

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

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Educational Policy Committee

Agenda Minutes

Sept 3, 2024

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

The RSU 9 District Office, Main Street Farmington

Board Committee Members Present: Gwen Doak, Kyle Fletcher, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Dina Spenciner

Other Board Members Present: Amanda Caruso, Gloria McGraw

Staff: Monique Poulin, Christian Elkington

Other Staff Present: Joel Smith, Greg Henderson, Todd Demmons, Katie Duchesne

1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair Doak

- a. Meeting called to order at 7:02

2. Previous Committee Minutes- [8-6-2024](#) - Chair Doak

- a. Any questions?
 - i. Wrong notes were accidentally linked in. Will need to review the correct ones at the next meeting.

3. Updates

- a. New Teacher Orientation - Poulin
 - i. Review of days
 1. 2 days again this year because we had some extra funding from ESSER
 2. Very fortunate to have many present RSU 9 Staff participating in support of our new teachers
 - a. New staff was very involved throughout the two days
 3. Two well-organized days based on improvement feedback suggestions from last year
 - ii. Survey results/feedback
 1. What did our people say?
 - a. Great and varied feedback
 - i. Everyone seemed to find multiple positives about the breadth of the info shared over the two days
 - ii. Informative and helpful
- b. Maine History - Poulin
 - i. Wabanaki Books purchase
 1. Why?
 - a. Talked about the history of the law from 20 years ago and a recent updated statute expectation

- b. Assistant Super brought a group together to choose titles for a review committee to then make selections for grades K-5 as we wait for the updated social studies standards next year. We will also be asking staff to come up with plans to support in the implementation of the materials.
 - 2. For what?
 - c. MBHS AP & College Course Enrollment Review - Joel Smith
 - i. [Advanced Placement](#)
 - 1. Numbers have rebounded to pre-Covid figures.
 - 2. There are several students who take college courses instead of AP.
 - 3. Bridge Academy Maine also offers college credit that is taught by our teaching staff.
 - 4. Stats, Spanish and Physics-are no longer being offered as AP courses.
 - 5. AP Lit, AP Lang, AP US, AP Euro, AP Art and AP Calculus are currently being offered.
 - 6. Offering increased programming and different classes in different ways pulls students from AP.
 - 7. We have more MBHS students taking CTE courses. AP courses could conflict with the three period CTE programming commitment.
 - 8. Maine Early College is easier to access due to a transition to a single platform noting options.
 - 9. In order to have an AP course count, a score 3 or higher is required and sometimes it is not transferable.
 - 10. Pathways have expanded, which is good for our students.
 - ii. [College Course #s](#)
 - iii. [2 & 4 yr. College Enrollments](#)
 - 1. Principal Smith reviewed numbers over time and discussed the increase of students enrolling in two year programming.
 - iv. Data review
 - 1. MBHS Staff thoughts?
 - a. Assistant Principals Demmons and Hendwerson shared the effect of the above options.
 - v. Board Member questions
 - vi. Next steps?

4. Policy Work - Elkington

- a. [SY 24-25 Policy Work Index](#)
- b. Policy Folders
 - i. Cell Phone Discussion
 - 1. [JFCK Electronic Devices](#)
 - 2. [JFCK-R Electronic Devices - Rules](#)
 - 3. Review of policy
 - a. Difficult to implement the policy based on the reality in our schools.
 - b. These policies have not been reviewed in 10 + years.
 - c. A staff Survey in spring shared-Phones are a big concern and a distraction. Adjustments were emphasized this year to support staff instruction as well as student learning.
 - d. Consequences were added to the handbook.

- e. Rules for 24-25-were shared in the newsletter which drew attention to it.
 - f. It is vital to work within the realities of the two perspectives.
 - g. A CNN article published this morning on this topic was referenced.
 - h. Middle school vs. high school-at the middle school they all use lockers which are more central to their classrooms.
 - i. Policy needs to be changed to align with practice.
 - j. There was some research done specific to Yonder pouches. Day Treatment uses pouches with success. Power struggle is gone with the pouches. Yonder is a significant expense.-\$25,000 for 700. There was much discussion about the implementation of the pouches. Tough balance to spend money on pouches and not on laptops.
 - k. It would be an infringement on free speech to try to take away a student's phone signal.
 - l. There is always a work around and some students will still be able to access all of the platforms on their iPads.
 - m. Where do parents fit into the policy language?
 - n. Policy/handbook/practice all must be aligned for successful implementation. Relying on the exception is not best practice (1b).
 - o. More discussion to come up with an invitation to Joel to look at updated wording. The Superintendent and HS Principal will meet to plan next steps.
- 4. District perspectives
 - 5. Questions about MBHS follow-through
 - a. See above.
 - 6. Next steps?
- ii. Discussion & Review (*Required by statute)
 - 1. [Dangerous Student Reporting](#)
 - 2. Student Discipline
 - a. Some concerns were raised in regards to admin. disciplinary parameters
 - i. Are we giving "enough" consequences to students who are dysregulated? There is a sense that we are too lenient with how we enforce discipline with dysregulated students.
 - ii. Nine policies with any reference are noted below. All have been reviewed in the past four years. With no need for changes per Maine statute.
 - iii. Maine changed the suspension law for fifth grade and below. Students can be out for up to three days max to figure out a plan for the student to return.
 - iv. Students with IEPs have more specific expectations.
 - v. There are some mitigating measures that we have added-special ed supports with new staff, Pre K expansion, K Ed Techs to help students learn SEL and regulation techniques sooner.
 - vi. How do we respond when students are not complying with our expectations, those without IEPs?
 - vii. At this time this is predominantly a K-5 issue.

- viii. We have expanded alternative education programming within RSU 9.
 - ix. Specialized programming is more expensive.
 - b. Process Discussion
 - i. What can and can we not do with students?
 - c. Questions on the following policies:
 - i. [JIC * Student Code of Conduct - 2021](#)
 - ii. [JK * Student Discipline - 2022](#)
 - iii. [JKAA * Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion - 2023](#)
 - iv. [JKAA - R Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedure - 2023](#)
 - v. [JKD - Suspension of Students - 2022](#)
 - vi. [JKD - R Suspension of Students Procedure - 2023](#)
 - vii. [JKE - Expulsion of Students - 2023](#)
 - viii. [JKF - Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities - 2023](#)
 - ix. [JKF - R Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities Procedure - 2023](#)
 - 3. Next steps?
 - a. More discussion at our next meeting
 - 4. Approve as reviewed?
- iii. Minor Changes
 - 1. [JKE - R Expulsion of Students Procedure - 2023](#)
 - a. Discussion/Questions?
 - i. No questions
 - b. Next steps?
 - i. Move forward with review date on it
- iv. Basic Updates
 - 1. None
- v. Major Revisions
 - 1. None
- vi. Brand New
 - 1. None

5. Next Mtg. October 1, 2024 at the Holman House (Committee would like to stay at the Holman House)

6. Adjourned at 8:25

7. Future Agenda Items -

- Oct Mtg.
 - Science Review, including “Mystery Science” Program
 - ESY
- SNAP Health Center (Nursing) software review (What does it do?)