

Mt. Blue Regional School District

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

Board of Directors Meeting AGENDA Minutes - Draft

DATE: November 28, 2023
PLACE: The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
TIME: 6:30pm
LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

Members present: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Brielle Tinker, Abbey Goodspeed, Janice Davis (arrived at 6:35), Scott Erb (arrived at 6:35), Wayne Kinney (arrived at 6:35)

Staff Present: Chris Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Andy Hutchins, Carol Kiesman, Amanda Clark, Joel Smith, Keith Acedo, Nichole Goodspeed

- I. Call to Order - Chair Robinson
 - A. Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:30.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - A. None
- IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Robinson
 - A. Introduction of New Student Reps
 1. Chair Robinson welcomed Brielle Tinker as a new student member of the Board.
 - B. [Code of Ethics](#)
 - O & P
- V. Communications
 - A. [Festival of Trees](#)
 1. Superintendent Elkington shared that the Central Office staff will be sponsoring a tree and will be serving hot cocoa and cookies to the public from the lawn of the Holman House on Chester Greenwood Day.
- VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators
 - A. MBHS Good News shared:

1. At today's recognition ceremony, Abbey Goodspeed received the Daughters of the American Revolution Award.
 2. Winter sports have begun.
 3. The Winter Orchestra concert will be held this week.
 4. The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony went off smoothly last week with many students inducted.
- B. Staff Members of the Month were recognized by Debbie Smith at their schools.
- C. The Franklin County Retired Teachers gathering was held at MBC. The Culinary Arts Program catered the event with 50 members and Superintendent Elkington was in attendance.
- D. The MBC Custodial Staff are to be commended. The building is immaculate!
- E. Our expanded collaboration with UMF has been welcomed by their staff. Ongoing meetings at this time are focused on putting New Teacher and Teacher Coach supports in place through a grant UMF received. Also looking at developing a professional development program together to serve RSU 9 professional and support staff.
- VII. Public Comment
- A. None
- VIII. [Superintendent's Report](#) - Elkington
- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Updated Homeschool #s
- C. Attendance #s by school
- D. Updated Openings list
1. This is a fluid number. It was suggested that it would be important to differentiate the openings when sharing total numbers (teachers vs. coaching staff). There was a question about the long term substitute teachers in the MBHS Day Treatment Program.
- IX. Administrator Reports
- A. [Food Service](#) - Andy Hutchins
1. With creative ordering, it looks like we will get through the milk carton shortage just fine.
 2. The Thursday before Thanksgiving, the food service program held its Thanksgiving meal. At AHS, the meal was celebrated in fine fashion with special tablecloths, etc.
 3. School Nutrition is breaking records at each school with meal participation.
 4. The summer training was a great success with lots of learning and collaboration. A shout out to the fire department and to Vicky

Gerstenberger, nurse at MBC, for sharing their assistance and expertise.

5. The fresh fruit and vegetable grant is going very well at all elementary schools.
6. A shout out to Rob Olsen and students in the Metal Fabrication program for their help with a creative project.
7. How might students be involved in food preparation? Snap Ed works to provide this opportunity, and the proposed future project for a regional center at MBC may provide for this as well.
8. What supports are there in place for locally sourced foods? RSU #9 was given \$9,000 this year from the federal government for this purpose. The State of Maine will reimburse at 100% for foods grown in Maine. There are also smaller supports in place for locally grown foods. Farm to School grants are available, but they are sometimes difficult to navigate, and it is a challenge to find time to complete them. One central location for meal prep would assist in working most closely with local farmers for efficiency's sake. It was suggested to consider collaborating with surrounding districts.
9. A "Shout out" to Andy for his commitment to the program and a "Shout out" to our food service staff at all schools!

B. [McKinney Vento](#) - Amanda Clark

1. Amanda reviewed the numbers identified, which totals 38 as of today.
2. Most are identified as doubled up (living with a friend or family member for financial reasons).
3. The collaboration with all schools has been wonderful and supportive.
4. DHHS is offering an opportunity to strengthen our communities (noted in the newsletter)-please join in!
5. A great success this fall occurred with a collaboration with CMP and a family in need.
6. There are some new funds available to support our students identified as McKinney Vento at \$750 per student. There are varied allowable uses that will need to be followed.
7. Some families do not want to identify as McKinney-Vento. Our focus is on creating relationships with families and school staff to best support students.
8. Unaccompanied youth are identified as those not living with their parents. They might be living with other adult family members or could be students who have been kicked out or have chosen to leave home.
9. We partner unofficially with many local organizations in support of our unhoused students.

10. Shout out to Amanda for her work with McKinney-Vento to date this year!
11. We are working through a complicated matter with a McKinney-Vento situation, and strong knowledge of the law has been helpful.
12. We see this as a need that will continue to increase and will require resources going forward.

X. Presentations
A. None

XI. Consent Agenda
A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
B. Board Minutes [11-14-2023](#)
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.</i>	<p>Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Janice Davis, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney</p> <p>Abbey Goodspeed, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Nays: Abstained: Vote: 1001/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed</p>
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XII. New Business
A. Approve Overnight Trip
1. [Noble Wrestling Tournament Dec 27-28](#)
2. Motion to approve

<i>Motion to approve the trip as presented.</i>	<p>Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Janice Davis, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney</p> <p>Abbey Goodspeed, Brielle Tinker</p> <p>Nays: Abstained: Vote: 1001/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed</p>
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B. Review of student day make-up options for Oct 26th & 27th

1. Oct 26th will be treated like a Storm Day
2. Oct 27th can:
 - a) Trade for the PD (professional development) Day in March
 - b) Ask Commissioner for a student day waiver
3. Timeframe
4. Board discussion/thoughts?
 - a) Lots of questions/comments on waivers, storm days, school day length. Juneteenth is a factor in the mix.
 - b) Looking at trading the March PD day for a student day, even though that is not ideal, was echoed by several members.

C. Policy Review

1. Major Changes/Updates (Second reading)
 - a) [ACAAA Transgender and Gender Expansive Students](#)
 - (1) Moves from guideline to policy
 - (2) Questions?

<i>Motion to approve Policy as written</i>	<p>Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Janice</p>	<p>Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed</p>
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	<p>Davis, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney</p> <p>Brielle Tinker, Abbey Goodspeed</p> <p>Nays: Abstained: Vote: 1001/0/0</p>	
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b) [IMG Animals in School](#)

- (1) This is a complete replacement of the current policy.
- (2) Questions?

<i>Motion to approve Policy as written</i>	<p>Yeas: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Janice Davis, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney</p> <p>Brielle Tinker, Abbey Goodspeed</p> <p>Nays: Abstained: Vote: 1001/0/0</p>	<p>Motion: Wayne Kinney Seconded: Rich Ruhlin Motion: Passed</p>
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2. Brand New (Second reading)

a) RSU 9 does not have this procedure

(1) [DKC-R TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE](#)

(a) Questions?

- (i) There was a brief discussion regarding increasing the daily rate to \$50.00 and changing the tip percentage to between 15 to 20%.

<i>Motion to approve Policy as amended to include an increase in daily meal allowance from \$40 to \$50 and an adjustment regarding tipping to “between 15%-20%”</i>	Yea: Debbie Smith, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Carol Coles, Gloria McGraw, Will Jones, Josh Robbins, Kyle Fletcher, Rich Ruhlin, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Janice Davis, Scott Erb, Wayne Kinney Brielle Tinker, Abbey Goodspeed Nays: Abstained: Vote: 1001/0/0	Motion: Rich Ruhlin Seconded: Scott Erb Motion: Passed
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XIII. Adjourn

A. Chair Robinson adjourned without objection at 7:45.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

December 13th, 2023 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - CBS, FCTC, Transportation

January 9, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

- Board Reports - AHS/GDC, MBMS

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - December 5th, 2023 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Personnel & Finance - December 5th, 2023 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Educational Policy - December 5th, 2023 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus