

Mt. Blue Regional School District



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA MINUTES

DATE: April 9, 2024

PLACE: The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

TIME: School Board Meeting **6:00pm**

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

Board members present: Josh Robbins, Will Jones, Gloria McGraw, Kyle Fletcher, Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Wayne Kinney, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Libby Kaut, Janice David, Debbie Smith, Dee Robinson, Carol Coles

Board members absent: Gwen Doak, Rich Ruhlin

Student board members present: Brielle Tinker, Abbey Goodspeed, Addie Collelo (left at 7:00)

Staff members present: Christian Elkington, Alison Gamache, Monique Poulin

Other staff members present: Andy Hutchins, Richard Joseph, Galen Dalrymple, Melissa Williams, James Black, John Jones, Cindy Pratt, Nichole Goodspeed, Carol Kiesman, Cynthia Bernstein, Todd Demmons, Greg Henderson, Joel Smith, John Logan, Tracy Williams

I. Call to Order - Chair Robinson

A. Meeting called to order at 6:02.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

- None

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Robinson

A. [Code of Ethics](#) - N

V. Communications

A. Janice David submitted a letter of resignation and shared her appreciation for the opportunity and the good work of the board.

B. Staff Members of the Month for February

1. Josephine Bean - Support Staff Member of the Month-CBS

2. Dan Simons-LTS Orchestra - Professional Staff Member of the Month - CBS, CCHS, MBMS

- C. RSU 9 Superintendent's Newsletters - [3-15-24](#) & [3-29-24](#)
- D. Tech Talk - [March 2024](#)

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. Chair Robinson shared that the Grades 5-8 Regional Band performance was incredible and enjoyable.
- B. Cascade Brook School GATE Program was celebrated for being chosen as a state award winner.

VII. Public Comment

- A. A recently transferred to homeschool student spoke about school safety concerns.

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
 - 1. There was a question about reasons for leaving the district, which was addressed by Superintendent Elkington.
- B. No Committee Meetings In May
- C. First Ten Community School Pilot
 - 1. \$125,000 over 2.5 years
 - 2. To support students in the first 10 years of their life partnering with a community organization. This will involve PD and programming. CCHS Staff will be meeting this Thursday with the MDOE for further details.
- D. All Maine Students Get Free Lunch: What does that mean for Poverty Data?
 - 1. What data are we using?
 - a) The state is using direct certification information for Title Grants. This will be used as part of the EPS formula calculation instead of using F/R lunch numbers. Students receiving state and federal assistance will be added to the list going forward.
 - 2. Is there any move to use the cost of housing as a piece of the economically disadvantaged numbers? We do not believe so. There have been conversations with the Maine delegation with regards to school funding as the poverty levels for differing areas around the country can be skewed because of the state's minimum wage level.

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Special Services](#) - John Jones
 - 1. John highlighted a few points

- a) Unified Basketball-the second season was wonderful. Bocce is on the horizon this spring.
- b) Victoria Peterson was awarded a speech and language services award.
- c) John is retiring this year with appreciation to the board for their support.
- d) He will have an advisory meeting prior to his retirement.
- e) 399 students identified and 53 in referral-How does this compare to 5 years ago? A little bit lower, but there is an increase in the severity of need. This number has been relatively consistent over time.

B. [MBHS Athletics](#) - Cynthia Pratt

- 1. Many accomplishments this year, but most proud of how our athletes represented themselves.
- 2. This is the third consecutive year that the nordic boys' and girls' teams won the state championships. This year, they were also the sportsmanship award winners!

C. [School Nutrition](#) - Andy Hutchins

- 1. Highlight-Student volunteering at CCHS culinary program once a week. They will be enrolled in the Culinary Program at FTC next year.
- 2. Culinary Skills training - There will be three week-long workshops around the state this summer, and we were selected to host one. Twenty five people will participate, and we will have four slots.

D. [CBS](#) - Nichole Goodspeed

- 1. Nichole also shared the good news about the GATE students.
- 2. [One Turtle's Lost Straw](#) - won March Madness Book Competition.
- 3. Leadership Teams have been working on culture and collaboration - which has evolved into celebratory monthly assemblies.

E. [FCTEC](#) - Melissa Williams

- 1. Melissa highlighted the awesome adults at MBC and all the collaboration on campus.
- 2. Liz Leclair was invited to speak at a conference in RI for Great Schools Partnership around SEL in CTE classrooms.
- 3. Melissa shared some information regarding the Perkins Grant and thanked those completing the related needs assessment.
- 4. There was a question about the numbers in the report and who was included. Full tech students equal 405; this does not include exploratory students.

F. [Transportation](#) - Richard Joseph

- 1. Shared appreciation for the support staff team he has.

2. Bruce Rollins who is out on leave was well supported by his colleagues a few weeks ago.
3. Zonar props - This is the device that prompts safety checks around the bus before and after each trip, including a student check at the end.
4. Little blue dots - Allows the Bus Garage to track speed checks, student stops, and give excellent tracking in real time.
5. Question - Do we have the second longest bus routes of any district in the state? Likely, 45 minutes is the average.

X. Presentations

A. [Proposed draft FY 24 Budget](#)

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

Superintendent Elkington reviewed the presentation and the specific details noted on each slide.

- All funding sources
- All cost centers

[Updated Requests](#) document.

- Several requests have been added to the local budget.
- Several other requests have been added using balance forward funds, some for long term commitments and some for one year additions.

The [FY25 Balance Forward Use](#), [the FY25-27 Balance Forward Plan](#), the Projected Revenue Sheet and the Proposed Town Assessments.

Questions/Comments:

- Grades 3-5 CCHS - The budget adds one position.
- “This budget is well crafted and not inflated; it is making a long-term commitment to our students when they first enter Public School to give them the best base for future success that we can. If it does not pass, concerns were shared about where cuts might land. It is not inflated and there is no excess to cut.”
- It was noted that there was a request to administrators for needs and then wants. The budget reflects a good balance of this.
- “The budget was presented in a clearer fashion than in the past, which was appreciated.”
- “This budget considers a lot of varied needs across the district for students, staff and families.”

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [3-12-24](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - [4-2-24](#)
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - [4-2-24](#)
 - 3. Educational Policy - [4-2-24](#)
- D. Motion
- E. Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Josh Robbins, Will Jones, Gloria McGraw, Kyle Fletcher, Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Wayne Kinney, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Libby Kaut, Janice David, Debbie Smith, Dee Robinson, Carol Coles</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brielle Tinker, Abbey Goodspeed</p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Abstained:</p> <p>Vote: 877/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Scott Erg Seconded: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed</p> |
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XII. New Business

- A. Trip Approvals
 - 1. [Chicago Field Trip](#)
 - a) Review/Discussion
 - (1) Is there a move across the state to increase numbers?
There is slow movement. MBHS/MBC increased numbers from two to five this year and will hold a meet next year.
 - b) Motion
 - c) Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to approve the trip as presented</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Josh Robbins, Will Jones, Gloria McGraw, Kyle Fletcher, Amanda</p> | <p>Motion: Debbie Smith Seconded: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed</p> |
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| | <p>Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Wayne Kinney, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Libby Kaut, Janice David, Debbie Smith, Dee Robinson, Carol Coles</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brielle Tinker, Abbey Goodspeed Nays: Student Nays: Abstained: Vote: 877/0/0</p> | |
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B. [Field/Turf Sub Committee](#)

1. Draft

- a) This was discussed at the Operations Committee meeting.
- b) Discussion: The board was the intended audience for this document. Wanted to get the information down on paper. There was feedback that this document appears premature and that there is a need to further discuss the direction that will be taken. The board reserved the right at the time of the initial vote to determine the direction of next steps for the field and this was further reviewed at another meeting. There was a request to have a committee to review the pros and cons and this document sets that up. Feelings shared was that this committee should start with the pros and cons of the synthetic field, and then report back to the board. The proposed committee includes a variety of individuals representing differing viewpoints. Concern was shared about needing more balance and for outside input from experts. We should also have a public health professional on this committee. We care about student health, and we should consider all potential impacts of a synthetic field.
- c) The board took a vote to move forward with the synthetic field plan, and it passed.
- d) Other Comments:
 - (1) This has been discussed for the past three years. The vote was overwhelmingly in support and is currently frustrating for the Boosters.

- (2) This is a way to move forward. If you read the vision, the committee will investigate the best materials. We can re vote if the information is clear that the health and safety of our students will be impacted.
- (3) There are three basic options - no action, repair what we have, or adopt an artificial surface.
- (4) The proposed committee should look at all options, dig into the science and present all options to the full board.
- (5) This is a large undertaking and so it should be assigned to this committee for efficiency's sake, not the full board.
- (6) There are pros and cons each way. Overall, our board has leaned toward an artificial surface.
- (7) All but one school in our conference uses an artificial surface, and we should dig into the specifics.
- e) There was a concern shared about the safety of artificial turf and a request to have health officials speak, weigh in.
 - (1) It sounds like a done deal, and it should be further researched.
- f) We need to make an informed decision, and there are a few steps to take prior to that decision.
 - (1) Were these concerns raised when putting in the track?
Are there safety concerns there as well?
- g) There was a motion to approve the committee and elect the board members who have currently served. (Wayne Kinney)
- h) There was a suggestion that we should have a committee approved with a different focus, to research the product.
- i) A specific list of health and safety/health research based concerns was shared with the committee. It was also shared that they were not certain we agreed to any particular timeline.
- j) We need to approve a committee to do the research, speak to the experts and bring that information to the full board.
 - (1) Will the committee make decisions on majority rule or consensus? How will they function? That will be decided by the committee.
 - (2) If this will be a majority report, it seems that this is a done deal given the present members on the committee.

- (3) Moving an artificial surface plan forward was decided by a previous vote.
 - (4) We have gone way off track. If we want further discussion or have other members, we can do that.
 - k) The question was called by Gloria McGraw. All were in favor of calling the question except Jeff Barnum and Janice David.
2. Appointment of same
- a) Motion
 - b) Vote

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| <p><i>Motion to approve the establishment of the committee that includes the members noted</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Josh Robbins, Will Jones, Gloria McGraw, Kyle Fletcher, Amanda Caruso, Wayne Kinney, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Libby Kaut, Debbie Smith, Dee Robinson, Carol Coles</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brielle Tinker, Abbey Goodspeed</p> <p>Nays: Janice David and Jeff Barnum</p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Abstained:</p> <p>Vote: 752/125/0</p> | <p>Motion: Wayne Kinney Seconded: Scott Erb Motion: Passed</p> |
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C. [24-25 RSU 9 Calendar Draft](#)

- 1. First Reading
 - a) One extra day before Labor Day for students
 - b) No feedback was received from the Advisory Committee
- 2. Questions
 - a) Questions - Where are the Early Release Days noted. They are color coded. There was a suggestion to have less disruption to student schedules which everyone concedes is a concern. Needed Professional Development takes place on LAW days.
 - b) Regarding this year, our current last day is 6/18. The board voted to not go past 6/21.

D. Policy Review

- 1. Major Updates (Second of 2 Readings)
 - a) **JFABD - MB** Admission of Homeless Students

- (1) Present Policy
 - (a) Policy & procedure are together
- (2) Suggested separation
 - (a) JFABD Admission of Homeless Students
 - (b) J AND-R Admission of Homeless Students
 - Procedure
 - (i) Questions?
 - (ii) Suggested changes?
- (3) Motion
- (4) Vote

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| <i>Motion to approve all as presented</i> | Yeas: Josh Robbins, Will Jones, Gloria McGraw, Kyle Fletcher, Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Wayne Kinney, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Libby Kaut, Janice David, Debbie Smith, Dee Robinson, Carol Coles Student Yeas: Brielle Tinker, Abbey Goodspeed Nays: Student Nays: Abstained: Vote: 877/0/0 | Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed |
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- 2. Brand New (First of 2 Readings)
 - a) KDB Public's Right to know / Freedom of Access
 - (1) Eliminated in 2018
 - (2) Questions?
 - (3) Suggested changes?

- XIII. Extend meeting by 10 minutes
 - A. Motion-Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith-unanimous
- XIV. 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

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| <p><i>Motion to go into executive session for appointment of officials</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Josh Robbins, Will Jones, Gloria McGraw, Kyle Fletcher, Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Wayne Kinney, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Libby Kaut, Janice David, Debbie Smith, Dee Robinson, Carol Coles</p> <p>Student Yeas: Brielle Tinker, Abbey Goodspeed</p> <p>Nays: Student Nays: Abstained: Vote: 877/0/0</p> | <p>Motion: Wayne Kinney Seconded: Josh Robbins Motion: Passed</p> |
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Exited Executive session at 8:39.

XV. Adjourn

A. Without objection at 8:39

Rescheduled Community Budget Forum

****April 11th, 2024 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus****

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

April 23, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - AHS/GDCS, MBMS, Mckinney Vento

April 30th, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

May 14, 2024 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - CCHS, MBHS, WGMS

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - June 4, 2024 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Personnel & Finance - June 4, 2024 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Educational Policy - June 4, 2024 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus