

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.

DATE: October 26, 2021

Place: The Forum

Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Video: <https://vimeo.com/639524177>

In attendance: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison (entered at 6:37pm), Betsey Hyde, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laffin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith, *Judith "Libby" Kaut (was present on Zoom, not voting)*

Absent: Josh Robbins

Staff also present: Keith Acedo, Nancy Allen, Jeff Brazee, Laura Columbia, Katie Duchesne, Chris Elkington, Jennifer Pooler, Monique Poulin, Tracy Williams

- I. Call to Order at 6:32pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Report of the Chairperson - Carol Coles
 - A. [BCA Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
 - Focus items A. and I.
 - Focus on children and make decisions openly, after a full discussion.
- IV. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators
 - A. Katie Duchesne, assistant principal at Mt. Blue Middle School reported a great turnout during spirit day.
 - B. Keith Acedo, principal at G.D. Cushing School and Academy Hill School, reported two more positions have been filled.
 - C. Debbie Smith, board director from Weld, thanked all that participated in the facility visits. And gave a shout-out to the Digital Media Program at FTCE for their work with the Stanley Museum.
 - D. Doug Dunlap, board director from Wilton, also shared on the facilities visit, in particular with the fire safety training facility that was built recently.

- E. Carol Coles, board chair and director from Starks, also shared the great work and opportunity for training for both future and present fire departments.
 - F. Chris Elkington, superintendent, reported on the recognition of the transportation department across RSU 9. As well as the boys' and girls' soccer teams, and our field hockey that are participating in the playoffs. Thanked the students and parents that participated respectfully in the short walkout on Friday.
 - G. Laura Columbia, director of curriculum, recognized the girls and boys cross country teams and the honors received at the regional meet.
- V. Public Comment
- A. Jesse Sillanpaa, resident of Industry, read a letter on behalf of Mike Whelpley, parent, regarding concerns around school structures, procedures, and some staff.
 - B. Jesse Sillanpaa, parent and resident of Industry, reporting on the walkout that occurred last Friday, spoke to clarity on wearing masks and the need for equality in quarantining procedures.
 - C. Wayne Kinney, director from Farmington, read a letter from Edward Cherneskey, parent and resident of Farmington, regarding the quality of education, teaching staff, and program offerings at MBHS.
- VI. [Superintendent's Report](#) - Christian Elkington
- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
 - 1. No discussion
 - B. COVID Reopening Plan Update
 - 1. Discussion about universal masking and exemptions from quarantine.
 - C. 21-22 RSU 9 Calendar Adjustments
 - 1. Discussion about trying to keep calendar adjustments to a minimum since many families plan daycare and vacations around the school calendar.
 - D. Communication Planning Update
 - 1. No discussion
 - E. Student Attendance #s to begin the year
 - 1. Discussion around the fact that these numbers do not impact future EPS funding.
- VII. Administrator Reports
- A. [Curriculum](#), Laura Columbia, Director of Curriculum
 - 1. A brief update was shared. No discussion.

- B. Operations, Bill Greenlaw, Director of Support Services - tabled until next meeting

VIII. Presentations

- A. [McKinney-Vento Update](#), Lisa Sinclair, McKinney-Vento Liaison
 - 1. The administrator was unable to attend the meeting so there was no presentation. If there are questions about the handout, contact Superintendent Elkington.

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes from [October 12, 2021](#)
- B. 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>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robbinson, Debbie Smith Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 14:0:0 (894:0:0)	Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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No discussion.

X. New Business

- A. Strategic Planning Team Update - Lisa Laflin
 - 1. Update on the process to include vision, mission, and specific action steps to move the district forward. This fall we will be collecting input for themes, the winter will be drafting the mission, vision and guiding principles, and this spring we will be writing goal, action steps and sharing the plan for feedback and a final board vote by June/July. Gathering feedback will be through surveys and focus groups.
- B. Operations Committee School Visit Update - Cherieann Harrison
 - 1. On October 15th, the Operations Committee did a site and school visit around the district. Progress on improvements was reviewed, including projects that were sponsored through COVID Relief Funds. Parking lots, fields, and other facilities were reviewed at each site visited.

C. Reopening Plan Check-in - Elkington/Columbia

1. Update on present universal masking expectations and data
2. [Testing Update](#)
3. Questions on [Covid Data Update](#)
4. Superintendent Elkington's recommendation to reduce quarantine times was withdrawn due to Maine CDC's recent clarification on their Standard Operating Procedures.

<p><i>Motion to add #6 and #7 of the BinaxNow Approved Use to our current testing protocol as presented by Laura Columbia.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 14:0:0 (894:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Wayne Kinney Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed</p>
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A discussion was heard on universal masking, testing options, and future plans for testing.

D. 21-22 RSU 9 Calendar Adjustments

<p><i>Motion to approve the 2020-21 RSU 9 Calendar Adjustments as presented in the Superintendent's Report</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 13:0:0 (853:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Debbie Smith Motion: Passed</p>
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No discussion was heard. Lisa Laflin was absent for the vote

E. First and final reading of revised Board Policy [BEDH: Public Participation at Board Meetings](#)

<p><i>Motion to approve the first and final reading of Board Policy BEDH: Public Participation at Board Meetings</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith</p>	<p>Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Dee Robinson Motion:</p>
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	Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 14:0:0 (894:0:0)	
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Add 20-A to the bottom of the policy. This change does not alter current board practices, but it does align with the current law.

F. Approval of New Hire & Transfer

<i>Motion to approve the new hire and transfer as presented in the Superintendent's Report</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 14:0:0 (894:0:0)	Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Dee Robinson Motion: Passed
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No discussion.

XI. Adjourn

<i>Motion to adjourn without objection</i>	Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:	Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: No objection Motion: Passed
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Adjourned at 8:03 pm

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

November 9, 2021 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
November 23, 2021 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - November 2, 2021 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
Personnel & Finance - November 2, 2021 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
Educational Policy - November 2, 2021 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Operations - December 7, 2021 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
Personnel & Finance - December 7, 2021 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
Educational Policy - December 7, 2021 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus