

Mt. Blue Regional School District Board of Directors

Minutes

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all

DATE: May 10, 2022

Place: The Forum

Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Video: <https://vimeo.com/709203796>

In attendance: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson,

Absent: Doug Dunlap, Mark Prentiss, Debbie Smith

Also present: Nancy Allen, Jeff Brazee, Laura Columbia, Chris Elkington, Nichole Goodspeed, Dan Higgins, Monique Poulin, Lisa Sinclair, Tracy Williams

- I. Called to Order at 6:33pm
- 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](#)
 - Section O: Resist every temptation and outside pressure to benefit themselves.
- V. Communications
 - A. Buses that we ordered in June of 2021 are back-ordered and should be arriving in June of this year (2022)
 1. Questions were heard on how that affects our fleet, and solutions of using our spare bus, and rotating buses.
- VI. [Water Testing Update](#) - link to website
 - A. Questions?
 1. The change of going from the federal requirement of 15 ppb versus the change to the Maine state law of 4 pbb.

- a) The middle school and high school water fixtures that were affected tested below 15 ppb.
 2. Clarity in the testing procedures was reviewed, to look into the source of the pipes or the water fixture. With a 4-6 week turnaround, results most likely arriving after our school year ends.
 3. What are the concerns around using water testing over 4 ppb for lead?
 - a) Using that water to make meals, stir ingredients, would be a concern, but the prep of washing food, dishes and hands is safe to use.
 4. Do we have enough projected water to get us through the rest of the school year?
 - a) Richard Joseph's community partnership with Wal Mart and Hannaford has been vital in supplying water for our schools. MBMS and MBHS have water sources for students to use. Fixtures that tested below 4 ppb can be used as normal.
 5. Is this connected to the water tower?
 - a) What we are being told is that the lead in the water does not appear to be a source issue. The towns have done their testing on a regular basis, as well as we have tested at CCHS, whose water source is a well.
 6. With the additional work for finding where the lead source is and what the repair is, is there money in this budget or will the state assist us?
 - a) There is some limited funding available to assist through state and federal funding. We have discussed doing a parking lot or two this year, but we will hold off for now. We are also looking at getting cost estimates for replacing water fixtures and cost estimates for doing a filtration system, and hiring a filtration system specialist. We will not freeze the budget at this time.
 7. Were we the first district to be tested and get results?
 - a) Approximately 35 schools or districts have results that did not meet state and federal guidelines. The law does not say you have to fix these-it says you have to tell the community and parents that you did not meet the standard.
 8. Why would lead be used to solder pipes?
 - a) In the Late 1980s some pipes and fixtures were still built or used lead in soldering. Water in Maine and New England has a higher level of corrosiveness which also does not help.
- B. Do you want to go for a waiver for the day missed?
1. Question was asked regarding the calendar change. If the board gives permission, we will ask for a waiver of the last student day, and then see how that might affect staff. The current plan is to end on Friday June 17th,

with no school on June 20th due to Juneteenth, Tuesday, June 21st would be the next school day.

C. Next Steps?

1. Review results as they come in, review potential costs and create a plan for testing for lead on a yearly basis.
2. Will we start testing for PFast? Skowhegan has seen this as an issue, and we will be keeping it on our radar.
3. By law we are required to have someone oversee the water testing at CCHS, and we do.
4. What assurances do we have that the bottled water has lead content below 4 ppb?
 - a) We will review the question and get back to the board.
5. Chris Elkington thanked administrators, central office staff, and principals for their time over the weekend to combat this concern.

<p><i>Motion to seek a waiver for the day missed due to notification of lead in the water.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laffin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 13:0:0 (844:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Dee Robinson Motion: Passed</p>
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VII. Public Comment

- A. No public comment was heard.

VIII. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

- A. RSU 9 Staff Members of the Month for April 2022 were announced
 1. Support Staff: Patty Flagg
 2. Professional Staff: Cameron McAllister
- B. Kirk Doyle recognized nurses' week.
- C. Chris Elkington shared that the best chicken pot pie he ever had in a school was at Mt. Blue Middle School and they were delicious.
- D. Monique Poulin, principal, recognized staff last week for appreciation week, and the parents who brought in treats for this week. The Green Bird play, by Mt. Blue Theater Company this year happened this past weekend. Also discussed the work on having a student rep on the school board as well as the student group that shared feedback on the Strategic Planning Committee.

