

Operations Committee

Minutes

December 7, 2021

5:00 - 6:00pm

The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Members: Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, **Cherieann Harrison**, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins

Members Absent: Josh Robbins

Other Board Members Present: Carol Coles, Kirk Doyle, Judith Kaut

Staff: Chris Elkington, Bill Greenlaw

Other Staff Present: Jennifer Pooler, Jeff Brazee, Monique Poulin

1. Call meeting to order - Harrison
 - a. Meeting called to order at 5:04pm

2. Review [approved minutes](#) from the last meeting - Harrison
 - a. No discussion

3. Budget Committee Member Request - Elkington
 - a. Looking for at least one member from each Committee.
 - b. Carol Coles - found serving on the budget committee very helpful and encouraged others to join the committee or at minimum to attend the two days of presentations.
 - c. Doug Dunlap volunteered to represent the Operations Committee.

4. Possible Political Leader Visit (Feb) to discuss District Middle-Level CTE Needs next steps & visit of MBC - Harrison
 - a. State-level political leaders visited the district several years ago for conversations and school and program visits. Looking for feedback from the Operations Committee to see if there is interest in doing this again.
 - b. Discussion was heard on whether now is a good time to do these visits with COVID? It shouldn't matter so long as the current expectations are met.
 - c. The chair will move forward with drafting a plan and bring it back for further discussion.

5. Strategic Planning Update - Harrison

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Currently having community engagement sessions in the towns. Over 650 surveys have been completed online. Still have three in-person and three Zoom sessions this week and next.

6. Heat & Hot Water Problems & Electrical Outage - Greenlaw

- a. Both of these incidents occurred on Sundays; were found Monday morning and work started to remedy the situation by 6am, although it takes a while to reheat the buildings.
- b. Weekend reporting expectations did not work properly. After numerous discussions this week, there should not be any further concerns.
- c. The communication/electronic systems have been relinked and are now operating appropriately.

7. Superintendent's Office Move - Elkington/Greenlaw

a. Space Search

We searched all around district communities, concentrating mostly in Farmington and Wilton. We found two spaces, and have been working with the one with the most space and who was most willing to work with us.

b. [Holman House](#)

i. [Lease w/option to purchase](#)

1. Currently appraised at approximately \$330K
2. Church voted unanimously to lease to RSU 9 with option to buy.

ii. [Upgrades needed](#)

- c. ESSER III funding is available in the amount of \$270 to \$400K, with some ESSER II funding also still available.
- d. Discussion was heard regarding possible savings of leased storage space district wide by using the large barn at the Holman House. What might the central office space at MBC be used for? There is no final agreement on the use of MBC space although it will be used for programming or classes. Comments were heard in regard to the electrical, technology wiring, flooring, furnace and sprinklers. We need to go into it with our eyes wide open as it is an old building. Expect a strong public reaction, both positive and negative, from our community members. We should be clear and upfront about why we need the additional space. Board and public would need to tour before voting. It is the expectation that more finalized numbers will be brought to the Finance Committee.

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8. Position Increases/adjustments from current staff requests - Elkington
 - a. Custodial Supervisor (full-time) - [Draft Job Description](#)

The current custodial staff design is not working efficiently. Day-to-day oversight of district custodians, and evaluation of same needs more eyes. This will be an “at-will” position to start. Would work closely with and join custodians in the work. No additional budget costs will be needed as we will be reconfiguring present open positions.
 - b. Maintenance (40 hrs full-time)

We need to increase our present maintenance staff from 4 to 5. We are having to perform more maintenance work year after year and are being forced to work more on our own as outside businesses are not bidding/quoting on small projects. No additional budget costs will be needed as we will be reconfiguring present open positions.

The committee was in full support of moving forward with these positions immediately.

9. MSAD 58 Strategic Planning Discussions
 - a. In response to a Daily Bulldog article - MSAD 58 is having conversations about the possibility of closing their high school and they asked us along with others about the possibility of students coming to MNHS. Approximately 160 students are MSAD 58 students with 90+ are EUT students. There will need to be multiple discussions and decisions by several school boards to determine next steps. When asked before the meeting and when the article was written, Superintendent Elkington reiterated with the Superintendent from MSAD 58 that we could not take 260-270 students at MBHS. That I could entertain bringing to the board looking at 160 MSAD 58 students as possible tuition students. That the students would need to be bused to us by their company and that it would be the RSU 9’s Board’s decision.
 - b. Discussion was heard around the transition of middle school to high school for these students.

10. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Future Site Visits
 - b. MBC Building Needs
 - i. Proposal ideas

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- c. ESSER Funded programs affected
- d. Short or Long-range Program needs
 - i. 10 yr. Planning needs
 - 1. Staff & Admin data
 - ii. Power Outages & Generator capabilities
- e. School layouts with outside structures