

Mt. Blue Regional School District - RSU 9



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

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Chesterville | Farmington | Industry | New Sharon | New Vineyard | Starks | Temple | Vienna | Weld | Wilton

Board of Directors Board Meeting Agenda Notes

DATE: September 23, 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, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith

Board Members Absent: Griffin Mayhew, Dina Spenciner, Josh Robbins, Katie Martikke, Wayne Kinney, Lance Harvell

Student Reps Present: Reed Cousineau, Rowan Shanti

Student Reps Absent: Brynne Fournier, Julian Reynolds

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Nichole Goodspeed, James Black, Stacey Gilbert, Joel Smith, Cyndi Pratt

- 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. There will be no Executive Session this evening.

- IV. **Report of the Chairperson** - Chair Doak
 - A. [BCA - Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
 1. "H & I"

- V. **Communications**
 - A. [Super's opening day presentation](#)
 1. **Superintendent Elkington**

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. MBC-Alternative Learning Students and International Students visited the Common Ground Fair on Friday. Nicole Lesperance and Jake Bogar arranged for a field trip to the University of Maine supported by a Tyler Technologies grant. 33 STEM and Pre-Engineering students attended.
- B. We held our second Community of Practice session on 9/17. The feedback overall has been quite positive as staff members collaborate with their colleagues in shared learning about their instructional topic of choice. This model will continue throughout the year.

VII. Public Comment

- A. Patricia Hastings of Chesterville - Shared a concern about a family member being present in a classroom in violation of privacy standards.

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 9-23-2025
 - 1. How do we compare to last year?
 - a. We have fewer openings, although we have more ET positions to fill due to program needs and limited options with out of district programs.
 - b. We will formally check last year's numbers.
- C. Superintendent's Newsletter 9-12-2025
- D. Who Loses if Federal Funds are Cut?
 - 1. Board member Barnum asked if we should we be putting an article in the paper?
 - a. The public should be informed about possibilities as we head into another budget cycle. We would be passing on a significant increase to the public if we do not receive the ESEA and IDEA grant funding we expect.
 - 2. Superintendent Elkington agreed that we need to proactively put out the word about the proposed federal government cuts, in an apolitical message as we prepare for budget season. An emphasis should be placed on the work that Senator Collins is doing to bring people from both sides together.
- E. State of Maine Minimum Wage Increases will come into effect on Jan 1, 2026.

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [CBS](#) - Principal Nichole Goodspeed

1. Dr. Goodspeed reviewed the highlights of the report. The BARR program is fully implemented school wide. Several Communities of Practice facilitators hail from CBS. A financial award has been received involving a Community of Practice involving schools across the state. This will assist in further supporting family and community engagement. Staff have adjusted well to the construction this summer.
 2. There was a question about assessment improvements-plateau or increase? It is an increase, but one goal will be to consider the timing of curriculum delivery, looking at the areas that will be assessed, and ensuring that subject topics are covered.
- B. [MBMS](#) - Principal James Black
1. Principal Black reviewed the highlights: Culinary space at MBMS, staff adjustments, implementing all three grades with BARR (with a shout out to Katie Duchesne who has led the BARR implementation over the past few years), number of students involved in athletics and clubs, attendance, science staff implementing updated standards, MAC and LAC changing to the REACH model to better support students needing interventions, NWEA testing started this week.
 2. Attendance question-This is a typical number for the start of the year. We are focusing on the students who are truant with trying to learn more understanding as to why.
- C. [WGMS](#) - Principal Stacey Gilbert
1. Principal Gilbert reviewed the highlights and focused on the wonderful start to the year, getting to know staff and students and being in classrooms, BARR training, meet and greet before the start of the year, and a well attended Open House with literacy and math resources and activities available. She is pleased to be in her new role at WGM!

X. Presentations

- A. Absenteeism Data Review - Elkington
 1. [District & School Data](#)
 - a. Progress
 - i. Superintendent Elkington passed out a document with some additional figures.
 - (a) Best numbers are in the second quarter, and we will be digging into the root causes of gains and steps back.
 2. 24-25 Strategies used

- a. The superintendent reviewed a document that he distributed regarding strategy efforts in 23-25.
- b. Can we get comparison numbers?
 - i. We can look at state comparisons.
 - ii. Chronic absenteeism is a new(ish) measurement from the past six or so years.
 - iii. We will look for district to district comparisons.
 - iv. Are homeschooled students counted? They are separate.
- 3. 25-26 Strategy adjustments
 - a. The superintendent continued in his review of the document focusing on strategy adjustments for the current school year, as well as improving engagement and curriculum.

B. [Maine Through Year District Assessment \(MTYA\) Overview](#) - Asst. Superintendent Poulin

- 1. Monique Poulin reviewed the data in the handout. These are state assessment figures, which are different from MAP Growth figures, which were shared at the last meeting.

C. [MBHS Sports Participation #s](#) - Principal Joel Smith and AD Cyndi Pratt

- 1. Engaged and involved students tend to attend more regularly and are expected to meet academic standards.
- 2. Numbers are holding strong over the years.
 - a. Consistency in coaching and coaches on staff in the building during the day seem to be positive influences.
 - b. Our total population is about 700.
 - c. Is lack of snow contributing to reduced numbers on the ski teams?
 - i. Not sure about that but it might be that since only the top skiers can score for their teams it might push students to club ski/free ski.

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [9/9/2025](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - None
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - [9/9/25](#)
 - 3. Educational Policy - None
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the consent</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott	<i>Motion:</i> Debbie Smith
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agenda as presented.	<p><i>Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Gloria McGraw, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith</i></p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain: <i>Gerry Provencher</i></p> <p>Student Yeas: <i>Reed Cousineau, Rowan Shanti</i></p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>533/0/76</p>	<p>Second: <i>Rich Ruhlin</i></p> <p>Motion: <i>Passed</i></p>
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XII. New Business

A. Committee Functions & Duties

1. Draft review
 - a. [Operations](#)
 - b. [Finance](#)
 - c. [Ed Policy](#)
2. Discussion
 - a. Finance Committee-Change language to "within" RSU #9 and not "with" RSU #9
 - b. Motion/Vote

Motion to approve Committee Functions and Duties as presented.	<p>Yeas: <i>Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith</i></p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: <i>Reed Cousineau, Rowan Shanti</i></p> <p>Student Nays:</p> <p>Student Abstain:</p> <p>609/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: <i>Rich Ruhlin</i></p> <p>Second: <i>Jeff Barnum</i></p> <p>Motion: <i>Passed</i></p>
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B. Derra Bus Request-Superintendent Elkington

1. Grant program [DERA Funding.docx](#)
2. [Dera Funding Bus.pdf](#) Quote
 - a. Approved by Finance to be a lease purchase
 - b. Discussion
 - i. This will be a propane bus.
 - c. Motion/Vote

Motion to approve the Finance Committees recommendation to a Lease Purchase as presented.	<p>Yeas: <i>Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith</i></p> <p>Nays:</p> <p>Abstain:</p> <p>Student Yeas: <i>Reed Cousineau, Rowan Shanti</i></p>	<p>Motion: <i>Scott Erb</i></p> <p>Second: <i>Gloria McGraw</i></p> <p>Motion: <i>Passed</i></p>
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	Student Nays: Student Abstain: 609/0/0	
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C. Policy Work - None

XIII. ~~Executive Sessions~~

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

- ~~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 (expulsion)~~

Motion to go into Executive Session for student disciplinary matter.	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Garuso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Brynne Fournier, Jullian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 843/158/0	Motion: Second: Motion: Passed
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B. ~~Action~~

Motion to Expel Student "X"	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Garuso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Brynne Fournier, Jullian Reynolds, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 843/158/0	Motion: Second: Motion: Passed
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XIV. Adjourned without objection at 8:02.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - School Nutrition, McKinney Vento/FESS*
 - *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *Nothing scheduled at this time*

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - FCTEC, MBHS*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *NWEA Data by school*

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - Adult Education, Athletics*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *Tiered Schools (waiting for state to release new data)*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - October 7, 2025 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office
Personnel & Finance - October 7, 2025, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office
Educational Policy - October 7, 2025, - 7:00pm - The Holman House, District Office