

# MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

*"Working together to provide high quality educational opportunities for all."*

**227 MAIN STREET, FARMINGTON, ME 04938**

**(207) 778-6571 | (fax) 778-4160**

## **Educational Policy Committee**

### **Agenda**

September 2, 2025 | 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

The RSU 9 District Office, Main Street Farmington

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**Members Present:**, Wayne Kinney, Lance Harvell, Patti Hastings, Katie Martikke, Dina Spenciner

**Members Absent: None**

**Other Members Present: Gwen Doak**

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

**Other Staff Present: Cynthia Bernstein**

#### **1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair Kinney**

- a. Called to order at 7:00.

#### **2. Previous Committee Minutes- [08-05-2025](#) - Chair Kinney**

- a. Approved at 8.12.25 Board meeting
- b. Any questions?
  - i. None

#### **3. New**

- a. Child Development Services (CDS) cohort - Director Bernstein
  - i. What is it?
    - 1. CDS is the quasi state education agency responsible for overseeing 0-5 young people.
    - 2. Maine is the only state that provides services under 5 outside of its public education structures. For many years, the state has been discussing how to change this. This is now taking place. Over four years, districts will be picking up students ages 3 and 4 as CDS will no longer exist. Our plan is to enter cohort 3, which is the 26-27 school year. All involved in special education leadership positions in the district will be involved in this transition planning.
    - 3. Questions?
      - a. Some students in PreK receive special education from CDS staff.
      - b. Who pays for services? The state. The idea of joining cohorts; all services provided for 3 and 4 year olds will be fully funded by the state. It is based on a formula.

- c. The law is written to provide services for students 3-22. It will allow us to connect with students earlier and receive services earlier through our district. CDS identifies kids for Sped Services, but is not always able to follow-through with services.
  - d. How will we be able to provide those services? The plan will be to collaborate with childcare facilities to do so, but we will need to find staffing.
  - e. What type of services? All special education programming including SDI, and speech therapy. For three year olds, we will need to provide services but not full programming in a classroom. For those not in childcare, we would need to provide a location for services. We need to think carefully about what parents are used to, which is choice (through Part C in the regs). We will need to have different structures.
  - f. There are many questions that will be asked at a meeting with state reps next week. We will share updates as we gather information.
  - g. This will be good for our kids when the process is implemented and a transition is eliminated.
  - h. It will be good to implement the picking up of these responsibilities and students over two years with the cohort 3 model and not all in one year with cohort 4.
- ii. Expectations
  - 1. Will join 26-27 (cohort 3)
    - a. 4 year olds in 26-27
    - b. 3 year olds in 27-28
  - 2. Questions?
- iii. Initial Process
  - 1. Readiness survey
    - a. This has been completed and will likely be reviewed when the meeting is held next week.
  - 2. Our Team
    - a. Composition
    - b. Dedicated coordinator?
  - 3. Initial discussions with Early Childhood Sped team
  - 4. Questions?

#### 4. Updates

- a. Grant Awards - Poulin
  - i. FYIs
    - 1. Franklin Savings
      - a. Gift of \$2500 to support Open House at MBC this year in support of providing food and prizes.
    - 2. Preschool financial awards

- a. \$2500 to all CTE Centers across the state for materials.

**5. New - Chair Kinney**

- a. [Functions & Duties Draft](#)
  - i. Review
  - ii. Discussion
    - 1. Suggestions?
      - a. Add a time frame for reviewing policies-after discussion, this is not necessary.
      - b. Change order and add reference to are consistent with... state and federal laws, and consultation with MSBA and our attorneys.
      - c. Using information from legal consultation and MSBA consultation.
    - 2. Ideas?
      - a. Looks good with a few adjustments made. Ready to be shared with the full Board.
- b. Priority Notice from the MDOE - Elkington
  - i. [Docket<sup>®</sup> for Schools Immunization Tracking Launched](#)
    - 1. This is a new program and keeps all information in one place. We piloted it through Head Nurse Strickland last year and it went smoothly. It will be fully implemented this year across the state.
- c. University of Maine Grant - Poulin
  - i. [Rural Educator Resiliency Project](#)
    - 1. Monique Poulin explained how we were apprised of this opportunity which does not run through the district office. Funds will pay for a range of possible PD services for full-time teaching staff. Our only guardrail and expectation from RSU 9 is time staff may request being away from school and students. Our expectation is no more than 2 days. Teachers must pay in advance and will get reimbursed.
  - ii. [How to Apply](#)
    - 1. A very straightforward process.

**6. Policy Work (Starts no later than 7:40 pm) - Elkington**

- a. [25-26 Monthly Plan](#)
- b. Policy Folders
  - i. ~~Title IX Update~~
    - ~~1. Review~~
    - ~~2. Discussion~~
    - ~~3. No Changes at this time~~
  - ii. Review (Few or no Changes)
    - 1. [BBAB-School-Board-Self-Evaluation\\_2022Jan11.docx](#)
      - a. All set.
    - 2. [BBBAA-Student-Representation-on-the-Board.docx-1.docx](#)

- a. There was discussion about student votes, which are not officially counted.
- 3. [BBBAA-E Student Rep Application .pdf](#)
  - a. All set.
- 4. [BBBAA-R-Student-Representative-on-Board-of-Directors-Regulations.docx](#)
  - a. All set.
- 5. [CF-School-Building-Administration.docx](#)
  - a. All set.
- 6. [CHA-Development-of-Regulations.docx](#)
  - a. Needed to remove a comma. All set.
- 7. [KF-COMMUNITY-USE-OF-SCHOOL-FACILITIES Updated](#)
  - a. All set.
- 8. Review/Discuss
- 9. Vote
  - a. Consensus on making very minor changes and there not needing to go to the board.
- iii. Minor Revisions
  - 1. [ADF-Draft Rev Learning-Results-Commitment.docx](#)
    - a. All set.
  - 2. [25/26 FACILITY-USE-BROCHURE](#)
    - a. More of an FYI review for the committee, not a vote.
  - 3. [KF-RI Community Use of School Facilities procedure](#)
    - a. Suggestion to remove "It is understood..." Remove from the brochure as well.
    - b. Question about H-How is the fee determined? Add, "based on space and equipment needs."
    - c. G-"It is policy of RSU #9"-suggest to remove?
    - d. 3A4-"The Bjorn Auditorium follows a fee schedule..."
  - 4. Review/Discuss
  - 5. Vote
    - a. Consensus on moving to the board for one reading.
- iv. Elimination
  - 1. [KF-E1 - Bjorn Auditorium. Presentation Forum Application for Use](#)
  - 2. Review/Discuss
    - a. The School Dude platform asks all these same questions. The form is not needed.
  - 3. Vote
    - a. Consensus on moving to the board for one reading to eliminate this procedural form.

**7. Next Mtg.** October 7, 2025

**8. Adjourned at 7:58.**

## 9. Future Agenda Items -