



Mt. Blue Regional School District
227 Main Street | Farmington, ME 04938
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Chesterville | Farmington | Industry | New Sharon | New Vineyard | Starks | Temple | Vienna | Weld | Wilton

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 • 6:30pm • MBC Forum

This agenda constitutes official notice of a public meeting of the School Board.

Posted items may be removed, tabled, or in some situations added by a majority vote of the Board.

Official board minutes, not the agenda, serve as the formal record of all final actions taken.

Livestream: [Mt Blue Regional School District Board Meetings](#)

Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Gwen Doak, Ruth Gauvin, Doug Hiltz, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner, Greg Kimber

Members Absent: Patty Hastings

Student Reps Present: Rubyanne Alexis, Reed Cousineau, Evan Drake, Brynne Fournier

Student Reps Absent:

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bremner, Richard Joseph, Jr., Nicole Ibarguen, Joel Smith, Carol Kiesman, Stacey Gilbert

School Board Meeting Agenda

***Action Item - Requires a Vote:** The board must collectively decide to approve, reject, amend, or table the item.

Decisions on action items are recorded in the official minutes.

School Board Member Core Responsibilities and Requirements - [Summary](#)

I. Preliminary Business

A. Call to Order

1. Chair Doak called the meeting to order at 6:30.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Moment of Silence on behalf of the 25th Anniversary of 9-11 Victims and their families

D. *Adjustments to the Agenda

1. **Report of the Chairperson**

- a) **Welcome student Board representatives - as item II.A.1**

2. **Item II.G.3 - Will share some info but in-depth discussion at the next meeting**

Motion: To approve adjustments to the agenda as presented.	Yays: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Gwen Doak, Ruth Gauvin,, Doug Hiltz, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yays: Rubyanne Alexis, Reed Cousineau, Evan Drake, Brynne Fournier Student Nays: Student Abstain:	1st: 2nd: Weighted Vote: Yay: 978 Nay: 0 Abstain:
Discussion:		

II. Informational Reports & Presentations - *Action Items

- A. Report of the Chairperson
 - 1. Welcome student Board representatives -
 - a) Returning seniors - Brynne Fournier and Reed Cousineau
 - b) New Reps, juniors - Rubyanne Alexis and Evan Drake
 - 2. [Policy BCA](#) - Board Member Code of Ethics
 - a) F & G
- B. Communications - *Superintendent Elkington*
 - 1. [CCHS PFA monitoring](#)
 - a) Only school on well water
 - b) We are below the state maximum
 - c) Superintendent Elkington will send the most recent results to all.
- C. Public Comment per [Policy BEDH](#)
- D. Good News Stories from the Board & Administrators
 - 1. FCTEC Electrical Program: Year 2 is underway with an expanded focus on commercial electrical concepts.
 - 2. MBC Open House: Over 500 people attended a successful event, with special thanks to Franklin Savings Bank and Walmart for their sponsorship.
 - 3. MBHS Cross Country: The team successfully hosted a home meet last week.
 - 4. Opening Week Visits: Admin/board visits to schools went smoothly, highlighting positive energy across classrooms.
 - 5. Transportation: Bus drivers and staff have been remarkably nimble, navigating ongoing road construction projects without major disruptions.
- E. Administrator Reports - *Department Directors*
 - 1. [IT Services / Technology](#) - *Director Kevin Bremner*
 - a) Director Joseph reviewed the highlights of his report.
 - b) E-Rate Funding: The timing regarding a potential loss of E-rate funding remains uncertain.
 - c) Laptop Rollout: The deployment of Neo laptops was a success overall, with units secured at a price of \$499 each.
 - d) Financial Accountability: A comprehensive five-year report detailing how funds have been spent will be issued.
 - 2. [Transportation](#) - *Director Richard Joseph Jr.*
 - a) Director Joseph reviewed the highlights of his report.
 - b) State Inspection: Went extremely well this year.
 - c) Fleet & Operations: RSU 9 uses Class C buses (including propane), running 32 daily routes with 7–8 spares/trip buses. Information on additional fleet vehicles, garage square footage, and recommended spare ratios will be sent out by the superintendent.
 - d) Maintenance: Buses cover ~1,000 miles in 5–6 days and are put on the lift for maintenance every 1,000 miles.
 - e) Conference Request: Request shared to post signs for the next MAPT (Maine Association for Pupil Transportation) conference.
 - f) Safety Equipment: Fully compliant with safety arms for 20 years. The anti-pinch safety proposal did not pass, as retrofitting existing buses would pose a significant challenge.
 - g) Future Safety Protocols: A state-level team has been formed to enhance training for bus drivers and transportation directors next year.
 - h) Electric Buses: Currently deemed not price-competitive or reliable enough for adoption.
 - 3. [Operations](#) - *Director Nicole Ibarguen*
 - a) Director Ibarguen reviewed the highlights of her report.

- b) Shout out to Mike Turner for working so well within Incident IQ.
 - c) We continue to work on the bat concern at MBMS.
- F. [Superintendent's Report](#)
 - 1. Personnel & Staffing Update
 - 2. Active Job Postings
 - 3. How is RSU 9 helping to provide staff for our classrooms?
 - 4. Welcome Back Presentation 2026
 - 5. Federal Fund Cuts Will Hurt RSU 9
- G. Presentations - *Superintendent Elkington*
 - 1. 2025/26 Q4 and School Year Attendance Data *6 year Historical | % Absent & % Chronically Absent*
 - a) 25:26 Q4 and SY Attendance Data
 - b) [Some Recent Studies on Attendance 8-23-2026](#)
 - c) [Attendance is the scoreboard--connection is the game](#)
 - d) The superintendent reviewed documents that he distributed as well as the articles that are linked in.
 - (i) Chronic absenteeism is a symptom of broader challenges rather than the primary issue. Our focus remains on addressing root causes to decrease family disconnection and increase meaningful student and family engagement.
 - (ii) Solutions are tailored to individual student and family needs.
 - (iii) Board members are encouraged to send any questions to the superintendent prior to the next meeting.
 - 2. Enrollment is down 110 students compared to last year, with Pre-K and Kindergarten numbers remaining difficult to gauge precisely.
 - a) Official state funding relies on the ED279 average of April 1 and October 1 student counts. Official October 1 numbers will be shared at the first Oct Board Meeting.
 - b) Outgoing superintendent agreements are down, resulting in 18 more incoming transfers than outgoing.
 - c) Class sizes are favorable overall. Lower average class sizes at CCHS are being monitored alongside instructional changes to evaluate their impact on student behavior and dysregulation (future update will follow from the principal).
 - 3. FY26 Budget Article Adjustments
 - a) Voters approved granting the board authority to reallocate more than 5% between budget articles.
 - b) The Finance Committee reviewed and supported Director Gamache's recommended adjustments.
 - c) The balance forward is projected to increase by just over \$300,000. Full financial updates will be shared with the board.
 - d) A clean copy of the changes will be revisited at the next board meeting to allow members time to review the data for any questions they might have.

III. Committee Meeting(s) Notes Review - to be accepted by committee vote

- A. September 1, 2026
 - 1. [Operations & Maintenance, Personnel & Finance, Ed Policy Meeting](#)
 - a) Operations and Maintenance
 - (i) Consensus was given
 - b) Personnel and Finance
 - (i) Consensus was given
 - c) Ed Policy

- (i) Consensus was given
- d) We need to add that the chair is a full standing member for all committees.

IV. Consent Agenda **Action Item*

- A. **Previous Board Meeting Minutes*
 - 1. [August 25, 2026](#)
- B. **Previous Committee Meeting Minutes - September 1, 2026*
 - 1. [Operations & Maintenance](#)
 - 2. [Personnel & Finance](#)
 - 3. [Ed Policy Meeting](#)

Motion: To approve the consent agenda without objection by block.	Yays: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Gwen Doak, Ruth Gauvin, Doug Hiltz, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain:	1st: Rich Ruhlin 2nd: Jeff Barnum Weighted Vote: Yay: 904 Nay: 0 Abstain:
Discussion:	Student Yays: Rubyanne Alexis, Reed Cousineau, Evan Drake, Brynne Fournier Student Nays: Student Abstain:	

V. New Business **Action Items*

- A. **Policy Work*
 - 1. **Eliminations - (one reading)*
 - a) [EFF-Worksite-Healthy-Eating](#)

Motion: To eliminate Policy EFF as presented.	Yays: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Gwen Doak, Ruth Gauvin, Doug Hiltz, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain:	1st: Rich Ruhlin 2nd: Katie Martikke Weighted Vote: Yay: 904 Nay: 0 Abstain:
Discussion:	Student Yays: Rubyanne Alexis, Reed Cousineau, Evan Drake, Brynne Fournier Student Nays: Student Abstain:	

- 2. **Minor Adjustments - (one reading)*
 - a) [EFBA-MB Menu-Development-Options](#)

Motion: To approve the adjustments to the above policy as presented.	Yays: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Gwen Doak, Ruth Gauvin, Doug Hiltz, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain:	1st: Rich 2nd: Katie Weighted Vote: Yay: 904 Nay: 0 Abstain:
Discussion: Lack of c	Student Yays: Rubyanne Alexis, Reed Cousineau, Evan Drake, Brynne Fournier Student Nays: Student Abstain:	

- b) [EFDA-Meal-charging-policy-adopted-6-20-17](#)
- c) *VOTED separately-Rich and Katie (2a) and unanimous; 2b-Rich and Jeff-unanimous (question-last section of page 2 EFDA-consequences 100 or 300 the cut off? 300 is collection agency. Student balances will be referred to collections when they reach 300. A student carrying a negative balance of more than 100 dollars may not be eligible for renewal and may be referred to collections at 300. The committee takes it back and then will bring it back next time. Motion on policy and so vote against it for more work. Unanimous opposition and referred back to Ed Policy. 3C-Rich and Katie-unanimous; 2D-Rich and Dina-unanimous*

Motion: To approve the adjustments to the above policy as presented. Discussion:	Yays: <i>Nays:</i> Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Gwen Doak, Ruth Gauvin, Doug Hiltz, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner Abstain: <i>Student Yays:</i> <i>Student Nays:</i> Rubyanne Alexis, Reed Cousineau, Evan Drake, Brynne Fournier <i>Student Abstain:</i>	1st: Rich 2nd: Jeff Weighted Vote: Yay: Nay: 904 Abstain:
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d) [EFE-Competitive-Food-Sales-Sales-of-Foods-in-Competition-with-the-School-Food-Ser vice-Program](#)

Motion: To approve the adjustments to the above policies as presented. Discussion:	Yays: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Gwen Doak, Ruth Gauvin, Doug Hiltz, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: <i>Student Yays:</i> Rubyanne Alexis, Reed Cousineau, Evan Drake, Brynne Fournier <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i>	1st: Rich 2nd: Katie Weighted Vote: Yay: 904 Nay: 0 Abstain:
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e) [EFE-R-Vending-Machine-Regulations](#)

Motion: To approve the adjustments to the above policies as presented. Discussion:	Yays: Jeff Barnum, Christina Bobrow, Gwen Doak, Ruth Gauvin, Doug Hiltz, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: <i>Student Yays:</i> Rubyanne Alexis, Reed Cousineau, Evan Drake, Brynne Fournier <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i>	1st: Rich 2nd: Katie Weighted Vote: Yay: 904 Nay: 0 Abstain:
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3. *Major Revisions - (first of two readings)
 - a) [JLF-MB REV Child-Abuse-and-Neglect-Reporting](#)
 - b) [JLF-E-MB Revised Suspected-Child-Abuse _Neglect-Report-Form](#)
 - (i) Both will come back at the next meeting.
4. *Replacements - (first of two readings)
 - a) [EBCF-Automated-External-Defibrillators-AED](#)
 - (i) Will come back at the next meeting.

VI. Adjournment

A. Adjourn Meeting

1. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 8:20.

Upcoming Meetings:

Board Meetings @ MBC Forum

1. September 22, 2026 (*Special Services, School Nutrition, Adult Education*)
2. October 13, 2026 (*AHS/GDCS, CCHS, CBS, WGMS*)
3. October 27, 2026 (*MBMS, MBHS, FTC*)
4. November 17, 2026 - **THIRD TUESDAY!** (*Athletics, McKinney Vento/FESS*)

Committee Meetings - @ District Office

1. October 6, 2026 (*Operations, Finance, Ed. Policy*)
2. November 3, 2026 (*Operations, Finance, Ed. Policy*)