

**Mt. Blue Regional School District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**AGENDA - Minutes**

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM  
Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all

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**DATE:** August 22, 2023  
**PLACE:** The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus  
**TIME:** 6:30pm  
**LIVESTREAM LINK:** <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

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**Members in attendance:** Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Jeff Barnum, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Rich Ruhlin

**Absent:** Janice David, Will Jones, Alexander Creznic, Kyle Fletcher, Scott Erb

**Also present:** Joel Smith, Todd Demmons, Kevin Bremner, Andy Hutchins, Melissa Williams, Keith Acedo, Doug Hodum

- I. Call to Order at 6:30PM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Adjustments to the Agenda
  - Removed 12 D. from the Agenda - Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C) - Disposition of Property - Elkington
- IV. Report of the Chairperson - Dee Robinson
  - A. [Code of Ethics C & D](#)
- V. Communications
  - A. Staff Members of the Month for July
    1. Issac Libby
    2. Joseph McPherson
  - B. Article
    1. [Millions of Kids are Missing Weeks of School](#)
- VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators
  - A. Boosters Fundraising Kick Off was held at the Homestead w/Matt Casavant doing an excellent job presenting. They are off to a good start!

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- B. International Students are arriving at MBC - They are awestruck, involved and excited!!
  - C. Mural at AHS is making good progress with the base now completed!
  - D. Technology Summer Session, New Staff Orientation, Phonics training, New Teacher PD - Have all been held with few difficulties. It has been a great start for our staff with lots of support and training in preparation for the school year.
- VII. Public Comment
- A. None
- VIII. [Superintendent's Report](#) - Elkington
- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
  - B. RSU 9 Admin Summer Food Program Review
    - 1. Superintendent Elkington briefly discussed the very positive review.
  - C. Preliminary MOU for Multiple Community Schools
    - 1. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the MOU that we have applied for to support all of our district elementary schools.
  - D. Naming Policy Draft
    - 1. Board Member Rich Ruhlin - Requested an expedited naming rights plan to support the fundraising efforts for the turf field.
    - 2. Superintendent Elkington shared that Tim Thompson, president of Franklin Savings Bank, was the treasurer of the Legacy Committee and will share their efforts in the near future. A draft policy will be shared at Ed Policy in Sept.
  - E. Audit Extension
  - F. Attendance Improvement Planning
    - 1. Plans are in place to focus on attendance for the 23-24 school year.
    - 2. September is Attendance Awareness Month
      - a) We are working as an administrative team on consistency in reporting and aligning our strategic planning goals with the importance of attendance.
  - A. Staff Workshop Days Planning
    - 1. All board members are welcome to attend and participate in the festivities!
- IX. Administrator Reports
- A. [Foster Tech](#) - Melissa Williams
    - 1. Melissa Williams shared highlights of her report and invited board members to attend for a programming visit at any time.

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2. Kenway Composites in Augusta has been approved by the DOL as the first internship site for FCTEC. Shout out to Jordan McMullen for leading this work.
  3. Bridge Academy students attended the summer session at EMCC. Bruce Mochamer and Sean Minear chaperoned the junior and senior cohorts.

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

1. Andy shared highlights of the report and gave details related to the site review, summer meals, and the CBS renovation funding upgrades. There was a question about the number of students not being reached through our summer efforts. It is difficult to track due to the delivery method and specified dropoff locations. Staffing and distance are barriers to furthering the outreach. This is the first year that the state has allowed districts to deliver meals in this fashion. It was well received.
2. There are new local food funds available to us. One is a federal grant totalling \$10,000 for local, minimally processed foods. Our funds will be matched with these resources. The state will also offer \$5,500 as a match after the federal funds are expended.
3. Andy will be hosting a food service training summit at MBC with 60 attendees from surrounding districts.

C. [Technology](#) - Kevin Bremner

1. The Summer Technology sessions went extremely well! They received excellent feedback as well as suggestions for next year.
2. This is an extremely busy time of the year for the IT staff due to laptop rollout and new staff members requiring support.
3. Regarding Chat GPT, the IT department has attended several informational sessions. There was a concern shared that we will need to ensure that teachers are prepared for the impact in classrooms. Administrators and teacher leaders are registered for a series of Chat GPT training sessions for the fall. There will need to be a balance with the positives that AI can bring to our schools as well as the challenges. This will be a focus area this school year. MSMA will be crafting a policy.

X. Presentations - None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes [8-8-2023](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes

1. Operations Committee - None
2. Personnel & Finance - None
3. Educational Policy - None

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda.</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Jeff Barnum, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Rich Ruhlin Nays: Abstained: Vote: 591/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed
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XII. New Business

A. 23-24 Town Assessment Warrants - Gamache/Elkington

1. This document did not get approved after the budget passed, so we are addressing it now.

- *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, 2023 to June 30, 2024 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.*

<i>Motion to approve the Warrant as shared.</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Jeff Barnum, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Rich Ruhlin Nays: Abstained: Vote: 591/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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B. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(B) - For the purpose of discussing a student disciplinary matter - Elkington

- Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(B) - For the purpose of discussing a student disciplinary matter

- Entered Executive Session at 7:52 pm

<i>Motion to go into executive session as presented.</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Jeff Barnum, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Rich Ruhlin Nays: Abstained: Vote: 591/0/0	Motion: Josh Robbins Seconded: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed
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- Exited Executive Session at 8:15 pm

- Possible action regarding student discipline issue

<i>Motion to readmit the student to MBHS as school begins next week</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Jeff Barnum, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Rich Ruhlin Nays: Abstained: Vote: 591/0/0	Motion: Libby Kaut Seconded: Carol Coles Motion: Passed
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C. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - Labor Contract Discussion w/Association - Elkington

- Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - Labor Contract Discussion w/Association
  - Entered Executive Session at 8:18 pm

<i>Motion to go into executive session as presented.</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Jeff Barnum, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Rich Ruhlin Nays: Abstained: Vote: 591/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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- Exited without objection at 8:33

<i>Motion to extend the meeting time until 8:50</i>	Yeas: Libby Kaut, Jeff Barnum, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Dee Robinson, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Rich Ruhlin Nays: Debbie Smith, Josh Robbins Abstained: Vote: 537/54/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed
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<i>Motion to reenter executive session</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Jeff Barnum, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Dee Robinson, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Rich Ruhlin Nays: Josh Robbins Abstained: Vote: 560/31/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed
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- Entered executive session at 8:35
- Exited executive session without objection at 8:49
- Motion to Approve the 2023-2026 Contract between the MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – RSU 9 & the MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION as presented

<i>Motion to approve the Contract as presented.</i>	Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Jeff Barnum, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dee Robinson, Gwen Doak, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Rich Ruhlin Nays: Abstained: Vote: 591/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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- ~~D. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C) – Disposition of Property – Elkington~~
- ~~Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C) – Disposition of Property~~

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<i>Motion to go into executive session as presented.</i>	Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:	Motion: Seconded: Motion: Passed
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XIII. Adjourn without objection at 8:50.

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**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

September 12th, 2023 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - CBS, MBHS, WGM

September 26th, 2023 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - AHS/GDC, CCHS, MBMS

**NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Operations - Sept 5th, 2023 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Personnel & Finance - Sept 5th, 2023 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Educational Policy - Sept 5th, 2023 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus