

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 9, 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, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner

Board Members Absent: Gerald Provencher, Griffin Mayhew

Student Reps Present: Reed Cousineau, Brynne Fournier, Rowan Shanti

Student Reps Absent: Julian Reynolds

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Keith Acedo, Carol Kiesman, Stacey Gilbert, Joel Smith, Cynthia Bernstein

I. Call to Order - Chair Doak

- A. Meeting called to order at 6:30

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

- A. Item 10 (Attendance)-postponed to 9/23
- B. Item 13a-Change executive session- to "405(6)(A) For the purpose of discussing a personnel issue"
- C. Item 13b-Future Board Agenda

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Gwen Doak

- A. [BCA - Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
 - 1. "F & G"

V. Communications

- A. [2025 SFSP AR Closure Letter No Findings](#)
- B. [25/26 FACILITY-USE-BROCHURE](#)

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. MBC-Upcoming MBC Open House, two successful weeks with new cell policy and students talking to each other and focusing on eye contact.
- B. First two weeks of visiting schools-such a positive start to the year!

VII. Public Comment

- A. Dee Robinson-Chesterville-Would like there to be a review of dress code inconsistencies between MBMS and MBC. Requests for RSU 9 to look for more consistency across the district.

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 9-9-2025
- C. The troubling state of teacher shortages in 2025
 - 1. Our concern is a nationwide concern. We are doing a good job coming up with alternative paths to helping people earn certification.
- D. Teachers now outpace students in AI use
 - 1. This will be an area we need to put a greater focus on in the district as it is a tool that can assist staff.
- E. 8-21-2025 Staff Letter
- F. Cannabis Listening Session
 - 1. Superintendent Elkington highlighted information from his attendance at this meeting.

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [AHS & GDCS](#) - Principal Keith Acedo
 - 1. Principal Acedo reviewed the highlights of his report, including the new Adaptive Skills program at AHS, Gracie Vaughan as RSU #9 Novice Teacher of the Year, Back to School nights set for tomorrow, and BARR training.
 - 2. Question regarding substitutes-This can be challenging to manage at times, but we do all we can to fill the positions.
 - 3. What might the PFML act impact be on the need for subs?
 - a. Superintendent Elkington shared that it will probably increase the # of staff days missed.
- B. [CCHS](#) - Principal Carol Kiesman

1. Principal Kiesman reviewed the highlights of her report, including the summer enrichment program supported by the Community Schools Grant (15-20 students each day engaged in STEAM activities!) Anita Stevens now filling both First Ten and Community Schools coordinator roles, and BARR training with Alyssa Newhall as their new coordinator.

X. Presentations - Poulin & Elkington

A. [24-25 District Goals Outcome Progress](#)

1. Daily Attendance-TABLE
2. Chronic Absenteeism-TABLE
3. NWEA Progress
 - a. Monique reviewed MAP Growth Data with a 1% increase in math scores and a 2% increase in literacy scores district wide.

B. Absenteeism Data Review-TABLE

1. District & School Data
2. 24-25 Strategies used
3. 25-26 Strategy adjustments

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [8/26/2025](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 1. Operations Committee - [9/2/2025](#)
 2. Personnel & Finance - ~~9/2/2025~~ - Mtg. postponed to 9/9/25 (before today's Board Mtg.)
 3. Educational Policy - [9/2/2025](#)
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Rich Ruhlin Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Brynne Fournier, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: Rich Ruhlin 801/0/50	<i>Motion: Katie Martikke Second: Gloria McGraw Motion: Passed</i>
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XII. New Business

A. [Strategic Plan](#) - Elkington

1. 25-26 Review
 - a. Focus Areas
 - b. Strategies
 - c. Outcomes
2. Questions/Discussion
3. Motion to approve for 25-26
4. Vote

<i>Motion to approve the Strategic Plan as presented</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Brynne Fournier, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 851/0/0	<i>Motion: Lance Harvell Second: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed</i>
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B. Policy Work - Kinney/Elkington

1. Minor Revisions (one reading)
 - a. [ADF-Draft Rev Learning-Results-Commitment.docx](#)
 - i. Discussion/ Questions
 - b. [KF-RI Community Use of School Facilities procedure](#)
 - i. Discussion/Questions
 - Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the policy updates for ADF & KF-R1 as presented</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Brynne Fournier, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 851/0/0	<i>Motion: Wayne Kinney Second: Lance Harvell Motion: Passed</i>
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2. Eliminations

- a. [KF-E1 Draft Bjorn Auditorium - Presentation Forum Application for Use](#)
 - i. Discussion/Questions

- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to eliminate the policy KF-E1</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Brynne Fournier, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 851/0/0	<i>Motion: Wayne Kinney</i> <i>Second: Lance Harvell</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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XIII. Executive Sessions

- A. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - Consultation between school unit and its attorney
- *Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) - For the purpose of discussing a personnel issue.*
 - Entered Executive Session at 7:25.

<i>Motion to go into Executive Session for Consultation w/ attorney.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Katie Martikke, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner Nays: Abstain: Student Yeas: Reed Cousineau, Brynne Fournier, Rowan Shanti Student Nays: Student Abstain: 851/0/0 Student Abstain:	<i>Motion: Rich Ruhlin</i> <i>Second: Debbie Smith</i> <i>Motion: Passed</i>
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- Returned from Executive Session at 7:41.

XIV. Adjourned without objection at 7:42.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - CBS, MBMS, WGMS*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - Tiered schools
 - Sports Participation #s

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

- *Board Reports - School Nutrition, McKinney Vento/FESS*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*

- TBD

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

****Personnel & Finance - September 9, 2025, - 5:30pm - MBC Library (Rescheduled from 9/2/25)***

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