

Mt. Blue Regional School District
Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all

DATE: September 13, 2022

Place: The Forum

Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Video: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

In attendance: Alexander Creznic, Janice David, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Kyle Fletcher, Charles Hinds, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith, Abigail Goodspeed (Student Member - entered at 7:10pm)

Absent: Carol Coles, Richard Ruhlin

Also present: Keith Acedo, Nancy Allen, James Black, Laura Columbia, Katie Duchesne, Chris Elkington, Dan Higgins, John Jones, Jennifer Pooler, Monique Poulin, Tracy Williams

- I. Called to Order at 6:31pm by Vice-chair Debbie Smith

- II. Pledge of Allegiance

- III. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - A. It was asked by the Vice Chair to have Public Comments move up on the agenda after the report of the chairperson and to extend the total amount of time to 30 minutes. All members present are in favor.

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| <i>Motion to move public comments up in the agenda to after the report of the Chairperson</i> | Yeas: Alexander Creznic, Janice David, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Kyle Fletcher, Charles Hinds, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 14:0:0 (916:0:0) | Motion: Debbie Smith Seconded: Scott Erb Motion: Passed |
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No discussion was heard.

IV. Report of the Vice-Chairperson - Debbie Smith

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

- Item I - States that we make decisions openly after all facts bearing on a question have been considered and discussed.

B. Use of Email - A quick reminder that the board shall not and does not do business through email.

V. Public Comment

A. Doug Hodum, Farmington, MBRSD Education Association president - poster is informative

B. Bob Neal, New Sharon - running for office in Augusta, thank you to the board for doing this thankless work

C. Rudy Quinn, Kingfield - schools should teach truth

D. Vicky Cohen, Farmington - students learn when they feel safe

E. Julia Daly, Farmington - support of Gender 101 poster review finding

F. Charles Roberts, Wilton - request the board remove the Gender 101 poster from RSU 9 schools

G. Hank Washburn, New Sharon - students need to feel safe; the poster is informational

H. Kathy Hinds, New Vineyard - moral values, trust the science

I. June White, New Sharon - let the Creator do the work that was intended

J. Gladys Maines, Farmington - God created man and woman

K. Brian Rebert, Farmington - addressed gender fluidity definition

L. Jesse Sillanpaa, Industry - asking to move the poster from the hallway to inside the guidance office

M. Rian Hinkley, New Sharon - spoke to how a 'concern' can be deemed untrue

N. Robert Geisser, Industry - primary job of schools is to teach reading, writing, arithmetic - not politics or gender

O. Peter Forrest Tracy, Farmington - this poster is social experimentation

P. Joseph O'Brien, Wilton - transgender people have a higher suicide rate

Q. John Rosenwald, Farmington - poster is informative, applauds school for posting

R. Sofie Mattens, Farmington - public schools should be supportive and provide guidance to all students

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| <p><i>Motion to extend public comment for all of those on the list to speak</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Alexander Creznic, Janice David, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Kyle Fletcher, Charles Hinds, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 14:0:0 (916:0:0)</p> | <p>Motion: Alexander Creznic Seconded: Scott Erb Motion: Passed</p> |
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No discussion was heard.

- S. Larry Barker, Temple - rejection of those in the LGBTQ+ community is the cause of problems; supportive of the poster
- T. Layla Billings, Farmington - support of poster and transparency of this Community
- U. Dr. Kristen Mazoki, Wilton - many mental health and clinical organizations approve of the definitions on the Gender 101 poster
- V. Meaghan Swan, Farmington - poster provides support to the LGBTQ students
- W. Ann Arbor, Farmington - suicide comes when there is no hope in belonging; honor all beliefs
- X. Kristen Cote, Farmington - care for all of our children, thank you for supporting them
- Y. Robert Rogers, Chesterville - thanks for having these discussions
- Z. David Nordstrom, Wilton - discussed the definition of intersex
- AA. Joanne Chancy, Farmington - encourage to base identity on God, not sexuality and gender
- BB. Mark Rains, Vienna - who is right, and what is right - school is a place for students to learn how to think, not what to think; appreciate
- CC. Nicole Kellet, Farmington - supportive of the poster, think about how we craft gender
- DD. Trinity Slate, Farmington - supportive of the poster, support and provide a safe place for all students

Took a 5-minute break so people who were there for the public comment session could leave.

Meeting resumed at 7:45pm

VI. Communications

- A. [MSBA August Update](#)
- B. If any board member is interested in attending the Maine School Management Association annual conference in October, please contact Jennifer Pooler

VII. RSU 9 Good News stories - from the Board or Administrators

- A. Nancy Allen, Adult Education Director - shared a story from a new student about the welcoming atmosphere of Mt. Blue Campus students
- B. Monique Poulin, MBHS Principal - off to a great start, good turn out at our open house
- C. James Black, MBMS Principal - rocking it out at MBMS, first back to school dance Friday
- D. Kyle Fletcher, Wilton - his child started school and gave kudos to Cushing School and the Transportation Team
- E. Laura Columbia, Director of Curriculum - glad to be back in school, been receiving great feedback from the first two teacher days
- F. Chris Elkington, Superintendent - only a dozen or so open positions; spoke to the importance of onboarding new teachers
- G. Abigail Goodspeed, Student Rep - Girls soccer team has a 4-0 record, beating Skowhegan earlier tonight!!!

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

- 1. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- 2. Policy Index Document
- 3. Start of the Year Student Enrollment Numbers
- 4. Board Workshop with Maine School Management Association - Sept 27, 2022
- 5. Gender Equity Training for School Board Members

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Adult Education](#) - Nancy Allen, Director
 - 1. She loves the logo and tagline.
- B. [Academy Hill School/G.D. Cushing School](#) - Keith Acedo, Principal
 - 1. Off to a good start. Cafeteria work is complete at Academy Hill School and looks great! Various questions were heard regarding

assessment scores and office discipline referrals. Progress is being made on the entrance to Academy Hill School.

X. Presentations

A. [2022 Summer Programming Update](#) - Columbia & Duchesne

1. Grades PreK-5 Maintenance of Learning and Student Growth
2. Grades 6-12 Standards Recovery

Clarifying questions were asked throughout the presentation.

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| <i>Motion to extend the meeting until 9pm</i> | Yeas: Alexander Creznic, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Kyle Fletcher, Charles Hinds, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: Janice David Abstained: None Vote: 13:1:0 (832:84:0) | Motion: Wayne Kinney Seconded: Gloria McGraw Motion: Passed |
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No discussion was heard.

XI. Consent Agenda

A. New Hires

B. Board Minutes from [August 23, 2022](#)

C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes

1. Operations Committee - [September 6, 2022](#)
2. Personnel & Finance - [September 6, 2022](#)
3. Educational Policy - [September 6, 2022](#)

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| <i>Motion to approve the Consent Agenda</i> | Yeas: Alexander Creznic, Janice David, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Kyle Fletcher, Charles Hinds, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 14:0:0 (916:0:0) | Motion: Dee Robinson Seconded: Alexander Creznic Motion: Passed |
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No discussion was heard.

XII. New Business

A. COVID “Quick Review” & FYIs - Columbia/Elkington

1. [Updated Guidelines](#) (9/8/2022)
2. Questions
3. Testing
4. Staff Absences

The review was made and no discussion was heard.

B. “Special Request” - Elkington

1. Approval for purchase of Building Construction Trailer
 - a) [Three Quotes](#)
 - b) [Selected Proposal](#) Reasoning - Scott’s Recreation

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| <p><i>Motion to approve trailer request as presented.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Alexander Creznic, Janice David, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Kyle Fletcher, Charles Hinds, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 14:0:0 (916:0:0)</p> | <p>Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Dee Robinson Motion: Passed</p> |
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No discussion was heard.

C. Referendum Ballot & District Meeting Approval - Elkington

1. Ballot Review
 - a) [Sample Town of Industry Ballot](#)
2. Timeline - posting in 10 towns within next three days

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| <p><i>Motion to approve the warrant and notice of election presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved and that a Regional School Unit No. 9 referendum be and is hereby called for November 8, 2022 for the purpose of approving the acceptance of a notation for a school construction project by</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Alexander Creznic, Janice David, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Kyle Fletcher, Charles Hinds, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 14:0:0 (916:0:0)</p> | <p>Motion: Dee Robinson Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed</p> |
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| <i>Regional School Unit No. 9 as described therein.</i> | | |
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No discussion was heard.

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| <i>Motion that the Notice of Public Hearing presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved for the purpose of notifying the Regional School Unit No. 9 voters of the public hearing(s) scheduled as provided therein on the acceptance of a donation for a school construction project.</i> | Yeas: Alexander Creznic, Janice David, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Kyle Fletcher, Charles Hinds, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 14:0:0 (916:0:0) | Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Dee Robinson Motion: Passed |
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No discussion was heard.

D. Review of Committee Hybrid Plan - Elkington

1. Meetings will still be held in person at MBC
2. The ability to ZOOM in will be for each Committee's Members only
3. In inclement weather, the possibility for committee meetings to go virtual

Comment was made that the Hybrid Plan for committee meetings should be used sparingly and that in-person meetings are the norm.

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| <i>Motion to extend the meeting another 10 minutes</i> | Yeas: Alexander Creznic, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Kyle Fletcher, Charles Hinds, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: Janice David Abstained: None Vote: 13:1:0 (832:84:0) | Motion: Gloria McGraw Seconded: Chip Hinds Motion: Passed |
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No discussion was heard.

E. First Reading of Board Policies

1. [GBIA](#): Staff Participation in Political Activities
2. Board Self-Evaluation Tool
 - a) [Document Draft Tool was based on](#)

b) DRAFT - Google Form - [Board Self-Evaluation Tool](#)

No discussion or questions were heard. Moving to a second reading at the next board meeting.

XIII. Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(A) - Personnel Issue - item tabled for a future date

XIV. Adjourn

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| <p><i>Motion to adjourn with the understanding the executive session will be held for a future date.</i></p> | <p>Yeas: Alexander Creznic, Janice David, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Kyle Fletcher, Charles Hinds, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 14:0:0 (916:0:0)</p> | <p>Motion: Wayne Kinney Second: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed</p> |
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Adjourned at 9:10pm

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

- September 27, 2022 - 6:30pm - 7:30 pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
- Board Reports - Cape Cod Hill School; Mt. Blue High School; W.G. Mallett School
- October 11, 2022 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
- Board Reports - Special Services

BOARD WORKSHOP

September 27, 2022 - 7:30pm - 9:00 pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Operations - October 4, 2022 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
 Personnel & Finance - October 4, 2022 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
 Educational Policy - October 4, 2022 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Operations - November 1, 2022 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
 Personnel & Finance - November 1, 2022 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
 Educational Policy - November 1, 2022 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus