

Mt. Blue Regional School District Board of Directors
Special Meeting of the Board
Minutes- Edited

DATE: March 17, 2020

Place: The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

Time: 6:30pm

In attendance: Carol Coles, Cherieann Harrison, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Dennis O'Neil, Irv Faunce, Lisa Laflin, Jeff Harris, Betsey Hyde (arrived at 6:32), ~~Tami Labut~~, Angie LeClair, Josh Robbins, ~~Jesse Sillanpaa~~, J.Wayne Kinney, Debbie Smith, ~~Craig Stickney~~, ~~Olivia Schanck~~, ~~Riley Drummond~~, ~~Whitney Fraser~~, ~~Alejandro Magdelano~~

- I. Call to Order at 6:30
- II. Pledge
- III. Public Comment- Matt Allen- shared high stress time. Maine has doubled our confirmed rate for COVID 19. Ask the Board to consider taking into account our health and well being, including financial health.
Victoria Petterson- stated support of the letter written by the Association. Requesting considerations for pay and benefits going forward and work requirements .
Doug Hodum- shared letter from Lani Gordon- concerns about morale and requirement to keep a log of work. Concerns about staff being asked to come in to work to be paid.
Megan Hughes- works as support staff. Shared fear of pay going forward. She is worried if there will be work to do if they are home. Probationary period staff do not have sick time. She feels they deserve pay.
- IV. Report of the Chairperson- Thanked those sharing with the Board tonight. She also explained the new arrangement of seats at the table as new plans are developed. She also thanked Supt. Meserve for putting in long days during this time period. She shared that the meeting is being live-streamed. This is a test of our new equipment. She read two letters to the Board: one from Doug Hodum, President of the Teacher's Association. She had supported the decision to close schools. The other letter was from Maine School Management concerning the ED 279. as well as a special bill for support of COVID 19.
- V. Superintendent's Report-Tina Meserve- Thanked the staff who spoke. She shared that this is a rapidly changing process. Until Sunday the recommendation from DOE and CDC was to keep schools open. She shared that it was a hard decision to close schools against their recommendations but superintendents decided to do that on Sunday morning. The Governor stated support of that decision later in the day. Plan is to use

week one for designing what remote learning would be and she had communicated that to staff. Students will not be in session this week.

As of today, we are just two days into this process. More information to come. Every day new updates are coming in. She has had positive feedback from the community and some staff about the decision to close. The Administrative Team worked a lot this weekend. We will provide food service during the closure. She shared that the district Facebook page demonstrates the community support of the work the district is doing. She asked Andy Hutchins to report about the food service. He explained how the food service has stepped up to support the process of dispersing food for children around the district. Some of his staff are working second shift and they served over 600 meals today and expect many more tomorrow. There are multiple meal pick-up sites. Four kitchens are cooking meals at this time. Home delivery is occurring starting tomorrow and parents can call a hotline so they can find the meal sites. The state has allowed for 2 meals per day and they can serve multiple days at a time for up to 7 days a week. Local citizens are making donations and all are welcome. UMF has offered produce, staffing, and other support. He thanked Richard Joseph, Deb Nightingale, Jen Pooler, and many others.

Cherieann thanked him for stepping up and noted that the district is taking volunteers for deliveries. Communities are looking for us to help. Several Board members noted that they are willing to help with deliveries.

VI. New Business

A. RSU 9 School closure and the response to the Coronavirus

1. Susan Pratt shared the newest update from Commissioner Makin. Specific items were highlighted regarding the declaration of the state of civil emergency. Recommendation at this time, there is no unilateral recommendation. Includes preparation of meals, ongoing preparation of learning, utilizing classrooms to broadcast live or recorded messages. Recommend that school districts continue to pay hourly staff and the various tasks that they could be completing. There will be no assessment for SAT and MEA.
2. Approve continued learning options for students: Laura Columbia shared the highlights of the direction thus far to staff. She shared that she has asked staff to provide learning that can occur in all households. We are taking it week by week. She shared that the Board needs to approve the programming changes. She is making the recommendation that they do so.

Home internet access for RSU 9 is about 92%. Principal James Black feels that they have a good handle on who needs which type of resource. Principal Monique Poulin also commented on Google Classroom, access to the internet and that so far they have 60 who need packets.

Motion to approve remote and continued learning opportunities as presented by the Supt. and Curriculum Director	Yeas: All present Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: Unanimous	Motion: Irv Faunce Seconded: Dennis O'Neil Motion: Passed
---	---	---

Betsy Hyde started to hand out a letter from her husband who is a doctor but was asked to stop by the chair. She did read it after discussion. The letter recommended containment to help reduce rapid spread of the virus by taking action to do drastic social distancing.

VII. Executive session: 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) Labor Contract discussion for the Teachers, Support Staff, and Administrative bargaining units

Entered executive session: 8:12pm

Motion to enter executive session: 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) Labor Contract discussion for the Teachers, Support Staff, and Administrative bargaining units	Yeas: All present Nays: Abstained: Vote: Unanimous	Motion: Irv Faunce Seconded: Angie LeClair Motion: passed
--	---	---

Exited executive session: 8:13pm

Board took a 15 minute break.

At 8:30 the board reconvened

VIII. Executive session: 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Employment of Officials

Entered executive session: 8:32pm

Motion to enter executive session: 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Employment of Officials	Yeas: All present Nays: Abstained: Vote: Unanimous	Motion: Angie Clair Seconded: Betsy Hyde Motion: passed
---	---	---

Exited executive session: 8:51pm

Motion to extend the meeting to 9:15pm	Yeas: All present Nays: Abstained: Vote: Unanimous	Motion: Jeff Harris Seconded: Kirk Doyle Motion: Passed
--	---	---

IX. Executive session: 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) Labor Contract discussion for the Teachers, Support Staff, and Administrative bargaining units

Entered executive session: 8:52pm

Motion to enter into executive session: 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) Labor Contract discussion for the Teachers, Support Staff, and Administrative bargaining units	Yeas: All present Nays: Abstained: Vote: Unanimous	Motion: Irv Fance Seconded: Angie LeClair
---	---	--

Exited executive session 10:04pm

X. Adjourn-10:05

Motion to adjourn	Yeas: All present Nays: Abstained: Vote: Unanimous	Motion: Doug Dunlap Seconded: Angie LeClair
-------------------	---	--

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

March 24, 2020-6:30pm-The Forum at Mt. Blue Campus

April 14, 2020-6:30pm-The Forum at Mt. Blue Campus

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Budget Committee-March 26, 2020-6:30pm-The Forum at Mt. Blue Campus

Operations- April 7, 2020-5:00 pm-Chef's Table at Mt. Blue Campus

Personnel & Finance- April 7, 2020-6:00 pm-Chef's Table at Mt. Blue Campus

Educational Policy-April 7, 2020-7:00 pm-Chef's Table at Mt. Blue Campus