

# 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:** August 12, 2025

**PLACE:** The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

**TIME:** 6:30pm

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

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**Board Members Present:** Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner

**Board Members Absent:** Griffin Mayew, Debbie Smith, Lance Harvell

**Student Reps Present:**

**Student Reps Absent:** Julian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti (New Student Reps begin in Sept.)

**Staff Present:** Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

**Other Staff Present:** Joel Smith, Nichole Goodspeed

**I. Call to Order - Chair Gwen Doak**

A. Chair Doak called the meeting to order at 6:30.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Adjustments to the Agenda**

**IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Gwen Doak**

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

1. "B & C"

**V. Communications**

A. None

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

- A. Tori Lands, MLL/ESOL teacher, has received a Fulbright Teacher Exchange award for the 2025-2026 cycle from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.
- B. The RSU #9 Tech Institute will be held on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Several other districts will be presenting and attending. Shout out to Nicole Lesperance for all her work in pulling the details together.

## VII. Public Comment

- A. None

## VIII. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Christian Elkington

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 8-12-2025
  - 1. Question: Are there enough long term subs to cover the opening? We are hopeful but there are no guarantees at this time.
- C. Class Size update
- D. Blue Crew update
  - 1. Everyone is willing to work it out for the 25-26 school year.

## IX. Administrator Reports

- A. None

## X. Presentations

- A. None

## XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [7/22/2025](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
  - 1. Operations Committee - [8/5/2025](#)
  - 2. Personnel & Finance - [8/5/2025](#)
  - 3. Educational Policy - [8/5/2025](#)
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner, Gwen Doak <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> Jeff Barnum <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b>	<i>Motion: Scott Erb          Second: Josh Robbins          Motion: Passed</i>
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	<b>Student Abstain:</b> 779/0/41	
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## XII. New Business

### A. [Committee Assignments](#)

1. Review
2. Next steps
  - a. If interested in any of these committees, please send your interest to Chair Doak and Superintendent Elkington by this coming Friday.
    - i. Two spots on budget and one on negotiations are open currently.

### B. [Elect a voting alternate to participate in the Association's Annual Delegate Assembly](#)

1. At the last meeting we only appointed the Delegate, but we also need to appoint an Alternate
2. Discussion/Questions
  - a. Wayne Kinney was nominated by Gwen Doak.
3. Motion/Vote
  - a. By acclamation

<i>Motion to appoint TBD as Alternate MSBA Delegate</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner, Gwen Doak, Jeff Barnum <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 820/0/0	<i>Motion: Chair Doak</i> <i>Second:</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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### C. Board Member Mtg. Pay

1. Review Statute
2. The Finance Committee proposes:
  - a. \$25.00 per meeting including negotiation sessions if you are a part of the committee meeting
  - b. If the Chair and Vice Chair attend multiple meetings they receive \$25.00 per meeting attended.
3. Discussion/Questions
  - Motion/Vote to amend meeting stipends amounts

<i>Motion to amend the amounts of Board Member</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher,	<i>Motion: Gloria McGraw</i> <i>Second: Rich Ruhlin</i>
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meeting pay as presented	Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner, Gwen Doak, Jeff Barnum <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 820/0/0	Motion: Passed
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#### Donation/Gift of Ford Interceptor Police Cruiser for FTC

4. Review Information
  - a. This is a request to accept the donation from the Farmington Police Department.
5. Discussion/Questions
  - a. How many students are in the program? At least twenty over the two days.
  - Motion/Vote-Unanimous

Motion to accept the gift of a Ford Interceptor for Foster CTE as presented	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner, Gwen Doak, Jeff Barnum <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 820/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed
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#### D. FY26 additional positions

1. Teaching
  - a. The 5th Grade position at CBS is filled
  - b. A second 1-year position has not been determined
    - i. Options/needs/concerns
      - (a) CCHS
        - (i) Grades 1 & 2
          - (a) Chris reviewed his memo that was distributed. [Link it in](#)
        - (b) AHS
          - (i) Grade 5
            - (a) AHS numbers align with CBS, but the needs are not the same.
      - ii. Support Staff Alternatives
    - c. Discussion

d. Questions

- i. Will medical support to Grade 1 reduce time in Grade 2?  
This is on an as needed basis. It will take some time and we intend to assess this as the year progresses.
- ii. Mandated ceiling for elementary? Per the contract, K requires an ET above when classes go over 18 students. We do try to keep numbers as consistent as possible across the district but this is difficult with schools of varying sizes.
- iii. Looking at this being a bubble to follow to grade 3 next year? We need to begin planning over the next year to start to entertain multiage classrooms when class sizes are small. It will be important to move in the direction of considering multiage classrooms for the FY27 budget.
- iv. May put together an Ad Hoc committee to consider this.
- v. This is a one year position.
- vi. Funding is available for this position.

● Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve adding an Ed Tech III to CCHS as presented</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner, Gwen Doak, Jeff Barnum <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 820/0/0	<i>Motion: Gloria McGraw Second: Katie Martikke Motion: Passed</i>
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2. CCHS Counselor/Social Worker next step

a. Proposal

- i. Superintendent Elkington reviewed his memo and the draft job description.

b. Review

c. Discussion

- i. Certification requirements would be? A Professional certification for at least a teacher would be the minimum.
- ii. Salary was a concern for the candidates who decided not to accept the counselor position.
- iii. Being an “At will” position allows for some negotiation on the superintendent’s part. It is not a position that is covered in the contract.

- iv. Unfilled literacy position next steps? Interviews and applications are being considered at this time.
  - v. This proposal would assist with the day to day, but this person would likely not have the training that school counselors or social workers have. We would need to figure out how to best support this unfulfilled role.
  - vi. IEPs and 504s-We believe that this person could serve in that role representing data to date. We may need to hire an outside provider depending on need.
  - vii. Are there qualified Ed Tech IIIs who may be recommended to fill open professional staff positions? There have been high quality candidates this year. It would not be our first choice but given the time of year, we are looking at all options.
  - viii. It appears that this position would be supporting students with behavioral needs. What is the root cause?
    - (a) There are many factors which we have shared again and again over the last four years. The biggest is dysregulated student difficulties.
  - ix. Does the job description include too much? It is adjustable.
  - x. Has there been input from school counselors and social workers? Not at this time. Since we can't find either of those professionals to fill the position, the admin needed to adjust the role.
  - xi. Is this a job that other districts have? Not that we know of. Although many schools do have support staff, qualified people serve in some of these roles.
  - xii. We would we still be looking for a school counselor/social worker for 26-27? Yes. If we want to keep this posted for 25-26 and potentially keep both for the 25-26, this would need to be at the direction of the superintendent and board.
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the one year position as presented</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner, Gwen Doak, Jeff Barnum <b>Nays:</b> Patty Hastings <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b> <b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b>	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Jeff Barnum</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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	746/74/0	
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## E. Policy Work

### 1. Major Revisions (first of two readings)

#### a. [BID-R - Board Member Compensation](#)

- i. To reflect changes made above
- ii. Discussion/ Questions

(a) The language is intended for those who are expected to attend more meetings in an official capacity. If you just sit in on another committee that is not assigned to you, you will not get extra funds. Vice chair and/or chair attending would be paid.

#### b. [BDE standing committees draft changes](#)

- i. Discussion/ Questions

(a) This is a re-write of what we have.

(i) The information paragraph will go on the website as a description.

(b) This will allow committees to vary in size as necessary.

(c) If a policy should go to another committee, the adjustments make the process clear.

(d) Under A1, language changes from “established” to “standing”.

(i) This will be adjusted.

## XIII. Executive Session

### A. 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
- In at 7:44 pm

<i>Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing labor contract negotiations with the Profession Association</i>	<b>Yeas:</b> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayhew, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <b>Nays:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Student Yeas:</b>	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Jeff Barnum</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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	<b>Student Nays:</b> <b>Student Abstain:</b> 820/0/0	
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Out of executive session at 8:03.

**XIV.** Adjourned

A. Adjourned without objection at 8:03.

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

Tuesday, August 26, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - Special Services, Technology, Transportation*

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - AHS, GDCS, CCHS*

**NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Operations - September 2, 2025 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Personnel & Finance - September 2, 2025, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office

Educational Policy - September 2, 2025, - 7:00pm - The Holman House, District Office