

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: April 8, 2025
PLACE: Mt. Blue Campus Forum
TIME: 6:30pm
LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

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

Members absent: Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher

Student members present: Addie Colello, Brielle Tinker

Student members absent: Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti

Staff present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin, Alison Gamache

Other staff members present: Carol Kiesman, Kevin Bremner

I. Call to Order - Chair Robinson

A. Meeting was called to order at 6:30.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. None

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Robinson

A. [Code of Ethics](#)

1. K & L

B. Reminders: Phones put on silence & Side Conversations kept to a minimum at Board Meetings

V. Communications

A. Superintendent's Newsletter - [4/3/2025](#)

- B. Staff Members of the Month - February
 - 1. Professional Staff Member
 - a. Kirsten Brann - Social Studies Teacher, MBMS
 - 2. Support Staff Member
 - a. Karri Dwyer - Administrative Assistant, FCTEC
- C. Three Bills under consideration by the legislature
 - 1. [LD 218](#)
 - 2. [LD 607](#)
 - a. Superintendent reviewed information on the proposed legislation.
 - b. We have about 60 superintendent's agreements, with a 60/40 split between those who attend here and those who attend elsewhere.
 - 3. [LD 1400](#)
 - a. Original legislation should have only supported those workers who don't receive vacation and personal days.
- D. LD 577-School Nutrition funding-Public Hearing at 1PM this Thursday to support filling the funding gap. The funding gap for school nutrition programs passed by the legislature this spring would not meet predicted demand.
- E. MSBA-Legislative Day-If anyone is interested in details, please contact R. Ruhlin.

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. None

VII. Public Comment

- A. Kevin Libby-New Sharon-RSU #9 Parent and Taxpayer Petition

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 4-8-2025
- C. MPA approves additional lacrosse player
 - 1. Athlete from Carrabec has joined us.
- D. US Dept of Ed Announcers Reversal of Late Liquidation for ESSER Funds
 - 1. The funds had been approved and now have been denied by the secretary.
- E. Can you say "Deja Vu all over again?"
 - 1. GATE Program-ExploraVision Science Competition sponsored by Toshiba; third grade team has been chosen as the regional winners and another third grade team has received honorable mention.
 - a. Third graders won last year. Two years ago our second graders won.
 - b. GATE programming here is top notch.

- c. Congrats to Katie Martikke's children who have been involved.

IX. Administrator Reports

A. [CCHS](#) - Principal Kiesman

1. Dr. Seuss Day was a highlight!
2. Literacy PD with Consultant Carrie Thurston at CCHS is going well. She is working to individualize the implementation and learning of the adjusted structures at each school. Data from the implementation will be forthcoming.

X. Presentations

A. None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
 - B. Board Minutes - [03/25/2025](#)
 - 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>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb Nays: Abstain: Rich Ruhlin Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker Student Nays: Student Abstain: 846/0/50	<i>Motion: Scott Erb Second: Wayne Kinney Motion: Passed</i>
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XII. New Business

A. Computation and Declaration of Votes from the March 24th Referendum

1. Board to declare Question as Failed - Sign document
2. *Motion that the Computation and Declaration of Votes dated April 8, 2025 and attached hereto be approved.*
3. *Motion to further vote that the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of Regional School Unit No. 9.*

4. *Motion to further vote that a certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to each of the municipal clerks within the RSU.*

<i>Motion to vote on items 2, 3, & 4 as a Block</i>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>896/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Wayne Kinney</i></p> <p><i>Second: Rich Ruhlin</i></p> <p><i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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<i>Motion to approve items 2, 3, & 4 as a Block</i>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>896/0/0</p>	<p><i>Motion: Wayne Kinney</i></p> <p><i>Second: Rich Ruhlin</i></p> <p><i>Motion: Passed</i></p>
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5. Certificate of Secretary (superintendent) - Sign Document
6. Weld's numbers for Ingalls School vote appear not to be correct. They would not change the outcome. If there is an error, we will bring it back to you to revote.

B. Deliberation and Approval of the FY 26 RSU 9 District Budget

1. Suggested budget changes or adjustments from the Board
 - a. None
2. Public Comments
 - a. None
3. Final deliberations/thoughts
 - a. Have there been any changes in the increases or decreases in any article from document on 4/1?
 - b. Insurance came in at 8.9% which is 2% higher than we had hoped. The District Office went through the budget again and we have

located funds from interest yielding accounts that will cover the 2% that was not budgeted for the health insurance increase.

- c. Tonight's handout-overall budget-no changes; therefore, shares of each town remain the same.
- d. Fund balance forward is 3.1% percent currently, but we will know best based on the audit, not to exceed 5%.
- e. Teacher Evaluation Program-Why has the figure increased?
 - (i) This was due to an increase in a new employee's salary & benefits and the addition of the Teacher Coaches stipends to support new teachers that was left out of the present budget.

- The Board took a 10 minute break without objection to research letter e above.
- Reconvened at 7:16

4. *Motion to approve the 2025-2026 RSU 9 Budget as presented to move forward to the Annual Budget Meeting*

5. [FY 26 Warrant Article Motions Draft](#)

- a. The Budget Committee and the administrative team put a lot of work into the budget. They responded to the direction of the board-to support students and maintain fiscal responsibility.

<p><i>Motion to set the 2025-26 Mt. Blue Regional School District budget amount at \$45,398,396.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>896/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed</p>
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<p><i>Motion for the Board to appropriate \$590,378 and raise \$212,875 as the local share for Adult Education.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>896/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Gloria McGraw Motion: Passed</p>
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<p><i>Motion to set the Annual budget meeting for Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 7:00pm in the Bjorn Auditorium at Mt. Blue Campus.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>896/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Amanda Caruso Motion: Passed</p>
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<p><i>Motion to set the Budget Validation Referendum for Tuesday, June 10, 2025.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>896/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Lance Harvell Seconded: Gloria McGraw Motion: Passed</p>
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<p><i>Motion to have open articles at the May 27, 2025 Annual Budget Meeting.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>896/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Wayne Kinney Motion: Passed</p>
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<p><i>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</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p>	<p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Gloria McGraw Motion: Passed</p>
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approved by the School Board and/or decrease the local cost share expectation for local property taxpayers for funding public education.	896/0/0	
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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 2025-2026 fiscal year. Provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget.	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>896/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</p> <p>Seconded: Wayne Kinney</p> <p>Motion: Passed</p>
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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.	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>896/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</p> <p>Seconded: Dina Spenciner</p> <p>Motion: Passed</p>
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Motion to authorize the School Board to transfer up to \$450,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund from available fund balances at the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and to expend	<p>Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker</p>	<p>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</p> <p>Seconded: Lance Harvell</p> <p>Motion: Passed</p>
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from said Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board?	Student Nays: Student Abstain: 896/0/0	
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Motion to authorize the School Board to transfer up to \$200,000 to Special Ed. Reserve Fund from available fund balances at the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board?	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker Student Nays: Student Abstain: 896/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Katie Martikke Motion: Passed
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Motion to authorize the School Board to transfer up to \$300,000 to Technology Reserve Fund from available technology fund balances at the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board?	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker Student Nays: Student Abstain: 896/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Lance Harvell Motion: Passed
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C. 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 at 7:34pm

Motion to go into Executive Session for employment of Officials.	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner, Scott Erb Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Adeline Colello, Brielle Tinker Student Nays: Student Abstain: 896/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Lance Harvell Motion: Passed
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- Left Executive Session at 8:00 pm

- Possible action regarding Employment of the Superintendent when returning from Executive Session

<i>Motion to approve the superintendent's contract extension.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin <i>Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</i> Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 896/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed
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XIII. Adjourned at 8:04 without objection

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

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, AHS/GDCS*

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

- *MBHS, FCTEC*

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