

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: December 14, 2021

Place: The Forum

Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Video: <https://vimeo.com/656978638>

In attendance: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce (entered at 6:34pm), Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith

Absent: Mark Prentiss

Also present: Nancy Allen, James Black, Jeff Brazee, Laura Columbia (Zoom), Chris Elkington, Nichole Goodspeed, John Jones, Richard Joseph, Jennifer Pooler, Monique Poulin, Lisa Sinclair, Melissa Williams (Zoom), Tracy Williams

- I. Called to Order at 6:30pm
- 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. Focus items
 - Principle G
 - Principle N
 - B. [Budget Committee Assignments](#)
 1. Chair shared that four board members have committed to the budget committee; still hoping for one more and a couple of alternates.
 - C. Solstice Reminders
 1. Dec. 21 will be the winter solstice. Chair Coles shared an excerpt from a poem about being supportive for each other.
 - D. Chair & Vice-Chair Pooled Testing Process Demonstration
 1. Jennifer Pooler assisted the Chair and Vice-Chair in a pooled testing demonstration while Superintendent Elkington shared verbally the

process to community members who were watching during the demonstration.

V. Communications - Carol Coles

- A. Announcement - Recipients of [MSBA Distinguished Service Awards](#) - The RSU 9 Nursing Team received kudos from the Chair on being honored.
 - 1. Suzanne Abbott, Mt. Blue Middle School
 - 2. Kathryn Clement, W.G. Mallett School
 - 3. Kimberly Foss, Mt. Blue Campus
 - 4. Vicky Gerstenberger, Mt. Blue Campus
 - 5. Kimberly Lloyd, Academy Hill School & G.D. Cushing School
 - 6. Jestine Meader, Cape Cod Hill School
 - 7. Janneke Strickland, Cascade Brook School
- B. RSU 9 Staff Members of the Month for November
 - 1. Pictures will be taken of each staff member and posted on the district website with each staff member honored receiving a \$50.00 monetary token of appreciation to use at a local business.
 - 2. The following RSU 9 Staff were honored:
 - a) Amy Eustis, School Secretary, Academy Hill School
 - b) Katie Fournier, Social Worker, Cascade Brook School
- C. [MSBA Nov/Dec 2021 Update](#)
 - 1. The Chair asked Board members to please review the monthly update from MSBA.

VI. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. Debbie Smith, Board Member from Weld, sends congratulations to Mrs. Savage's FBLA students for their recent accomplishments.
- B. Jeff Brazee, Director of Technology, shared that Naomi Doughty was selected to represent Franklin County, RSU 9, and as a medium to large school unit on the Maine DOE Data Governance Team. He also reported that the district is at full hot spot deployment (approx 250) distributed through our school libraries to students in quarantine so they can keep up with their classwork.
- C. Monique Poulin, Principal at Mt. Blue Campus - Explained that recorded chorus, band, and orchestra concerts will be shared with families in the coming weeks. FBLA and JMG have completed some successful fundraising and distributed clothing and health objects to students and organizations. Maine DOE selected Abigail Goodspeed to represent Franklin County and RSU 9 one of their Cabinets.
- D. James Black, Principal at Mt. Blue Middle School - Shared that he is happy that our kids are back on the courts, which is always great to see. Walmart donated 50 coats to MBMS for students to access for recess or basic needs.

- E. Tracy Williams, Principal at W.G. Mallett explained that next Tuesday Mallett students will be walking to the Pierce House to sing to the residents. Mallett students were also recipients of some of JMG's clothing and food donations.
- F. Lisa Laflin, Board Member from New Vineyard, gave a "shout out" to Richard Joseph and Foster Tech for their participation in the Chester Greenwood Parade.
- G. Doug Dunlap, Board Member from Farmington recognized the hard work and dedication of our district parents. Thank you!

VII. Public Comment

- A. Chair Coles reviewed the policy and guidelines for public comment.
 - 1. Alexander Creznic, Farmington resident - commented on the pandemic, district masking requirements, vaccines, and district social distancing requirements. He requested that the Board drop some of the present COVID safety protocols.
 - 2. Hank Washburn, New Sharon - Thanked the board for their unwavering commitment to our students during these uncertain times. Thanked them for making science-based decisions and for maintaining the safety and health of our students and staff.

VIII. [Superintendent's Report](#) - Christian Elkington - The narrative on these items is included in the Superintendent's Report linked above.

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Strategic Planning Team Update (Chair Laflin)
 - 1. Over 1,000 surveys were collected online. Three more opportunities for community engagement by Zoom will happen this week. Please check the district website for links.
- C. Open Positions Update
- D. [Winter Sports Expectations Update](#)
- E. Student Vaccination Number Updates
- F. Free & Reduced Student Numbers and Disadvantaged Student Funds

Discussion regarding the free and reduced application and why people should do it if they are over the income eligibility was the only item that had questions.

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Cascade Brook School](#) - Nichole Goodspeed, Principal
 - 1. Discussion was heard about the hard work and effort by students and staff at CBS; it is very appreciated.
- B. [Foster Career and Technical Education Center](#) - Melissa Williams, Director
 - 1. Discussion was heard regarding: the activities going on at FTC. several Board members were pleased that the Middle School CTE experience had started again, that many of our programs can support the labor

shortages in nursing, fire fighting, law enforcement, etc. Questions about how we can involve our students in the community more were heard. College acceptance on the spot at CMMC; continued relationship.

