

Mt. Blue Regional School District

Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all

DATE: October 10, 2023

PLACE: The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

TIME: 6:30pm

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

Board Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Alexander Creznic, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Janice David, Kyle Fletcher, Josh Robbins, Gloria McGraw, Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, and Dee Robinson and Will Jones (arrived at 6:36)

Absent: Debbie Smith, Rich Ruhlin

Staff Present: Chris Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Members Present: Joel Smith, Greg Henderson, Todd Demmons, Tracy Williams, Mary Redmond-Luce, and Kevin Bremner

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:31.

- II. Pledge of Allegiance

- III. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - A. None

- IV. Report of the Chairperson - Dee Robinson
 - A. [Code of Ethics I & J](#)

- V. Communications
 - A. Staff Members of the Month for August
 1. Congratulations go to:
 - a) Shaun St. Germain - August Professional Staff Member of the Month
 - b) Amanda Barker - August Support Staff Member of the Month

- VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators
 - A. The Mt. Blue Relays were held last Friday with a large crowd of athletes and fans. It was a tremendous and celebratory gathering of runners, friends, and families!
 - B. The Mt. Blue Middle School cross country team is having an incredible season. Their next meet will be held tomorrow at MBC.
 - C. The district workshop day was held this past Friday. There were varied offerings for our staff members. We will be reviewing feedback over the next few weeks with the leadership teams who organized the sessions. Many thanks to all involved in the planning and implementation!

VII. Public Comment

A. None

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

A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements

1. There was a question about the reasoning behind resignations at this time of the year.

The world has changed with COVID and since. With teaching positions, all positions in high need staff are now looking for alternatives during the year for the first time, other than admin positions.

2. There was a question about what the superintendent would like to see in order to recruit and retain employees.

Better support of staff Wellness needs must become front and center over the coming decade in order to keep people happy.

B. Enrollment Update

1. MBHS students cannot be counted twice if they are enrolled in FCTEC so you can't add their totals twice into our total school pop.

C. RSU 9 Homeschool #s

1. There was a question about why the number of homeschooled students after Covid has not lessened.

This has become a political question with some of our families believing that they must take greater control of what is taught to their children and moving away from opportunities for all. The lack of a drop in homeschool numbers appears to have happened because of a private school closing with some of those students turning to homeschooling.

2. There was also a question about the number of students enrolled in private schools. Some students from the local private school that closed enrolled in our schools and some registered as homeschooled students and that appears to be the reason why the number has dropped.

D. "Factors Driving Undergraduate Choice of Major... "

1. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the significance of the article regarding hiring educators in RSU #9 both now and in the future.

E. "Switching Off: Sweden says..."

IX. Administrator Reports

A. [Adult Education](#) - Mary Redmond-Luce

1. Mary highlighted the "Our Community" section of the report.
2. She made note of the large number (618) of 16-19 year olds in the five counties of Western/Central Maine who are not engaged in work nor education. However, the number is low (22) for the schools in Franklin County. This could mean that we have done an excellent job assisting the students we can connect with in this population.

3. She celebrated six students who have already graduated this year!

X. Presentations

- None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes [9-26-23](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - [10-3-2023](#)
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - [10-3-2023](#)
 - 3. Educational Policy - [10-3-2023](#)
- *Motion to approve the consent agenda as shared*

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda.</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Alexander Creznic, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Janice David, Kyle Fletcher, Josh Robbins, Gloria McGraw, Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, and Dee Robinson, Will Jones Nays: Abstained: Vote: 928/0/0	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Janice David Motion: Passed
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XII. New Business

- A. Approval of [FTC Cooperative Agreement](#) (updated draft)
 - 1. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the agreement. He also shared the need to align the mindset and implementation with the language in the agreement. That we need greater involvement from the other sending schools. Going forward, the FCTEC budget will be approved by the Advisory Committee. It will then be added to the RSU #9 warrant per the statute. The four superintendents and one board rep from each district will set the budget with a final review and approval by each Board.
 - 2. There was a question about one community potentially not supporting the budget and the impact that might have. You need three of the four districts to approve the budget. If the budget went over the allocation and a district refused to support the FTC budget, it may lose some of the guaranteed slots for that community. Is there a need to add language in case a community does not approve the budget? With the new funding set-up over the last 9 years it is cleaner and we have not had any need to ask other districts for extra funds in many, many, years.

3. What costs are inherent to having the center in our district? The district is in charge of the space and additions to the space but FTC does pay for part of using the physical plant along with other costs associated with the program being in Mt. Blue.
 4. Are all districts at capacity with their assigned FCTEC seats? Pretty close, for the most part, and if there are open seats, they are filled by other districts as necessary. We are at our highest #s ever!
- *Motion to approve FTC Cooperative Agreement as shared*

<i>Motion to approve the FTC Cooperative Agreement as shared</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Alexander Creznic, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Janice David, Kyle Fletcher, Josh Robbins, Gloria McGraw, Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Dee Robinson, Will Jones Nays: Abstained: Vote: 928/0/0	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Jeff Barnum Motion: Passed
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B. Policy Review

1. Basic Changes/Adjustments that don't significantly change policy (one reading)
 - a) [JKAA Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion](#)
 (1) Review
 (a) Adjustments were made based on the law changing.
 - b) [JKAA - R Procedures on Physical Restraint and Seclusion](#)
 (1) Review - Law adjustments
 (a) Adjustments were made based on the law changing.

<i>Motion to approve JKAA and JKAA-R</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Alexander Creznic, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Janice David, Kyle Fletcher, Josh Robbins, Gloria McGraw, Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, and Dee Robinson, Will Jones Nays: Libby Kaut Abstained: Vote: 852/76/0	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Richard Ruhlin Motion: Passed
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2. Major Changes/Updates (two readings)

- a) [DFE Student Activity Funds](#)
 - (1) Review
 - (a) Replaces current policy.

 - b) [IKE Student Retention](#)
 - (1) [Present policy](#)
 - (2) Review
 - (a) Replaces current policy.
 - (b) We retain very few students each year. It is a last resort.
3. Brand New (two readings)
- a) [JJE Student Fundraising](#)
 - (1) Review
 - (a) RSU 9 does not have this policy and has been told/suggested to have

- C. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - Labor Contract Discussion w/Association - Elkington
- *Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - Labor Contract Discussion w/ Association at 7:29*

<i>Motion to go into Executive Session for Labor Contract Discussion w/ Association</i>	Yeas: Jeff Barnum, Alexander Creznic, Libby Kaut, Greg Kimber, Amanda Caruso, Scott Erb, Janice David, Kyle Fletcher, Josh Robbins, Gloria McGraw, Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, and Dee Robinson, Will Jones Nays: Abstained: Vote: 928/0/0	Motion: Gloria McGraw Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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Exited executive session without objection at 7:42.

XIII. Adjourn without objection at 7:42.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

- Special Public Hearing October 24th, 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
 October 24th, 2023 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
- Board Reports - Special Services
- November 14th, 2023 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
- Board Reports - MBHS Athletics, Technology

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Operations - November 7th, 2023 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
 Personnel & Finance - November 7th, 2023 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
 Educational Policy - November 7th, 2023 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus