

# 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

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## Board of Directors Board Meeting Agenda Draft Notes

**DATE:** June 12, 2025 (Thursday)  
**PLACE:** Mt. Blue Campus Forum  
**TIME:** 6:30pm  
**LIVESTREAM LINK:** <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

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

**Board members absent:** Katie Martikke, Kyle Fletcher

**Student board members present:**

**Student board members absent:** Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti

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

**Other staff present:** Amanda Clark, Andy Hutchins, Nichole Goodspeed, Cynthia Bernstein, Joel Smith, Galen Dalrymple, Katie Merrill

### I. Call to Order - Chair Robinson

A. Called to order at 6:30

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. Added under "New Business" - Appointment of 2 New Student Representatives

1. Based on Committee's recommendation per policy [BBBAA](#)

a. Per policy [BBBAA](#)

b. Discussion/Questions?

- Motion/Vote

2. Policies

- G1A-It only needs one reading because it already came before us.

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

A. [Code of Ethics](#)

1. P & Q

B. The Board recognized Chris' status as a new grandfather with a gift.

## **V. Communications**

- A. Superintendent's Newsletter - [5/16/2025](#), [6/6/2025](#)
- B. Staff Members of the Month for April
  - 1. Professional
    - a. Stephanie Byrne-BCBA-PALs Program at Mallett and districtwide support
  - 2. Support Staff
    - a. Darrick Bryant-Mechanic-Bus Garage

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

- A. Shout out to the CCHS Seed Club, 7th grade MBMS students and Chris for planting and watering the flowers at the Holman House.
- B. Welcome to new board members-Patricia Hastings (Chesterville) and Griffin Mayhew (Wilton)!
- C. Track and Field at MBMS-pleased that we played the National Anthem.
- D. Kudos to all mechanics and transportation office staff who leave their roles to drive buses, covering when drivers are out.
- E. Retirement party for Sean Minear and Melissa Williams-It was well attended and all are happy for the retirees!
- F. Graduation was wonderful-well organized and went off without a hitch!
- G. State of Maine licensing board relayed good news about the FCTEC CNA Program-14 receiving a 90 or above on the licensure test, and this year is the first time a student received 100. There was a 100% pass rate overall! Bravo to all those involved!
- H. MBHS-178 graduates and over 1500 attended!
- I. Adult Education graduation-23 graduates, and there was a wonderful speech by a former Adult Education graduate.
- J. Acknowledgements were shared regarding Kyle and Dee related to their board service. Thank you both!

## **VII. Public Comment**

- A. Rich Wilde spoke advocating for space needs for the Blue Crew.
- B. Mason Labonte from Spruce Mountain High School spoke advocating for space for the Blue Crew.
- C. Violet Bellerose, recent graduate of Spruce Mountain High School, spoke advocating for space for the Blue Crew.

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
  - 1. Taegan Heath (MBHS graduate) was acknowledged as an audience member and new math teacher at MBHS/MBC.
- B. Openings as of 6-12-2025
- C. Excellent Funding News
- D. Yonder Pouches

- E. High Cost Reimbursement
- F. Draft Board & Committee Meeting Schedule
  - 1. Will vote on these at the first meeting in July.
- G. Has America Given Up on Children's Learning?

## **IX. Administrator Reports**

- A. [School Nutrition](#) - Director, Andrew Hutchins
  - 1. Start on MBMS kitchen renovation on Monday morning with a goal of mid-August for completion.
  - 2. By end of day on Friday, School Nutrition will have served 189,000 breakfast meals and 296,000 lunches this year and exceeded 2 million in revenue.
  - 3. Start summer program on 6/23 and will serve 600 meals a day.
  - 4. Finished up breakfast menu project; reducing added sugar and eliminating ultra processed ingredients. Lunch menus will be next. Many thanks to all involved in making that happen.
  - 5. Question-What were the costs this year? Not finalized yet, but the goal is to break even and also ensure that we can pay for upgrades.
  - 6. Chef Andy and several board members wrote in support of the 6 million in additional funding which was voted into the supplemental budget this week.
  - 7. What our district has done with universal meals has taken the stigma out of school meals-everyone eats. 80% of our students eat lunch.
  - 8. Community Eligibility Provision-accepted for fall of 2026.
  - 9. Please come to join in the meals the first week in August during the area training!
- B. [McKinney Vento](#) - Family Engagement Coordinator, Amanda Clark
  - 1. Amanda reviewed the content of the newsletter and shared success stories.
  - 2. Amanda also celebrated the success of Community Connect, part of the BARR model at all schools.
  - 3. Shout out to CMP and local hotels for working with us.
  - 4. 25-26-metrics of the impact of McKinney-Vento supports-Is there something that we can point to that measures the impact and success? Amanda will work on this for future years.

## **X. Presentations**

- A. [ESEA Grants Overview](#) - Monique Poulin
  - 1. Discussion
    - a. Monique Poulin reviewed the document. That funding had a small increase in two of the categories so far and that it looks like we would be flat-funded for 25-26. A decrease in funding was a concern of ours in regards to some of our Title positions.
  - 2. Questions
    - a. Board Members were happy that the funding was coming in as hoped.

## **XI. Consent Agenda**

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.

- B. Board Minutes - [5/13/2025](#) & [5/27/2025](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
  - 1. Operations Committee - [6/3/2025](#)
    - a. Meeting notes can still be entered, but there was not a quorum.
  - 2. Personnel & Finance - [6/3/2025](#)
  - 3. Educational Policy - [6/3/2025](#)
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> Gerry Provencher <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 816/0/76	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Lance Harvell</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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## XII. New Business

### A. New Student School Board Members:

- 1. Congratulations to Reed Cousineau and Brynne Fournier. Debbie Smith and Josh Robbins will be their mentors.

<i>Motion to approve the new Student Representatives as presented</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 892/0/0	<i>Motion: Lance Harvell</i> <i>Second: Josh Robbins</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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### B. [Computation and Declaration of Votes, Certificate of Secretary](#) - Elkington

- 1. *BE IT VOTED: That the Computation and Declaration of Votes dated June 12, 2024 and attached hereto be approved; That the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of Regional School Unit No. 9; That a certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to each of the municipal clerks within the RSU; and That the foregoing Computation and Declaration shall be signed by a majority of the School Board, and that these*

*signatures may be made electronically, by execution of counterparts, or in person at the convenience of the members of the School Board.*

2. *The superintendent read the tally for each vote.*

a. *Article 1*

Town	"Yes" Votes	"No" Votes	Total
Chesterville	37	58	95
Farmington	237	109	346
Industry	27	15	42
New Sharon	55	46	101
New Vineyard	14	21	35
Starks	20	5	25
Temple	19	15	34
Vienna	52	13	65
Weld	22	13	35
Wilton	258	121	382
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>1160</b>

b. *Article 2*

Town	"Yes" Votes	"No" Votes	Total
Chesterville	74	21	95
Farmington	300	43	346
Industry	31	9	42
New Sharon	75	25	101
New Vineyard	33	0	35
Starks	18	6	25
Temple	26	7	34
Vienna	38	18	65
Weld	25	9	35
Wilton	266	106	382
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>1160</b>

c. *The form was then signed by all board members present and certified by the Secretary.*

C. Assessment Warrants and Installment Schedules (pending voter approval) - Elkington

1. *"Motion that the Warrant for Assessment of Tax and the Assessment Schedule and notice of Installments for each member municipality prepared by the*

*Treasurer for fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 be approved and be issued in form presented to this meeting; and that the Treasurer be authorized and directed to deliver to each member municipality its Warrant for Assessment of tax and its Assessment Schedule and Notice of Installments.”*

a. Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Warrant for assessment of tax and assessment schedule.</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 892/0/0	<i>Motion: Lance Harvell  Second: Gwen Doak  Motion: Passed</i>
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D. Authorization of Superintendent to hire professional and support staff through the summer - Elkington

1. *“Motion to approve the Superintendent hiring professional and support staff through the summer.”*

a. Vote

<i>Motion to approve the superintendent hiring professional and support staff through the summer.</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 892/0/0	<i>Motion: Gwen Doak  Second: Rich Ruhlin  Motion: Passed</i>
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*Question: With the superintendent taking time off, who will act in this capacity? Assistant Superintendent Poulin will.*

E. Authorization to transfer funds between cost centers for the 2025-2026 Budget - Elkington

1. *“Motion to conditionally authorize the transfer of amounts not exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any school budget 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 total authorized school budget, pursuant to 20-A M.R.S. § 1485(4).” (Conditionally means that the Board will be informed by the Superintendent and will be able to ask questions.)*

a. Vote

<i>Motion to authorize the</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak,	<i>Motion: Lance Harvell</i>
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<i>transfer of funds between cost centers for the 25/26 budget.</i>	<i>Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</i> <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 892/0/0	<i>Second: Josh Robbins</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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F. Move last June Board Mtg.

1. From Tuesday, June 24th to Monday, June 23rd
2. Discussion
  - Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to move the next meeting from 6/24/25 to 6/23/25</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> <i>Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</i> <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 892/0/0	<i>Motion: Lance Harvell</i> <i>Second: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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G. Budget FY26 Additional Funds (pending voter approval)

1. \$150,000 was approved at the 5/27 Budget Hearing
2. Superintendent Recommendation
  - a. Add one position at CBS-5th grade at this time; at middle to end of July look at numbers to see if there is a grade level at an elementary school needing support.

<i>Motion to add a one year position for a 5th grade teacher at CBS</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> <i>Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</i> <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 892/0/0	<i>Motion: Lance Harvell</i> <i>Second: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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3. Discussion/Questions? - This took place after the vote.
  - a. This will be advertised as a one year position.

- b. Should we clarify to the public that the figure was increased but that the board decides where the funds are spent? The perception that the public left the District Budget Meeting with was that we would be hiring two teachers. We may not add two teachers; it is dependent on numbers. In order to clarify to the public, the superintendent will share that information, likely with a letter to the editor and to the parents.
  - c. When we look at numbers, is it more than just numbers but other factors as well with a class' make-up?
4. Next Steps?
- a. We will keep track of classrooms with 20 students or more during the summer and this will be a discussion that the superintendent has with building leaders.

#### H. Policy Work

- 1. Brand new (first reading of ~~two~~ ONE readings)
  - a. [KCD Public Gifts/Donations to the Schools](#)
    - i. 2nd reading after being sent back to the board
    - ii. Discussion/Questions

<i>Motion to approve KCD as written.</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 892/0/0	<i>Motion: Scott Erb</i> <i>Second: Lance Harvell</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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- b. [GBGE-R-Return to work](#)
  - i. Discussion/Questions
    - i. Question was asked on getting further clarity on Section B Procedure-subsection 2, c, accommodations. It will be researched and probably will be brought back for the July 22nd Board Mtg.

- 2. Name Change (one reading)
  - a. [\(JFCK\) JICJ Electronic Devices](#)
  - b. Discussion/Questions
    - Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to change the name of policy JFCK to JICJ</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b>	<i>Motion: Lance Harvell</i> <i>Second: Debbie Smith</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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	<b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 892/0/0	
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3. Eliminations (one reading)

- a. [GBEB-MB Chemical-Health](#)
- b. [GBG- MB Staff-Health-Safety](#)
- c. [GCFC-Teaching-Certification](#)
- d. Discussion/Questions?
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to eliminate the above policies.</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 892/0/0	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Scott Erb</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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4. Major Revisions (first of two readings)

- a. [GBGE-Return-to-Work-and-Light-Duty-Assignments](#)
- b. Discussion/Questions?
  - i. None
- c. [\(JFCK-R\) JICJ - R Electronic Devices Use - Rules](#)
- d. Information share
  - i. Joel Smith and Galen Dalrymple reviewed the process that was undertaken and the survey summaries. They also referenced law enforcement and mental health professional input regarding the rising concerns of cellphone use in schools.
  - ii. Recommendations and policy language adjustments were reviewed.
  - iii. Amanda Caruso, chair of the committee, also shared information about the process and recommendations.
- e. Discussion/Questions
  - i. Yondr pouch encourages a cell phone free school and includes Smartwatches. To be cell phone free would include watches; this is about equity for all. There will be exceptions for medical needs. There are other resources to monitor health (Fit bits, etc.) in regards to Smartwatches.

- ii. The goal is to minimize distractions in order to reprioritize our focus on academics. The committee was made up of a diverse group of Drs, parents, staff, and Board Members, and was unanimous in their recommendations.
- iii. Why are the Yondr pouches needed at MBC and not at MBMS?
  - (a) Locker locations are an issue based on student schedules and great distances for students to walk in a much larger facility. This is not the case at MBMS.
- iv. Thoughts on claims of damage based on the pouch; students are in possession of the phone for the entire day.
- v. Cost of pouches? \$30 per pouch. This will be covered in the budget for FY25.
- vi. Safety impact-per the chief of police in Farmington, eliminating phone access would positively affect overall safety concerns in an emergency.
- vii. Yondr-excellent support from the company for the implementation.
- f. Rollout Plan
  - i. The superintendent suggested that a Parent & Student Meeting be held before the second reading of the policy. That would mean having the next reading on 7/22.

### XIII. Executive Sessions

- A. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) - Consultation between school unit and its attorney
  - *Motion to go into* Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) - Consultation between school unit and its attorney

<i>Motion to go into executive session</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 808/0/0	<i>Motion: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Second: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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Exited executive session at 8:35.

- B. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(B) - For the purpose of discussing student disciplinary matters
  - *Motion to go into* Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(B) - For the purpose of discussing student disciplinary matters
  - Possible action regarding student discipline matters

<i>Motion to take action</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak,	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i>
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<i>regarding student discipline matters</i>	<i>Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</i>  <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 892/0/0	<i>Second: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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Exited Executive Session at 8:44

Discussion-Looking at the possibility of a modified PALs program (general education intervention) for students before having to take disciplinary action. The approved budget includes a part time BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) and two Educational Technicians working with the principal in two of our elementary buildings to support students and also staff with regular PD for coaching and training on how to assist students with de-escalation. The superintendent proposed using savings from the hiring of new staff to hire two more of these support positions because needs continue to grow and for more-consistent application of this MTSS support across our district's elementary schools.

Question:

1. Since this was not an agenda item, we can't add it to the agenda for a vote tonight, right?
  - a. Yes, we will wait until 6/23 to vote.
2. Is there a ratio of male to female students who are dysregulated?
  - a. We don't keep that data but can collect it.
3. Wasn't there a recommendation to have these difficulties reviewed by a committee?

<i>Motion to extend the meeting up to 15 minutes</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> <i>Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Gloria McGraw, Gerry Provencher, Dee Robinson, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith</i>  <b>Nays:</b> <i>Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney, Josh Robbins, Dina Spenciner</i> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 535/357/0	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Gwen Doak</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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4. Superintendent shared that we will start a committee on dysregulated student behavior needs next year.
5. Our goal was to add it at the two schools and now the suggestion is to extend it to the other two schools based on growing needs and MTSS consistency.
6. Are there case studies that have used this model?
  - a. We haven't dug into this specific model.
7. Baby PALs-is a modified PALs program. Maybe rename as pre-PALs?

8. Will be added to the next agenda.

**XIV.** Adjourned without objection at 9:05.

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

**MONDAY**, June 23, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- *Athletics*

**NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Operations - August 5, 2025 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Personnel & Finance - August 5, 2025, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Educational Policy - August 5, 2025, - 7:00pm - The Holman House, District Office