

# 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:** November 9, 2021

**Place:** The Forum

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Meeting Video:** <https://vimeo.com/644355936>

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**In attendance:** Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Betsey Hyde (entered at 7:56 pm), Judith "Libby" Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith

**Absent:** Doug Dunlap, Cherieann Harrison, Lisa Laflin

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

- I. Call to Order at 6:30pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Executive Session Legal Rights & Duties of School Unit 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(E)

<i>Motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(E) to discuss the legal rights and duties of the school unit.</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Judith "Libby" Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (773:0:0)	Motion: Josh Robbins Seconded: Irv Faunce Motion: Passed
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Time entered: 6:33pm

Time exited: 6:53pm

- IV. Report of the Chairperson - Carol Coles
    - A. [BCA Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
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1. Focus items D. and F.
  - a) Board Chair Coles reviewed these two items from the Board's Code of Ethics.
- B. Communications
  1. A recommended addition to the Chair's Report by MSMA that will be used to communicate various items with the board.
- C. Maine School Boards Association Conference Attendance FYIs
  1. Shared the wonderful experience that Board Chair Coles and other board members were able to attend.
- V. Adjustments to the Agenda
  - A. *New!* Recommended addition to the agenda by MSMA to move items within or delete items from the agenda.
- VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators
  - A. James Black, principal at Mt. Blue Middle School, shared that several students have been selected to audition for KVAC Band and Chorus and that there is much interest in parent-teacher conferences this year, especially those being held over zoom.
  - B. Monique Poulin, principal at Mt. Blue High School, shared that several students have been selected to audition for KVAC Band and Chorus, that parent-teacher conferences are next week, that NWEA testing just wrapped up, that Mt. Blue Theatre Company held a production of 'Clue' outdoors in the courtyard, and provided a brief update on the BARR program.
  - C. Superintendent Elkington shared that Director Williams has returned part-time to Foster Tech, he also thanked Richard Joseph who has been doing a tremendous job of contact tracing on our busses and shared that six board members participated in the MSMA fall conference; which he believes is a record!
- VII. Public Comment
  - A. Chair Coles read a prepared statement clarifying public comment and the board policy - BEDH: Public Participation at Board Meetings
  - B. Alexander Creznic, parent from Farmington, shared thoughts on the mask mandate advocating for his children.
  - C. Sue Lambert, parent from New Vineyard - shared thoughts on student pooled testing participation.
- VIII. [Superintendent's Report](#) - Christian Elkington
  - A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
  - B. Strategic Planning Team Update

C. Open Positions Update

Strategic Planning Update - Wayne Kinney; Laura Columbia and Chris Elkington fielded questions from the board. The survey is ready and posted on the website. Stakeholder group meetings are getting scheduled and some start next week. Student groups meetings for the middle and high schools are starting next week. Hard copies are being distributed at town offices and places of worship among our ten towns. We are expecting that a majority of surveys will be returned electronically.

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Child Nutrition](#) - Andy Hutchins, Director of Child Nutrition
  - 1. No questions for Director Hutchins.
- B. [MBHS Athletics](#) - Chad Brackett, Athletics Director
  - 1. No questions for Director Brackett - credit was given to Jamie Lynn Ranger for the pictures in the report.
- C. [Technology](#) - Jeff Brazee, Director of Technology
  - 1. Discussion was heard regarding the need for a common space for the technology team of eight who are currently located in several buildings across the district. Discussion was also heard regarding the funds from the buyout of the outdated laptops from last year.

X. Presentations

- A. None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. Consent Agenda
  - 1. Minutes from [October 26, 2021](#)
  - 2. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
    - a) Operations Committee - [November 2, 2021](#)
    - b) Personnel & Finance - [November 2, 2021](#)
    - c) Educational Policy - [November 2, 2021](#)

<p><i>Motion to approve the consent agenda</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Judith "Libby" Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith          Nays: None          Abstained: None          Vote: 12:0:0 (773:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Scott Erb          Seconded: Gwen Doak          Motion: Passed</p>
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No discussion was heard.

XII. New Business

A. Binax Now Testing - [Request for Additional Approved Use](#)

<p><i>Motion to add #1 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, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Judith "Libby" Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith            Nays: None            Abstained: None            Vote: 12:0:0 (773:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Irv Faunce            Seconded: Gwen Doak            Motion: Passed</p>
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Discussion was heard regarding the cost and who is paying for this; at this point, the State is funding the rapid tests. What is our capacity to do this? Since the board has approved a gradual use, we are comfortable that we can, at this time, add this without any undue burden on our nursing staff.

B. Approval of New Hires & Resignation

<p><i>Motion to approve the new hires and resignations as presented in the Superintendent's Report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alyssa Arsenault, Ed Tech, CCHS</i></li> <li>• <i>Paul Henry, Lead Custodian, MBMS</i></li> <li>• <i>Kristina Stevens, SPED Teacher, MBC</i></li> </ul>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Judith "Libby" Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith            Nays: None            Abstained: None            Vote: 12:0:0 (773:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Gwen Doak            Seconded: Dee Robinson            Motion: Passed</p>
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No discussion was heard.

C. Maine Environmental Education Association - Dalrymple, Hodum, McMullen

1. \$1,500 Mini-Grant for Outdoor Learning [Application](#), [Notification](#), and [Award Letter](#)

<p><i>Motion to Motion to accept the \$1,500 Mini-Grant for Outdoor Learning from the Maine Environmental Education Association</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Judith "Libby" Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith            Nays: None</p>	<p>Motion: Debbie Smith            Seconded: Gwen Doak            Motion: Passed</p>
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	Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (773:0:0)	
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No discussion was heard.

D. Maine Environmental Education Association - M. Howatt

1. \$1,500 Mini-Grant for Outdoor Learning [Project Description](#) and [Award Letter](#)

<i>Motion to accept the \$1,500 Mini-Grant for Outdoor Learning from the Maine Environmental Education Association</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Judith "Libby" Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (773:0:0)	Motion: Kirk Doyle Seconded: Gloria McGraw Motion: Passed
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Discussion was shared on the purpose of the grant and that this information/award was received after the Nov 2 committee meetings.

E. Approval of [Co-Op Hockey](#)

<i>Motion to approve MBHS students to participate in Co-Op Hockey as proposed by MBHS Athletic Director Chad Brackett.</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Judith "Libby" Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Mark Prentiss, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (773:0:0)	Motion: Josh Robbins Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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Discussion was heard regarding the struggle that schools in ME are having to field a hockey team. Co-op is an opportunity for students to participate in the sport on another school's team for a season. Tryouts will be open to both boys and girls. Families would be responsible for transportation and some costs. \$750 would be paid from the athletics budget to support the cost of the coach and renting ice and the balance would be split by the families of the participants.

F. First Reading of Board Policies

1. IHD: [Adult Education](#) (Nov. 2, 2021 - DRAFT) - Revised policy
2. IHA: [Live Work \(CTE Only\)](#) (Nov. 2, 2021 - REVISED) - Revised policy - new sections added
3. FB: Facilities Planning
  - a) [Current policy FB](#) (March 31, 2009)

- b) [Draft policy FB](#) (Nov. 2, 2021 - DRAFT) - Revised policy
- 4. GBGB: [Workplace Bullying](#) (Nov. 2, 2021 - DRAFT) - New Policy
- 5. IJOC: [School Volunteers](#) (Nov. 2, 2021 - DRAFT) - New Policy

No discussion was heard and all policies will move forward to a second reading.

G. Review/Discussion of [Winter Season Grades 6-12 Participation](#)

- 1. State & League discussions
  - a) At this time, no state or league associations have taken the lead on this.
- 2. Academic & Attendance concerns
  - a) Most winter sports are offered inside, there is concern that participation increases the chance that students could be absent if there is COVID spread through competition.
- 3. Winter Season Expectations Draft
  - a) Not looking for a decision tonight
- 4. Parent Meeting by ZOOM to be discussed
  - a) Next Thursday night, Nov 18.
- 5. Final Decision to be made at 11-23-2021 Board Mtg.

Superintendent Elkington shared the highlights of the proposal. AD's Brackett and Duchesne answered questions from the board. When do the seasons begin? HS in a couple of weeks; MS next week. Pooled testing would continue weekly and be among teams. Is there room for discussion on the spectators? The board makes the final decision and proposed numbers will be reviewed again before the board makes a final decision at the next meeting. Have wrestler's families been notified of vaccination requirements? Not in an official capacity, although it has been on the radar. Are other schools not allowing spectators from away? Yes, the Kvac appears split. If approved it will be clearly communicated through the ADs and coaches and shared with families in advance of games. Discussion was heard regarding close contacts of a team member and the inconsistencies among the application of the COVID protocols when comparing school and sports.

A reminder was heard that this was only a draft proposal and that it could change with more info in the next ten days. There will be parent meetings next week to discuss the protocols. It will be brought back to the board for further discussion and a vote at the Nov. 23 meeting.

XIII. Adjourn

<i>Motion to adjourn without objection</i>	Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:	Motion: Carol Coles Seconded: Motion: No objections were heard
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Adjourned at 8:37pm

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**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

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

December 14, 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