

# ***Mt. Blue Regional School District Board of Directors***

## **Minutes**

**NOTICE:** Pursuant to RSU 9's Health and Safety guidelines, ***face masks are required*** to attend an in-person event inside a school building.

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**DATE:** January 11, 2022

**Place:** The Forum

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Meeting Video:** <https://vimeo.com/665249979>

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**In attendance:** Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith

**Absent:** Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, J. Wayne Kinney

**Also present:** Keith Acedo, Nancy Allen, James Black, Jeff Brazee, Beth Christopher (Zoom), Laura Columbia, Chris Elkington, Nichole Goodspeed, John Jones, Jennifer Pooler, Monique Poulin (Zoom), Melissa Williams (Zoom), Tracy Williams (Zoom)

- I. Called to Order at 6:31pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Adjustments to the Agenda
  - A. None
- IV. Report of the Chairperson - Carol Coles
  - A. [BCA Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
    1. The Preamble and Section D were highlighted.
- V. Communications - Carol Coles
  - A. RSU 9 Staff Members of the Month for December 2021
    1. Nathalie Choquette, Resource Room Educational Technician, W.G. Mallett School
    2. Becky Roy, 7th grade Social Studies Teacher, Mt. Blue Middle School

- VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators
  - A. James Black, principal at Mt. Blue Middle School shared that the One Act play auditions are this week, Dungeons and Dragons club started last week, Impact Club is doing a penny raffle to be distributed to the Franklin County Animal Shelter, and Tri-Valley United Way stopped by and donated personal products to the middle school
  - B. Chris Elkington, superintendent, thanked the staff at W.G. Mallett School staff for pulling together last week during a staff shortage. He thanked the staff at Cascade Brook School for their support and professionalism during the water difficulty last week along with multiple administrators who helped prepare multiple plans to ensure that our students and staff would be safe and well prepared for the day.
  
- VII. Public Comment
  - A. Carol Coles, Starks, speaking as a resident - read a prepared statement with her thoughts on student illness, COVID, and masking.
  
- VIII. [Superintendent's Report](#) - Christian Elkington
  - A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
    - 1. Added to this section of Supt. Report
      - a) Transfer - Nicole Ibarguen transferred to the Custodial Supervisor position - she will be keeping bus runs until a replacement is hired.
      - b) Resignation - Bill Greenlaw, Director of Facilities and Operations.
  - B. Spring 2022 UMF Student Teachers
    - 1. Exciting to see so many student teachers joining our district for the spring semester.
  - C. Strategic Planning Team Update (Chair Laflin)
    - 1. Lisa Laflin, chair of the committee, updated the board on the upcoming meeting and began to look at the data collected through the survey. Impressive student participation in the survey.
    - 2. A virtual community forum will be held on January 27th, for the public to hear the results of the data and gather additional feedback.
  - D. Staff Vaccination Update
  - E. Superintendent's Authority to Hire
  - F. MPA's Positive Story of the Day goes to Mt. Blue Middle School!

IX. Administrator Reports

A. [Adult Education](#) - Nancy Allen, Director

1. College and Career Students - individuals who have graduated from high school and are using the adult education program to increase their reading and writing skills, also include students who are working toward a career path and need to increase reading, writing, or math skills. Discussion on how the CNA program in partnership with Sandy River Nursing Home (Genesis HealthCare) is working to meet community and statewide needs.

B. [Academy Hill and G.D. Cushing Schools](#) - Keith Acedo, Principal

1. NWEA Benchmark - reviewed the levels students should be at, at the time of the test. Discussion was also heard on lower incidents of behavior or discipline issues. He attributes some of it to students being excited about being in school.

C. [Mt. Blue Middle School](#) - James Black, Principal

1. It is great to see that all of their teaching positions are filled. Congratulations go to several on their kindness campaign. That they work hard on keeping the climate high; happy teachers make happy students!

X. Presentations - None

XI. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes from [December 14, 2021](#) and [January 4, 2022](#)

B. Committee Report Outs and Minutes

1. Operations Committee - [January 4, 2022](#)
2. Personnel & Finance - [January 4, 2022](#)
3. Educational Policy - [January 4, 2022](#)

<p><i>Motion to approve the consent agenda.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith                  Nays: None                  Abstained: None                  Vote: 12:0:0 (740:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Lisa Laflin                  Seconded: Scott Erb                  Motion: Passed</p>
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*No discussion was heard.*

XII. New Business

A. Superintendent’s Authority to Hire

<p><i>Motion to allow the Superintendent to continue to hire staff in between board meetings through February 25th as presented in the Superintendent’s Report.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith                  Nays: None                  Abstained: None                  Vote: 12:0:0 (740:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Scott Erb                  Seconded: Dee Robinson                  Motion: Passed</p>
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No discussion was heard.

B. COVID Reopening Plan Check-In/Questions from the Board - Elkington/Columbia

1. Discussion heard in regards to in-school spread, especially given the level of community spread in our region. Discussion heard regarding the use of facilities for outside groups. The new weekly Health Update format does not contain close contacts, number of quarantines, and number not required to quarantine due to the universal masking exemption in the new Standard Operating Procedures.
2. Superintendent Elkington shared his concerns about busing or closing a school or grade level due to staffing shortages across the district and the lack of available substitutes. He shared that we are planning for and trying to prepare for these what-ifs, but it may mean moving staff around the district to assist where needed.

C. Morning Meeting w/Legislators and MBC Tour - 2/18/2022 -

Superintendent Elkington shared that the group will meet at Mt. Blue Campus for a discussion on upcoming bills and middle school CTE, and will then participate in a tour of several programs at Foster Tech. Operations Committee Chair Cherieann Harrison will have more details to share at the next board meeting.

D. Approval of New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements

<p><i>Motion to approve the new hires, transfers, resignations,</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug</p>	<p>Motion: Dee Robinson                  Seconded: Gwen Doak</p>
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<i>and retirements as presented in the Superintendent's Report.</i>	Dunlap, Scott Erb, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (740:0:0):	Motion: Passed
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Doug Dunlap recognized Arvid Cullenberg's years of service and Judith Kaut recognized Arvid for caring for the MBC gardens.

E. Second and Final Reading of Board Policies

1. [BBAB: School Board Self-Evaluation](#)
2. [Adult Education Graduation Requirements](#)

<i>Motion to approve the second and final reading of Board Policy BBAB: School Board Self-Evaluation and the Adult Education Graduation Requirements.</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (740:0:0)	Motion: Dee Robinson Seconded: Josh Robbins Motion: Passed
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No discussion was heard

XIII. Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Discussion of a Personnel Matter

<i>Motion to enter Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Discussion of a Personnel Matter</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (740:0:0)	Motion: Deb Smith Seconded: Lisa Laflin Motion: Passed
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No discussion was heard.

Time entered: 7:53pm

Time exited: 8:04pm

XIV. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Employment of officials/appointees/employees

Motion to Enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Employment of officials/appointees/employees	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laffin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (740:0:0)	Motion: Doug Dunlap Seconded: Dee Robinson Motion: Passed
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No discussion was heard.

Time entered: 8:05pm

Time exited: 8:26pm

XV. Hire Business Manager Candidate

Motion to hire Dan Higgins as the Business Manager with an initial 29-month contract with a starting salary of \$93,500 per year.	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laffin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (740:0:0)	Motion: Kirk Doyle Seconded: Debbie Smith Passed
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No discussion was heard.

XVI. Adjourn

<i>Motion to adjourn without objection</i>		Motion: Carol Coles Motion: Passed without objection
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Adjourned at 8:29pm

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**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

January 25, 2022 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

February 8, 2022 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

### **UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Operations - February 1, 2022 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus  
Personnel & Finance - February 1, 2022 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus  
Educational Policy - February 1, 2022 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Operations- March 1, 2022 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus  
Personnel & Finance - March 1, 2022 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus  
Educational Policy - March 1, 2022 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus