

Mt. Blue Regional School District - RSU 9



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: May 12, 2026

PLACE: The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

TIME: 6:30pm

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

Board Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, 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: Scott Erb

Student Reps Present: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau

Student Reps Absent: Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Nichole Goodspeed, Galen Dalrymple, Joel Smith, James Black, Katie Joseph, Jordan McMullen, Stacey Gilbert, Andy Hutchins, Mary Redmond-Luce, Mike Hanson, Cynthia Bernstein

I. Call to Order - Chair Gwen Doak

A. Meeting was called to order at 6:31.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. None

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Gwen Doak

A. Board Member resignation - announcement

B. [BCA - Board Member Code of Ethics](#)

1. "Q"

V. Communications

- A. [ESEA Grant Allocation for SAUs Now Available](#)
- B. [Final FY27 Budget Newsletter](#)
- C. [Superintendent's Staff Letter](#)

VI. Good News Stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. FCTEC: Ben Waite and Kaitlyn Doucette earned two first-place wins in the Microsoft Suite competition.
- B. MBHS: Hosted a Unified Track meet. Laurel Dingley coached and MBHS won. Debby Muise was honored for 40 years as theater director by alumni. Rowan performed as Jo in the play. Prom was held two weeks ago and went well.
- C. CBS: Received a Disney grant for resources and costumes. It was one of only 200 awarded nationwide. Many MBHS graduates were honored at the UMaine graduation.
- D. MBMS: Clara Ernest placed as a runner-up for the clean water poster contest. The school has tracked 12,000 minutes of outdoor activity since Friday in partnership with HCC and Maine Health.
- E. District: Conducted instructional rounds and engagement focus groups.
- F. School Board: Debbie honored staff members of the month.
- G. General: Celebrated Staff Appreciation Week with support from parents and families. Special thanks to maintenance staff for their work and to the Chesterville Selectboard for inviting the district to present on the budget last Thursday.

VII. Public Comment

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

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 5/12/2026
- C. Meeting with Chesterville Select Board

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [School Nutrition](#) - Director - Chef Andy Hutchins
 - 1. Director Hutchins reviewed report highlights.
 - 2. 2030 Food Waste Law: Awaiting official guidance.
 - 3. Sushi event: Positive student response; considering as a future menu item.

4. Summer program: Planning for June 22–end of July; matches last year's format.

X. Presentations

A. [April 1st Student Count History](#)

1. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the document. Figures are mostly down at MBHS from October to April. We are doing some research into this.
2. We continue to meet as an admin team on this topic.

B. [District Attendance #'s by School](#)

1. Elementary Level Review
 - a. Principals Gilbert (WGM) and Goodspeed (CBS) reviewed their respective documents, while reports from Principals Kiesman and Acedo were rescheduled.
 - b. Barriers to Attendance: Family-related issues and transportation (specifically missed bus rides and a lack of bus drivers) were identified as primary obstacles.
 - c. Data Improvements: The group identified a need to track "transfers to homeschool" that occur after initial attendance outreach.
 - d. Process Clarity: The group reviewed and clarified the existing truancy process.
 - e. Next Steps: The administration agreed that cohort tracking would be a beneficial next step.
2. Middle & HS Level Review
 - a. Principals Black and Smith reviewed their documents, focusing on the following:
 - b. Defining Terms: The team clarified the distinction between Chronic Absenteeism (CA)—defined here as missing two days a week—and truancy (based on excused vs. unexcused status).
 - c. Intervention Efficacy: DHHS-led home visits were noted as having limited impact. The MBHS attendance team's active, proactive, and reactive approach was highlighted, with the BARR program cited as an effective support tool.
 - d. The "Tier 3" Challenge: A significant discussion point was how to provide Tier 3 support for non-attenders without causing them to transfer out of the district or drop out entirely.

- e. Future Planning: Potential solutions included forming a drop-out prevention committee and implementing more collaborative parent meetings.

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [04/28/2026](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - [5/5/2026](#)
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - [5/5/2026](#)
 - 3. Educational Policy - [5/5/2026](#)
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Rich Ruhlin Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 832/0/50	Motion: Angie LeClair Seconded: Amanda Caruso Motion: Passed
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XII. New Business

- A. Appoint new Assistant Director to Foster Tech Center for the 2026-2027 School Year

<i>Motion to appoint Mary Redmond-Luce as the new FTC Assistant Director for the 26/27 school year.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 917/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Patty Hastings Motion: Passed
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- B. Field Trips

1. [FTC Robotics Comp](#)

- a. Review
- b. Discussion/Questions?
 - i. All students are welcome, but there is an hourly commitment (20 hours) in order to participate.
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Field Trip as presented.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 917/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed
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2. [Oxbow Outdoors/Nahmakanta Lake](#)

- a. Review
 - i. Conflicts with awards night; therefore there will be an alternate plan.

3. [FTC Senior Forestry White Water Rafting](#)

- 4. Review
- 5. Discussion/Questions?
 - i. General liability waivers are signed.
 - ii. FCTEC insurance covers the work projects.
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Field Trip as presented.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Gerald Provencher Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 841/0/76	Motion: Patty Hastings Seconded: Katie Martikke Motion: Passed
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C. [Grant Approval](#)

1. FTC Apprenticeship Grant Application review & approval
 - a. Director Dalrymple and Jordan McMullen, Apprentice Navigator, reviewed the grant.

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

1. Minor Revisions (one reading)
 - a. [IHCD Draft Rev. Early College Participation](#)
 - b. [IHCD-R Draft rev early college participation](#)
 - c. [JIC-draft rev Student-Code-of-Conduct](#)
 - d. [JICJ-R Draft Rev Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices at School - Rules](#)
 - e. Review/Questions?
 - i. Ed Policy Chair Kinney reviewed the policies.
 - Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Revisions to the above policies as presented.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 917/0/0	Motion: Wayne Kinney Seconded: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed
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2. Replacement (first of two readings)
 - a. [JICJ-Draft Rev no phones in schools](#)
 - b. Discussion/Questions?
 - i. MSSA-JICJ-potential consequences?
 - ii. We would implement what we already have. Section F-consequences.
3. Eliminations (one reading)
 - a. [JHD Exclusions And Exemptions From Physical Education](#)
 - b. [KB-R-Procedure-for-Parent-Involvement](#)
 - c. Discussion/Questions?
 - Motion/Vote

Motion to eliminate the above policies as presented.	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Rich Ruhlin Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 867/0/50	Motion: Wayne Kinney Seconded: Katie Martikke Motion: Passed
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XIII. Executive Sessions

- A. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - For the purpose of reviewing a Personnel Matter.
 - Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - For the purpose of reviewing a Personnel Matter.

Motion to approve go into Executive Session for Personnel Matter	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Brynne Fournier, Reed Cousineau Student Nays: Student Abstain: 917/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Angie LeClair Motion: Passed
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Entered Executive Session at 8:06.

Exited Executive Session at 8:15.

B. 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.

<i>Motion to into Executive Session for Labor Contract Negotiations discussion</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 917/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Amanda Caruso Motion: Passed
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Entered Executive Session at 8:16.

Exited Executive Session at 8:44.

XIV. Adjourned without objection at 8:44.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

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

- Annual Budget Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - MBHS, FTC, McKinney Vento
- Tentative Presentations or Other Business
 - Certify Budget Referendum Results

Tuesday, June 25, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - Athletics, Adult Education
- Tentative Presentation Schedule

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS -

Operations - June 2, 2026 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Personnel & Finance - June 2, 2026, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Educational Policy - June 2, 2026 - 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