

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: November 23, 2021

Place: The Forum

Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Video: <https://vimeo.com/649502623>

In attendance: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce (entered at 7:18 pm), Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith

Absent: Cherieann Harrison, J. Wayne Kinney, Mark Prentiss

Also present: Nancy Allen, Chad Brackett, Jeff Brazee, Beth Christopher, Laura Columbia, Chris Elkington, Jennifer Pooler, Monique Poulin, Melissa Williams

- I. Call to Order at 6:30 pm
 - II. Pledge of Allegiance
 - III. Report of the Chairperson - Carol Coles
 - A. [BCA Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
 1. Focus items Preamble & Section Q
 - B. Thank You's to share
 1. Chair Coles shared a heartfelt thank you to all of the students, staff, and board members for their continued commitment and support of the district during these difficult times.
 - IV. Communications
 1. Chair Coles shared a letter from Jesse Sillanpaa regarding quarantine guidelines and fair treatment of students and staff in quarantine.
 2. Superintendent Elkington shared approval of the ESSER III Grant and that the Local Entitlement Grant revisions were approved.
 - V. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - A. None
 - VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators
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- A. Chad Brackett shared that two cross country team student-athletes qualified for the New England Championships.
- B. Dee Robinson thanked Foster Tech Students for their work on the removal of trees and brush on the Borough Road in Chesterville.
- C. Chris Elkington shared a thank you to secretaries, admin assistants, nurses, and counselors for helping with coverage this week during building administrator absences.

VII. Public Comment

- A. None

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

A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements

B. Strategic Planning Update - Lisa Laflin

1. [Progress & Next Steps](#)

- a) Surveys have been distributed and are available for parents, students, staff, and community input.

2. [Community Events Schedule](#)

- a) Articles have been sent to Sun Journal/Franklin Journal and the Daily Bulldog announcing community events.

(1) Suggestion was made to add these individual calendar events to their online calendars

- b) Have been posted on the district Facebook page
- c) Also have been posted on the district website, strategic planning page and put on the district calendar

3. Assistance on picking up completed surveys from town offices has been requested from board members

C. Staff Recognition

1. [Staff Members of the Month](#)

- a) Was shared with staff members to nominate colleagues to be recognized monthly.

2. Lunch/Snack Recognition

- a) Superintendent Elkington shared that he wanted to use some additional district funds, from time-to-time, to recognize the efforts of staff members. All board members present acknowledged that it was a good idea and to go forward.

D. Special Education - Ed Tech Staffing Update

1. [Special Education - Ed Tech Staffing Update](#)

- a) At the next board meeting John Jones, Director of Special Education, will review the breakdown shared tonight in regards to meeting program needs, as well as taking board questions.

- E. MSBA COVID Update
 - 1. [Memo from the Maine School Boards Association](#)
- F. RSU 9 Kennebec Valley Band and Chorus Music Festival Participants
 - 1. Student participant names are included in the Superintendent's Report

IX. Administrator Reports
 A. None

X. Presentations
 A. None

XI. Consent Agenda
 A. Minutes from [November 9, 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, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (719:0:0)	Motion: Debbie Smith Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion:
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No discussion was heard.

XII. New Business

- A. COVID Reopening Plan Check-In - Elkington/Columbia
 - 1. [Covid Data Update](#)
 - a) Director Columbia reviewed district & county data shared in the update linked above. Discussion was heard regarding school transmission; which is likely to be occurring in some instances, especially in the lower elementary grades.
 - 2. [Vaccine Clinic Update](#)
 - a) Although the participation rate was low (about 15%), we are happy to have offered it to our families. A strict verification process was followed in regards to consent forms to ensure only those with complete forms were vaccinated. Discussion was heard about

offering another vaccination clinic for RSU 9 students in the future in partnership with Franklin Community Health Network.

3. [Testing Update](#)
 - a) Director Columbia reviewed the data, no further discussion.
4. [Pooled Testing Update](#)
 - a) Review of the process, no further discussion.
 - b) Present #s Testing - approximately 20% of our student population participate in pool testing
5. State Changes
 - a) Superintendent Elkington reported there have been no major changes in recommendations/guidelines from Maine CDC or Maine DOE during the past month.
6. Superintendent recommendation with present universal masking expectations
 - a) Superintendent Elkington recommended no changes at this time. He is very concerned about the positivity rate increase in Franklin and Somerset counties and the likelihood of school spread.
7. Discussion/Questions
 - a) Discussion was heard to clarify that students only need to test to come back to school if they were out due to failing the health screener and being symptomatic and do not want to remain out for 10 days (and symptoms are improving). No testing is required for close contacts, and you cannot test out of quarantine.

B. Winter Athletics Season Grades 6-12 Participation - Elkington/Columbia

1. [State Organization Recommendations](#) - 11-17-2021
2. Revised [State Organization General Recommendations for Winter Activities](#) - 11-18-2021
3. Academic & Attendance concerns
 - a) Keeping students involved with in-person learning by reducing the need for quarantining
 - b) Keeping contests/games from being postponed or cancelled
 - c) Keeping our focus on returning to normalcy as much as possible by allowing some family members and students (MBHS only) to be at home contests.
4. [Winter Season Expectations Update](#) - 11-18-21 Draft
5. [Winter Season Expectations Updated #3](#) - 11-23-21 Draft
 - a) Updates from the 11/18/21 draft are highlighted in yellow
 - (1) Masks for all inside.
 - (2) Wrestlers highly recommended but not required to vaccinate.
 - (3) Family pods increased to 6 family members.
6. Parent Meeting Comments

There were none at either meeting with parents last week.

7. Discussion

a) No further discussion was heard other than the highlights above.

<p><i>Motion to approve Winter Athletics Season Expectations - Update 3 - 11-23-2021</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laffin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (719:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Dee Robinson Seconded: Scott Erb Motion: Passed</p>
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C. Approval of New Hire, Transfer, Resignation, and Retirement

<p><i>Motion to approve the new hire, transfer, resignation, and retirement as presented in the Superintendent's Report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Melissa Bear, Ed Tech, CCHS</i> 	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laffin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (719:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Gloria McGraw Motion: Passed</p>
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No discussion was heard.

D. Second and Final Reading of Board Policies

1. [IHD: Adult Education](#)
2. [IHAI: Live Work \(CTE Only\)](#)
3. [FB: Facilities Planning](#)
4. [GBGB: Workplace Bullying](#)
5. [IJOC: School Volunteers](#)

First motion made was to approve policies individually by Dee Robinson and Doug Dunlap. Discussion was heard to revise the motion to adopt all five policies through one motion if there were no revisions. Dee and Doug agreed to revise their motion to include all policies.

<p><i>Motion to approve the second and final readings of the following Board Policies for adoption: IHD: Adult</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laffin, Gloria</p>	<p>Motion: Dee Robinson Seconded: Doug Dunlap Motion: Passed</p>
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<i>Education; IHAI: Live Work (CTE Only); FB: Facilities Planning; GBGB: Workplace Bullying; and, IJOC: School Volunteers.</i>	McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 13:0:0 (793:0:0)	
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*Word correction in GBGB third bullet down - ...placing an employee in reasonable fear 'of' physical harm not 'or' physical harm...

XIII. Adjourn

<i>Motion to adjourn without objection</i>		Motion: Carol Coles Motion: Passed without objection
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Adjourned at 7:21 pm

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

December 14, 2021 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
December 21, 2021 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Operations - January 4, 2022 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
Personnel & Finance - January 4, 2022 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
Educational Policy - January 4, 2022 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus