

Mt. Blue Regional School District



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

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Board of Directors Board Meeting Agenda Minutes - draft

DATE: September 24, 2024
PLACE: The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
TIME: 6:30pm
LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

Board Members Present: Dee Robinson, Gloria McGraw, Jeff Barnum, Wayne Kinney, Josh Robbins, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Debbie Smith, Will Jones, Katie Martikke, Dina Spenciner, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Kyle Fletcher 6:48pm

Board Members Absent: Gerry Provencher, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin

Student Reps Present: Adeline Colello

Student Reps Absent: Rowan Shanti, Julian Reynolds, Brielle Tinker

Staff Present: Christian Elkington

Other Staff Present: Katie Merrill, Katie Duchesne, Carol Kiesman, James Black, Tracy Williams, Nichole Goodspeed, Joel Smith, Kevin Bremner

I. **Call to Order** - Chair Robinson
A. 6:30pm

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Adjustments to the Agenda**

IV. **Report of the Chairperson** - Chair Robinson

A. [Code of Ethics](#)

1. H & I

- Chair reviewed these with the Board.

V. **Communications**

A. Superintendent's Newsletter - [9-20-24](#)

1. Hope everyone has read the first newsletter of the year, we will now restart sending one out every 2 weeks. This year an extra page will be included for pictures of students and staff in action at the end. Highlights of this newsletter were welcoming people back and introducing our newest admin hire.

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. MBMS Cross Country team is doing well.
- B. Lots of younger athletes are excited to be welcomed to the high school football game on Friday night for youth night.

VII. Public Comment

- A. Richard Wilde - Farmington
 1. Announced his resignation as coach of blue crew robotics team
 - He has found another coach he would like to nominate, and would like to step back and assist and let somebody else take over the leadership role.
 - He knows there is a nomination process but would like it known he intends to promote Katie Joseph, former 1st alum. She knows the work it takes and is interested in the position.
 - Richard has been the coach for 10 years and still loves and wants to be part of the team in a non-leadership role. He does not want a repeat of what happened to Spruce Mountain when their leader retired, there was no one to replace him. He wants the kids to be set up for continued program
 - Richard started the Mt. Blue Area Youth Football, and when he stepped away from there he was able to leave it in good hands and wants the same for the Blue Crew Team
 2. CE reported that Richard spoke with him and emphasized the importance of turning over reigns while the program is strong, and commends him for that.
 3. Dee on behalf of the Board thanks Richard for his time and service to the program.

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 9-24-2024
- C. Turf Committee Notes
- D. 10-15-2024 Ribbon Cutting/Open House for District Office
 1. 3-5 pm open house and ribbon cutting with FCCOC. CE asked if Principal Black could oversee the ribbon cutting, as he did a great job with the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new MS CTE Center.
 2. We will invite the community for refreshments and tours between 3-5 pm.
 3. Earlier in the day, we are planning for the conference room to be dedicated to a couple of former district office staff members.

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [CCHS](#) - Principal Kiesman
 1. Highlight - this past week was Community School Coordinator Month. This week CCHS participated with the MDOE - on Monday, the school counselor, nurse, principal and the first 10 coordinator attended a conference with other first 10 coordinators. Later in the week, the DOE and other reps came to CCHS for a panel discussion. Lots of good questions were asked. Staff and a student rep who participated did well answering questions. They were given a tour of the building, showcasing the areas of the First 10 Grant.
 2. Board Member Jeff Barnum asked for amounts of Grants - Community School Grant was approximately \$90,000 and the First 10 Grant was \$50,000. CCHS was the only school in the state to get both grants

3. Board Member Deb Smith gives kudo's to Principal Kiesman and her staff for being the only school in the state.
 4. Principal Kiesann recognized that this is a team effort led by CCHS Staff.
- B. [CBS](#) - Principal Goodspeed
1. Highlights from report: Excited for BARR Program Community Connect. They had one previously, but it wasn't well formed. This year they have a good team, Principal Goodspeed, school counselor, school nurse, family engagement coordinator. They have been meeting weekly for 3 weeks, and been able to reach out to several kids; homeless, new students who have transitioned in. They feel they have a good handle on this need this year. Katie Fournier, the BARR Coordinator, is excited with this work.
 2. CBS has an opportunity from Chris Davis - Foster Tech. FTC will be going into CBS to work with 5th graders on digital media, culinary and outdoor leadership, there will be more info in the next board report.
 3. Love the upgraded air handling system! It was finished a couple of weeks before school started. For the first time in a long time, they are not "losing" students after recess, because with the AC the 2nd floor is cooler, dry and comfortable. The company who installed it was good to work with.
 4. Board Member Jeff Barnum asked about the challenges and concerns listed in the board report, specific to Chronic Absenteeism/Truancy, and asked what strategies she is employing. Principal Goodspeed shared that Amanda Clark, the Family Engagement Coordinator, is helping a lot with following up on students. The School Nurse is also helping. There's more of a team following the "Community Connect" process, reaching out
 5. It was also asked how difficult it is to find subs - Principal Goodspeed shared that they have days when not all positions are filled, so they are having to move staff around to fill. They have a protocol/steps. She also noted that it's not just at CBS but in the whole district.
- C. [WGMS](#) - Principal Williams
1. This past weekend, the pre-k playground had an expansion of space. It was completed on Saturday. The kids were very excited, and the staff are grateful.
 - CE - Asked Principal Williams to clarify why we needed more space - We met the state standard for sq ft., but in that confined area were rocks, toys, climbing equipment and trees, so it reduced the play/running space. We also have trikes to use and students now have space and room to run and ride in a clear path, along with a grassy area to run on.
 2. Their PTA disbanded in the spring because no one wanted to be an officer. There is a meeting tomorrow night to see what they can get going.
- D. [MBMS](#) - Principal Black
1. CE thanked Principal Black for the photos in his board report. Open house had a raffle. They made lemonade with the lemons from the flood. They feel open house was a great success in the changed format. Everyone liked the way it ran, spent a lot of time at the school, and the feedback was positive.
 2. Katie did BARR work over the summer, they are implementing at the 7th grade level this year. They have a good crew, did training, and hit the ground running.
 3. Athletics - Shane Dudash is the new MBMS Athletic Director (stipended position) and Interventionist for in school suspensions. He has been busy already. They have put in a lego club similar to the Blue Crew. Working in the maker space to feed into

the highschool program. Lots of Kids playing sports. The weather has been good news for the MS, especially for gym class. CTE center being used, finishing up culinary space. Kids and parents are excited about the new Bjorn space.

4. To Extend on Dudash - Interventionist academic - Instead of sending kids home with disciplinary issues, they go with him and work on stuff, connecting with kids and teachers. Connecting in classrooms. Grade Checks. Another person to help follow through. MBMS is a busy place and another hand to help kids get what they need is great!
5. The superintendent shared that when we looked at the Strategic Plan and approved the budget we looked at budget areas where we could better support kids in difficulty. We have had an increase over the last several years. The Board put an emphasis at the PreK Level, Kindergarten, this interventionist, and connecting better with our community and families. We are trying to be more proactive. We have also been able to hire people with a lot of experience in key areas. Special Education teachers are where we are struggling to find staff. This is an area of concern to watch closely.
6. Jeff Barnum asked what is the established goal of reducing office referrals, is Mr. Dudsah playing a role in this? SWISS Gathers data, when, where, who? Why do we track - weekly conversations with teachers, SW, counselors. Discuss where the struggles are and how we can work through them. The quicker you can intervene the better. Develop behavior plans, other additional Supports.
7. MBMS Gym Status Update - Demoed the gym, floor is up, taking out all of the sheet rock that was wet or had moisture in the gym and down below, putting new sheetrock in the lower part of gym. Putting in bleachers, waiting on the subfloor, and then putting hardwood back on. Timeline is going back and forth depending on quotes, looking at late November to?
 - Formal updates next week at committee meetings.
 - Reached out to other companies for quotes, following policy and looking for expertise
8. Weight Room is a back up for gym class if needed with access from the back stairwell. Gym teacher has been a trooper. We are making everything work while the weather is cooperating.

