

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 NOTES

DATE: August 26, 2025

PLACE: The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

TIME: 6:30pm

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

Board Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayew, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner

Board Members Absent: Rich Ruhlin

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: Richard Joseph, Cynthia Bernstein, Kevin Bremner, Galen Dalrymple, Todd Demmons, Joel Smith, Mike Hanson

I. Call to Order - Chair Gwen Doak

A. Meeting called to order at 6:30

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. None

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Gwen Doak

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

1. "D & E"

V. Communications

A. [Thank you Letter to Aubuchon Hardware](#)

B. [Back to School Letter](#)

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. "Welcome back to staff" was a wonderful start to the week! It was a celebratory event, to include breakfast provided by Chef Andy and his team, and it allowed for time for connections and re-connections amongst staff. Tori Lands (MLL/ESOL Teacher), Gracie Vaughan (Grade 4 at AHS), and Stephanie Gaboury (kitchen manager at MBC) were the recipients of our outstanding district employee awards.
- B. FCTEC-Aubuchon's funds are going towards scholarships to support post-graduate work. Firefighting instructor Ellie Adams has worked with SMCC, and students will now receive concurrent college credits.
- C. Our district professional learning model for this year (Communities of Practice) successfully got off the ground today with positive initial feedback. Over 4 dozen facilitators were trained in the summer.
- D. School starts for students in grades K-9 tomorrow with grades 10-12 attending on Thursday.

VII. Public Comment

- A. None

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 8-26-2025
- C. Administrative Professional Development
- D. Science Curriculum
 - 1. There was a question about gaps in content referenced in the memo. This was reviewed and will be further discussed by the curriculum committee at a future Ed Policy Committee meeting.
- E. Attendance Improvement
 - 1. There will be a presentation at a future meeting reviewing attendance data.
 - 2. At the end of the agenda it now reflects tentative presentations for future Board meetings.

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Special Services](#) - Director Cynthia Bernstein, Asst. Director Mike Hanson
 - 1. Cynthia and Mike reviewed highlights from the report and shared appreciation of the maintenance department for all of their work this summer.

2. Question: What are our open staff numbers compared to last year? These are consistent from last year. We have had excellent candidates, and we continue to post and interview. We have developed a grow your own/internship type model. We have about four staff working in teaching positions (as permanent subs) while making progress on their certification. Professional staff numbers are in a better place than in years past. We have had to hire extra ET supports due to new student needs either program-wise or move-ins.
3. Question: Given the types of student behaviors we are seeing, and given the adjustments made to restraint and seclusion, are staff properly trained? Eighty staff were trained in Safety Care this summer, and all staff working in specialized programming are trained. We have increased some Board Certified Behavior Analyst support for both special education and regular education staff and students.
4. The space at Cascade Brook School has been adjusted due to current numbers of students in specialized programming as well as projected future numbers. This need is impacted by the closing of special purpose schools around Maine.

B. [Technology](#) - Director Kevin Bremner

1. Kevin reviewed the highlights of the report with a focus on our new phone systems, adjustments in staffing and the Google Workspace Audit.

C. [Transportation](#) - Director Richard Joseph

1. Shout out to all staff in the department for their hard work and commitment to the district. He also expressed appreciation for the opportunity for professional learning for drivers this summer. The bus run rollout caused lots of calls to the office, and everyone is looking forward to tomorrow's runs!
2. Question: Safety record over time? Last year was more challenging than other years where our safety record had been superb. We have learned from the 24-25 school year and have made adjustments. Every other year we participate in Driver Dynamics training.

X. Presentations

A. [MBC 27 Update](#) - Principal Smith & Director Dalrymple

1. Joel and Galen reviewed work to date on this commitment aligned with our strategic plan. Ideas from committee members have been moving the work forward. The superintendent reminded us of the roots of our campus design and how the MBC 27 goals tie into a more integrated campus. The expansion includes a Career Fair planned for this year, as well as continued work towards LD436-the state's initiative to offer math, science

and English credits within FCTEC programming. Alternative Education staff, a chemistry teacher, and the Forestry, Outdoor Leadership and Culinary programs plan to collaborate on maple syrup production as a combined MBHS/FCTEC project. We are taking steps in the areas of curriculum to benefit our students. It is vital to keep communication open allowing for better collaboration and opportunities for students.

2. Question-Are there challenges for FCTEC with MBC 27? The focus has been on understanding how and in what ways we can collaborate with all high schools. Thinking outside silos is vital, with some of the limitations being those that we put on ourselves. There is optimism about the future!

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [8/12/2025](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 1. Operations Committee - None
 2. Personnel & Finance - None
 3. Educational Policy - None
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayew, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 951/0/0	<i>Motion: Scott Erb Second: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed</i>
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XII. New Business

- A. [Committee Assignments](#)
 1. Review
 2. Questions
 3. Motion to approve
 4. Vote

<i>Motion to approve the committee assignments as presented</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayew, Gloria McGraw, Gerald	<i>Motion: Josh Robbins Second: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed</i>
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	<i>Provencher, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner</i> Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 951/0/0	
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B. District Goals - Elkington

1. [24-25 District Goals Progress](#)
 - a. Action Steps (Outcome data review next mtg.)
 - i. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the district goals progress specific to action steps with outcomes reviewed at the next meeting.
2. [25-26 District Goals draft](#)
 - a. Superintendent Elkington also reviewed the draft focus areas and outcomes that will be further detailed and reviewed at the next Board Meeting.

C. Policy Work

1. Major Revisions (second of two readings)
 - [BID-R - Board Member Compensation](#)
 - Discussion/ Questions
 - Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the policy revision as presented</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayew, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 951/0/0	<i>Motion: Lance Harvell</i> <i>Second: Katie Martikke</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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- [BDE standing committees draft changes](#)
 - Discussion/ Questions
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb,	<i>Motion: Wayne Kinney</i>
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<i>policy revision as presented</i>	Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayew, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 951/0/0	Second: Katie Martikke Motion: Passed
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XIII. Executive Session

- A. 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

<i>Motion to go into Executive Session for student disciplinary matter</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayew, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 951/0/0	Motion: Josh Robbins Second: Griffin Mayhew Motion: Passed
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Exited executive session at 8:06.

- Possible action regarding student discipline issue

<i>Motion to readmit an RSU 9 student.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Griffin Mayew, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Student Nays: Student Abstain: 951/0/0	Motion: Lance Harvell Second: Scott Erb Motion: Passed
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XIV. Adjourned without objection at 8:07

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

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

- *Board Reports - AHS, GDCS, CCHS*

- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - 25-26 District Goals Outcome Progress
 - Daily Attendance
 - Chronic Absenteeism
 - NWEA Progress
 - Absenteeism Data Review
 - Improvement
 - 24-25 Strategies used
 - 25-26 Strategy changes

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - CBS, MBMS, WGMS*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - Tiered schools
 - Sports Participation #s

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