C. [Transportation](#) - Richard Joseph, Transportation Specialist

1. Richard Joseph recognized and thanked the folks that he works with as they go above and beyond every day.

X. Presentations

A. [McKinney Vento Update](#) - Lisa Sinclair, Principal CCHS, McKinney-Vento Liaison

1. A short video was shared regarding the McKinney-Vento Act and how it can support students. RSU 9 currently has 29 students covered by the McKinney-Vento Act. The average percent of school-aged students across the state overseen by this program is 1.1% and we are in line with that number.
2. Discussion was heard regarding: The Entrepreneurial Studies Program in town and if there were any partnership discussions going on, how does the district identify students and that we need to destigmatize homelessness. That building relationships with community members and families goes a long way in helping to identify those in need. Principal Sinclair shared that we need a point of contact at each building so that students know who to go to and that we are hoping to use some of the recently received grant funding for this. So much about this is helping families find options and help them to navigate through. Free store (clothes, food, other items) at MBC and other schools can help.

B. [21-22 Special Ed Programming Update](#) - John Jones, Director of Special Services

1. Director Jones shared that it has been an interesting year for hiring and maintaining services for students in the district. Present disruptions are mostly due to quarantine requirements of students and staff. We have been forced to think outside the box in filling positions and sharing responsibilities. Several highly qualified ed techs have been hired and are helping to make a difference. Workloads remain relatively high. The Three-year evaluations we were behind on from last year are on track to be completed soon, thanks to many. We continue to recruit and hire, spreading the word far and wide. Our parents have been very understanding during these difficult times. Staff members are doing above and beyond to get services to students as best as possible. We need to remember that our services are strained and so we keep watch closely as things could change dramatically with a staff member leaving or students moving in. Our new SPED Coordinators (Mike Hansen, Cheryl Webster)

are giving additional support to our newest staff which is helping to keep the train running.

2. Discussion was heard regarding the number of students receiving special education services - 413 currently.

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes from [November 23, 2021](#)
- B. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 1. Operations Committee - [December 7, 2021](#)
 2. Personnel & Finance - [December 7, 2021](#)
 3. Educational Policy - [December 7, 2021](#)

<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, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (951:0:0)	Motion: Cherianne Harrison Seconded: Lisa Laflin Motion: Passed
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- No discussion was heard

XII. New Business

A. Discussion on Canceling Dec 21st Board Meeting

<i>Motion to cancel the Dec. 21, 2021 Board Meeting.</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (951:0:0)	Motion: Cherianne Harrison Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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- No discussion was heard

B. [RSU 9 COVID Review & District #s Update](#)

1. Positive case #s - numbers in the report linked above
2. Quarantine #s - numbers in the report linked above

3. Pooled Testing #s - numbers in the report linked above
4. Vaccination Clinics - numbers in the report linked above
5. Superintendent Recommendation

Is to not make any changes at this time.

<p><i>Motion to move the next possible adjustments to RSU 9's Universal Masking Expectations to the 2nd meeting in January 2022.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (951:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Kirk Doyle Seconded: Cherianne Harrison Motion: Passed</p>
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- A request was heard to share hard copies of the updated numbers with Board members in the future.

C. Approve 22-23 [Budget Development Timeline](#)

<p><i>Motion to approve the 22-23 Budget Development Timeline as presented</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (951:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Debbie Smith Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed</p>
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- One revision was made to move the March 18 presentations to March 17. A request was made to share the schedule once approved.

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

<p><i>Motion to approve the new hires, transfers, resignations, and retirements as presented in the Superintendent's Report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Amanda Clark, Social Worker, CCHS</i> 	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None</p>	<p>Motion: Cherianne Harrison Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ginger Fails, Ed Tech, Special Ed, MBMS</i> • <i>Christina Farrington, Duty Monitor/Secretary, CBS</i> • <i>Matthew Smith, Maintenance, Bus Garage</i> • <i>Michael Sparks, Ed Tech, Adaptive Life Skills, MBC</i> • <i>Mia Taylor, Ed Tech, Resource Room, WGM</i> • <i>Cory Young, Custodian/Driver, CCHS</i> 	Vote: 15:0:0 (951:0:0)	
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- No discussion was heard.

E. Continuity of Service (Cos) Grant - Adult Education

1. [\\$33,333 grant award](#) with RSU 9 acting as fiscal agent

<p><i>Motion to accept the \$33,333 Adult Education Continuity of Service Grant and for RSU 9 to act as the fiscal agent for the Adult Education Hub for this grant</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (951:0:0):</p>	<p>Motion: Cherianne Harrison Seconded: Dee Robinson Motion: Passed</p>
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- No discussion was heard.

F. Subaru "Adopt a Classroom" Grant - Mt. Blue Middle School and ARP Homeless Youth Grant II

1. [\\$3,000 donation from Charlie's Subaru for six classroom grants of \\$500 each](#)
2. [\\$23,492 award to support Homeless Children and Youth](#)

<p><i>Motion to accept the \$3,000 "Adopt a Classroom" grant</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug</p>	<p>Motion: Kirk Doyle Seconded: Gwen Doak</p>
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<i>from Charlie's Subaru for six \$500 classroom grants at Mt. Blue Middle School and to accept the \$23,492 ARP Homeless Children and Youth grant from the Maine Department of Education</i>	Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (951:0:0)	Motion: Passed
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- No discussion was heard.

G. First Reading of Board Policies

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

- The Chair of Ed Policy, the Board Chair and the Vice-Chair will meet to review samples of evaluation forms and bring a draft evaluation form back to the Ed Policy Committee for final review before coming to the full Board.

H. First and Final Reading of Revised Board Policy

1. JIC: Student Code of Conduct

<i>Motion to approve the first and final reading of the revisions to Board Policy JIC: Student Code of Conduct</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (951:0:0)	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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- No discussion was heard.

XIII. Adjourn

<i>Motion to adjourn without objection</i>	Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:	Motion: Carol Coles Seconded: Motion: Passed with no objection
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Adjourned at 8:01pm

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

January 11, 2021 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus
January 25, 2021 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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