

Educational Policy Committee

Minutes

June 7, 2022

7:00 - 800pm

The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all

Members: Gwen Doak, Wayne Kinney, **Dorothy “Dee” Robinson**, Debbie Smith

Other Members Present: Carol Coles

Absent Members: Mark Prentiss

Staff: Chris Elkington, Laura Columbia, Nancy Allen

Other Staff Present: James Black, Doug Hodum

1. Called Meeting to Order at 7:10 pm
2. Review [approved minutes](#) from the last meeting - Robinson
3. Updates:
 - a. [Harold Alfond Center for Workforce Advancement](#) Supplemental Funding - Allen
 - i. Currently, a large amount of money has been set aside by the State for grant use to be used for frontline staff members (teachers, ed techs, etc) reimbursement for training, \$1,200 (up to per person) for the first year, and \$600 in the subsequent years.
 - ii. Educational training systems are a part of the compact to include UMF, RSU 9, etc. In particular, this can be used for ed techs who are working on their teaching degree.
 - iii. Some paperwork and data collection are required.
 - iv. Ex. If an ed tech took a course through UMF, we could be reimbursed up to \$1,200.
 - v. The consensus from the committee is to move forward.
 - b. Strategic Planning - Columbia
 - i. Currently in the process of creating action step ideas that align with our long-term and short term goals.

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- ii. The School board will be reviewing the goals and objectives to be reviewed at their next meeting
 - iii. Feedback on the process was discussed regarding the review of the data, consistent themes, and appreciation of the work that is currently happening.
 - iv. Timelines were used for a 5-year plan.
 - c. [RSU 9 Certification Handbook](#) - Columbia
 - i. The committee is set with this handbook.
 - d. [Grant Review, Approval Process, and Admin Procedures](#) - Columbia
 - i. Questions were heard regarding due dates, and the use of the internal document, with the timeline expectations with how grants will go before the board.
 - ii. This an internal document to keep everyone focused on following a similar process and to reduce confusion.
 - iii. A reminder can be added that grants need to go before the board for approval and need to be submitted to the Central Office first.
 - iv. Wording will be reviewed for clarity.
 - e. Community School Grant - Columbia/Elkington
 - i. [Conditional Contract Award Letter](#)
 - 1. Laura, Chris, and Lisa will be reviewing the grant and specific projects and will give an update on the next steps at the next committee meeting. Paying very close attention to whether or not there will extra expenses.
 - f. CTE Personnel Infrastructure and Equipment Grant - Elkington
 - i. [Conditional Contract Award Letter](#)
 - 1. This is a conditional award for our programs in grades 10-12.
4. Addition to MBMS - Elkington
- a. [Outside donor interest](#)
 - b. Draft plan possible steps
 - i. Program availability was reviewed, as well as specific locations due to access to facilities.
 - ii. The goal of this addition is to have greater hands-on learning opportunities at the middle school. This would potentially be one of the first such programs in Maine
 - iii. The donation is for \$2.5 million to build the facility.
 - iv. If approved, the addition would be built for hands-on learning, with approximate class sizes of 16:1.

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- v. There is a district expense for expanding a program like this, for a third staff member. Present MBMS staffing would supply the two other teachers. Program offerings are presently being looked at for 3 teachers with each having two CTE-like, hands-on learning options.
- vi. FTC does now work with other elementary schools, for our sending schools.
- vii. What are the constraints? Any from the Maine DOE? None from the Maine DOE, time to complete the project. The Bjorn Foundation is looking to approve an offer like this sooner than later. Other updates are needed at the middle school.
- viii. Given the age of MBMS, does it make sense to add it to an older school?
 - 1. Structurally the school is in good shape, but there are many cosmetic items needed.
- ix. Currently, there are staff members who have expressed interest and the schedule could be made conducive for changes to support this.
- x. Developing a program like this will mean that next steps will force us to look at what we do for students in grades 9 and 10.
- xi. The committee supports moving forward with the proposal to go before the school board.

5. Policy Reviews - Elkington/Columbia

a. Narcan Review

i. [RSU 9 Policies/Procedures](#)

- 1. The committee reviewed what was shared and wants more info. Director Columbia will bring updated policies to the next policy including the current policy and the updated MSMA policy.
- 2. Feedback on the amount of medication that parents/guardians can drop off at the school, to be kept at the school is an important question to be more fully reviewed.
- 3. A nurse will be asked to come in and review the section of storing drugs, and other questions at the next meeting, what the storage facilities are, etc.

b. Sent back to Committee for further review:

- i. Draft [JLC](#): Wellness Policy (6/6/22 Draft)

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1. Concerns from the 4/6/22 board meeting
 - a. Sent back to the policy committee with feedback on some wording adjustments and the suggestion to replace the word punishment with discipline.
 - b. Questions were heard regarding a policy that stipulates certain items that are “reactive” items and should they be part of a policy? If we don’t have the capacity to enforce or have something start, why do we have it in a policy?
 - i. Discussion around aspirational sections of the policy, and if it is in policy it should be something we are doing.
 - ii. With those edited sections, it will be brought before the School Board at the next meeting.
 - ii. Draft [GBIA](#): Staff Participation in Political Activities-Tabled to next meeting.
 1. [Political Speech FAQs](#)
 - a. Concerns from the 4/26/22 board meeting
 - i. A discussion was heard regarding the need for this policy. Is it too broad as written? Diverse opinions make a democracy.
 - ii. Concern was shared about whether the policy explained that a staff member could use their name or use the district’s name or logo in promoting their candidacy?
 - c. Draft [IMB](#): Teaching About Controversial/Sensitive Issues-Tabled to next meeting.
 - d. School Board Self-Evaluation Tool - Tabled to next meeting
 - i. Review & Discussion
6. Future Agenda Items - Robinson
 - a. State Assessment/Test Data Review (July)
 - b. Reading Recovery (July)
 - c. WMRA ASSIST Program (July)
 - d. Student Board Reps (August)
 - e. Restraint & Seclusion (August)
 - f. 2022-2023 Policy Review Plan (Sept)
 - i. Cross-reference quick review
 - g. NEASC Update (Sept)