X. Presentations

- None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [09.10.24](#)
- 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 as presented.</i>	Yeas: Dee Robinson, Gloria McGraw, Wayne Kinney, Josh Robbins, Amanda Caruso,	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Josh Robbins Motion: Passed
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	<p>Will Jones, Katie Martikke, Dina Spenciner, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Kyle Fletcher</p> <p>Student Yeas: Adeline Colello Nays: Abstain: Debbie Smith, Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak Vote: 787/0/138</p>	
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XII. New Business

A. Add a Board Budget Workshop

- Just board and district admin
- We will follow the established process
- Start the process sooner
- Purpose
 - (1) Discuss the budget process and how the RSU 9 Strategic Plan is solidly connected
 - (2) W/ district administration
- 2. Three possible dates
 - Take place before the regular Board meeting on 10/8 or 10/22 5:45 - 6:45 (start Board Mtg. a little later) - NO
 - A meeting from 6:30 - 7:30 pm on Oct 15, 16, or 17 - NO
- 3. Discussion/Questions?
 - Dates above have filled up with other events since these were picked
 - This would be for the whole board
 - Why is this separate?
 - (1) Not an executive session, many boards have workshops for new learning and so they can have a deeper conversation without interruption. No votes would take place. We would go over the Strategic Plan, Planning Process, previous budgets, and how they affect the budget.
 - (2) It sort of falls between a regular meeting and executive session. Open to the public? No, board workshops are not.
 - (3) This is going to be an extremely difficult budget
 - (a) Concerns are already rising in some of our communities
 - (b) We have heard recently what people want and need and the budget keeps going up and so need to discuss the Strategic Plan emphasis on the budget.
 - (c) Strategic plan needs to be the emphasis for the budget
 - (d) How long do we need for this meeting?
 - (i) How about a Monday night? - Gloria McGraw
 - (a) Need time for board to have good discussion
- 4. Motion
 - For the 15th @ 6 or 6:30 after the open house - No second
 - October 14th is a holiday - No Second
 - October 21st 6 -7:30 - Seconded, went to vote
- 5. Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Board Budget Workshop.</i>	Yeas: Dee Robinson, Gloria McGraw, Jeff Barnum, Wayne Kinney, Josh Robbins, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Debbie Smith, Will Jones, Katie Martikke, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Kyle Fletcher Student Yeas: Adeline Colello Nays: Abstain: Dina Spenciner Vote: 841/0/84	Motion: Gloria McGraw Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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- Materials will be provided prior, board can request some materials also
- Last 5-10 years of information in differing categories is the plan

B. Oct 8th Bjorn Center Board Tour

1. Have Oct 8th Board Mtg. at MBMS
 - Tour starts at 6:15
 - Board mtg. starts at 6:45 pm
2. Discussion/Questions?
 - It's ok to vote to accept minutes or vote for choosing a time even if you weren't or will not be there - Per Parliamentarian Scott Erb
3. Motion
4. Vote

<i>Motion to approve move the October 8th Board meeting to MBMS to coincide with Bjorn CTE Center Tour.</i>	Yeas: Dee Robinson, Gloria McGraw, Jeff Barnum, Wayne Kinney, Josh Robbins, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Debbie Smith, Katie Martikke, Dina Spenciner, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Kyle Fletcher Student Yeas: Adeline Colello Nays: Abstain: Will Jones Vote: 841/0/84	Motion: Wayne Kinney Seconded: Scott Erb Motion: Passed
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C. Do we want to postpone the 11-5-2024 Committee Mtgs because it's election night?

1. Why?
2. To when?
 - Nov 19 or?
 - Other?
3. Discussion/Questions?
 - Close to thanksgiving
4. Motion
5. Vote

<i>Motion to Postpone the 11/5/24 Committee Meetings</i>	Yeas: Dee Robinson, Gloria McGraw, Jeff Barnum, Wayne	Motion: Wayne Kinney Seconded: Gwen Doak
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<p><i>to 11-19-2024 due to Election night.</i></p>	<p>Kinney, Josh Robbins, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Debbie Smith, Will Jones, Katie Martikke, Dina Spenciner, Greg Kimber, Scott Erb, Kyle Fletcher Student Yeas: Adeline Colello Nays: Abstain: Vote: 925/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Passed</p>
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Next few committee meetings are at the District Office

We should consider going to other schools for meetings every once in awhile - Wayne Kinney

XIII. Adjourned - 7:21pm

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

October 8, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - FCTEC

October 22, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - School Nutrition, McKinney Vento, MBHS

BOARD WORKSHOP (closed session public not invited)

October 21, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - October 1, 2024 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, Mt. Blue Campus

Personnel & Finance - October 1, 2024 - 6:00pm - The Holman House, Mt. Blue Campus

Educational Policy - October 1, 2024 - 7:00pm - The Holman House, Mt. Blue Campus