recognized as the Daughters of the American Revolution Award recipient.
- C. FCTEC-Student of the Year Awards Banquet-Piper Casey-Law Enforcement Student
- D. BARR sponsored 5 staff members with scholarships to attend the national conference. Four people presented sessions on BARR's impact in RSU #9.

## **VII. Public Comment**

- A. Carol Coles-Starks Resident

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 4-29-2025
- C. Two new AEDs coming to MBMS
- D. Rural Energy Futures MOU Between MMSA, FCTEC & RSU 9
  - 1. Students will be involved in this project as well.

## **IX. Administrator Reports**

- A. [AHS/GDCS](#) - Principal, Keith Acedo
  - 1. Principal Acedo reviewed some highlights including the Missoula Children's Theater and Math Night at Cushing.
- B. [CBS](#) - Principal, Nichole Goodspeed
  - 1. Dr. Goodspeed reviewed the highlights including a collaboration with FCTEC Digital Media, updated phones, and GATE recognition.

1. Question-Behavior referral numbers-the minor referrals are higher, but not significantly.

C. [WGMS](#) - Principal, Tracy Williams

1. Principal Williams distributed a letter that she sent to families "What Are We Doing About Violence?" which garnered many positive comments about the need for all to help with student behaviors in our schools. She also reviewed the positive supports that are in place for students. She also spoke about Weather in Your School, a Chewonki visit, and an Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by JMG. She also reviewed some attendance information.
2. Question-How do the office referral numbers compare to previous years? They are higher this year. There are some individual students with 30+ referrals.
3. Board members shared appreciation for Tracy's service to our district.
4. Question-Why are the ODRs so low in art and PE? This is due to high engagement and interest.

D. [MBMS](#) - Principal, James Black and Assistant Principal Katie Duchesne

1. Principal Black and Assistant Principal Duchesne reviewed highlights including:
  1. Hiring has gone well for next year.
  2. Music performances went well
  3. Culture priorities-PBIS, schoolwide assemblies, athletics, clubs
  4. Student excitement about testing-The testing culture has shifted to be specific to them as a celebration of growth.
  5. Community connections-
    - (i) Alternative Learning-Food Pantry
    - (ii) Impact-Service Projects
  6. Question-Chronic absenteeism rates-will those be available at the start of the year-similar to last year? These numbers will be reviewed at the first meeting in May for all schools.

**X. Presentations**

A. [Forestry Program CCHS Collaboration](#) - Program Teacher Rodney Spiller & Students, Jesslyn Sillanpaa & Garrett Pierce

1. Rodney Spiller, Eddie Hebert and two Forestry students presented a slideshow on their collaboration with Cape Cod Hill School and the leach field work.

B. Center for Entrepreneurial Studies (CES) - Bonnita Tompkins

1. Presentation

1. Bonnita Tompkins spoke about her experiences developing an internship program as a Business Program teacher at FCTEC. This led her to open the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies. They recently closed on a 6 acre parcel on Whittier Road (Whittier Development) with a plan for an entrepreneurial campus. She is seeking support from RSU #9 to collaborate moving forward.
  2. Superintendent Elkington shared that next steps would be to further investigate this opportunity by sharing requests in writing and for us to look at developing potential partnerships with FCTEC and MBMS CTE programming.
2. Questions
1. What is the timeline, scope of work, and overall budget-8 million, Youthbuild with fall of 2026 or 2027 a possibility
  2. Funding? A variety of funding sources are part of the plan.
  3. There is support from the federal government.
  4. We cannot financially support this project, but we will investigate ways to collaborate with FCTEC.
  5. Current students-where do they attend school? 10-24-some are in RSU #9, homeless, or have dropped out.
  6. When might this come back to the board as a first tier? Will collaborate with Bonita on this-two to three months.

## XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
  - B. Board Minutes - [04/08/2025](#)  
[04/15/2025](#)
  - 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><b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb, Josh Robbins</p> <p><b>Nays:</b></p> <p><b>Abstain:</b></p>	<p><i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i>  <i>Second: Jeff Barnum</i>  <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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	<b>Student Yeas:</b> Brielle Tinker, Rowan Shanti, Julian Reynolds <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 843/0/0	
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## XII. New Business

### A. New Business

#### 1. [Senior Field Trip](#)

##### 1. Discussion/Questions

- (i) Randelle Dyke, Senior Class Advisor reviewed the field trip.
- (ii) How many seniors are there? 183 and 90+are attending.
- (iii) Do students incur any costs? The fundraising covers the vast majority (only two meals not covered).
- (iv) Cost for 8 subs-140 times 8 about \$1200.
- (v) Well done for students being ambitious and for adults working with them!
- (vi) Should be all set with chaperones.

##### ● Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve Senior Field Trip as presented</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb, Josh Robbins  <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> Brielle Tinker, Rowan Shanti, Julian Reynolds <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 843/0/0	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Debbie Smith</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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### B. Second Year / Continuing Contracts for Probationary Teachers

#### 1. Discussion / Questions

- 1. Superintendent Elkington reviewed [the nominations](#) and asked for support of the Board.

##### ● *Motion/Vote to approve Superintendent's & Principal's recommendations*

<i>Motion to approve the</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak,	<i>Motion: Scott Erb</i>
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second year/continuing contracts for probationary teachers as presented.	<p>Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb, Josh Robbins</p> <p><b>Nays:</b>  <b>Abstain:</b>  <b>Student Yeas:</b> Brielle Tinker, Rowan Shanti, Julian Reynolds  <b>Student Nays:</b>  <b>Student Abstain:</b>  843/0/0</p>	<p>Second: Gwen Doak  Motion: Passed</p>
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C. Accept gift of replacement fire truck for FCTC from the Windham Fire Dept

1. [Cover Letter](#)
2. [Fire Chief Memo](#)
3. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the offer and asked for the support of the board.

Motion to the gift of replacement fire truck for FCTEC from the Windham Fire Dept.	<p><b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb, Josh Robbins</p> <p><b>Nays:</b>  <b>Abstain:</b>  <b>Student Yeas:</b> Brielle Tinker, Rowan Shanti, Julian Reynolds  <b>Student Nays:</b>  <b>Student Abstain:</b>  843/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Debbie Smith  Second: Gwen Doak  Motion: Passed</p>
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D. [First 10 Grant - Round 2](#) - Poulin

1. Continue w/2nd year of possible funding
  1. Carol Kiesman and Anita Stevens reviewed the request to extend the First Ten Grant.
  2. This was a planning year and next year would be an implementation year. We hope to grow our community partnerships.
  3. There are summer supports in the mix.
  4. Resource binder is being created for families.

5. The focus areas have been family partnerships, transition to kindergarten activities and joint professional learning with families.

<i>Motion to approve First 10 Grant Round 2.</i>	<p><b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb, Josh Robbins</p> <p><b>Nays:</b>  <b>Abstain:</b>  <b>Student Yeas:</b> Brielle Tinker, Rowan Shanti, Julian Reynolds  <b>Student Nays:</b>  <b>Student Abstain:</b>  843/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Josh Robbins</i>  <i>Second: Wayne Kinney</i>  <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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E. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - Appointment of Officials

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

<i>Motion to go into Executive Session for Appointment of Officials</i>	<p><b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb, Josh Robbins</p> <p><b>Nays:</b>  <b>Abstain:</b>  <b>Student Yeas:</b> Brielle Tinker, Rowan Shanti, Julian Reynolds  <b>Student Nays:</b>  <b>Student Abstain:</b>  843/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i>  <i>Second: Scott Erb</i>  <i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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Exited Executive Session at 8:22.

F. WG Mallett School Principal Nomination

- *Motion to appoint Stacey Gilbert as the Principal of WGMS for the 2025-2026 School Year*

<i>Motion to appoint Stacey</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak,	<i>Motion: Debbie Smith</i>
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<p><i>Gilbert as Principal of WGMS for the 2025-2026 School Year.</i></p>	<p><i>Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb, Josh Robbins</i></p> <p><b>Nays:</b>  <b>Abstain:</b>  <b>Student Yeas:</b>  <b>Student Nays:</b>  <b>Student Abstain:</b>  843/0/0</p>	<p><i>Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed</i></p>
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**XIII.** Adjourned at 8:25.

### **NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

May 13, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *MBHS, FCTEC*

June 12, 2025 (Thursday) - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *School Nutrition, McKinney Vento*

### **ANNUAL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

May 27, 2025 - 7:00pm - Bjorn Auditorium, Mt. Blue Campus

### **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