- E. Nancy Allen, Director of Adult Education, shared an invite to this year's graduation. Notification was received that \$50,000 will go towards the digital literacy program, to accompany the broadband expansion in our communities.
- F. Tracy Williams, principal at W.G. Mallett School, shared that kindergarten students visited the Western Maine Play Museum. And that they had a great teacher appreciation week with breakfast and plants provided by the Parent-Teacher Association.
- G. Gloria McGraw expressed thanks for the sound system but inquired if there is an alternative for the sound system as Farmington Town Mtg. had issues.

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Strategic Planning Team Update (Chair Laflin)
 - 1. Met on May 3rd, with a final meeting on May 23rd. The last meeting focused on long-term and short-term goals. Ten long-term goals were drafted, and approximately seventeen short-term goals.
- C. School Board Reps Progress (Chair Coles)
 - 1. Doug Dunlap, Betsey Hyde, Monique Poulin, and Carol Coles have been working on the process and incorporating a mentoring system to partner with the students. We plan to start this over the summer, to be in place in the fall.
- D. Probationary and Continuing Contract Teachers
- E. Staff Appreciation Week
 - 1. The key to democracy is a good public school system.
- F. Franklin County Teacher of the Year
 - 1. Will be announced this Thursday.

X. Administrator Reports

- A. [Cape Cod Hill School](#) - Lisa Sinclair, Principal
- B. [Mt. Blue High School/Mt. Blue Campus](#) - Monique Poulin, Principal
 - 1. Board members shared their excitement at the Climate Change Workshop and posters at the entrance of the school.
- C. [W.G. Mallett School](#) - Tracy Williams, Principal
 - 1. Data were reviewed, as well as an update on the field trip that was canceled but happily planned. She also discussed absenteeism and possible reasons for absenteeism. Behavior data were explained, as well as the role of the PALs program at WGM.
 - 2. Questions were heard about whether the addition of devices and internet connections allows students to feel like they can miss work more easily. It does provide the opportunity to make up work, unsure if that is a factor in absenteeism. Some families would like our teachers to have multiple

platforms (digital and in-person). Other reasons discussed: anxiety with coming to school, taking the day to spend with their kids, and families taking vacations during non-vacation weeks all seem to be contributing factors.

- XI. Presentations
 - A. None

- XII. Consent Agenda
 - A. New Hires
 - B. Board Minutes from [April 26, 2022](#)
 - C. Board Minutes from [May 3, 2022](#)
 - D. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - No Committee Meeting in May
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - No Committee Meeting in May
 - 3. Educational Policy - No Committee Meeting in May
 - E. A question was heard regarding the Dropout Prevention Committee. The group will convene by the end of the year, to set up goals and data to review for 2023. Questions were asked regarding the board representative for the committee.

<i>Motion to approve the Consent Agenda</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 12:0:0 (760:0:0)	Motion: Kirk Doyle Seconded: Lisa Laflin Motion: Passed
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*Wayne Kinney was not present for the vote.

- XIII. New Business
 - A. To appoint teachers to a 2nd- or 3rd-year probationary contract or continuing contract

<i>Motion to approve probationary and continuing contracts as proposed by the Superintendent in his amended report.</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Nays: 0 Abstained: 0	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion: Passed
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	Vote: 12:0:0 (760:0:0)	
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*Wayne Kinney was not present for the vote.

B. Superintendent's Evaluation

1. Review of Present Plan
2. Feedback Loop
 - a) A two-part feedback from the school board regarding goals and a survey from the administrative team and central office. Due to the nature of this year, we will not go through the entire evaluation process.
3. [Superintendent Goals](#)

C. COVID Reopening Plan Check-In - Elkington/Columbia

1. Information Updates
2. Questions?
3. [Attendance and Staffing Updates](#)

<i>Motion to extend meeting to 9 pm</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 12:0:0 (760:0:0)	Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Kirk Doyle Motion: Passed
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*Wayne Kinney was not present for the vote.

D. Approval of Cole Grant Application - Reading Recovery/G.D. Cushing School

1. [2022-23 Application](#)
2. *Review/Questions*
 - a) *Is Reading Recovery the only literacy intervention we use? No, this is one part of our literacy intervention process.*

<i>Motion to approve the Cole Grant Application as presented.</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Nays: 0 Abstained: Wayne Kinney Vote: 12:0:0 (760:0:0)	Motion: Kirk Doyle Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion: Passed
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E. Approval of Extended Learning Opportunity Programming Grant

1. [Application - RFA 202204057](#)

<p><i>Motion to approve the Extended Learning Opportunity Programming Grant Application as presented.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 13:0:0 (844:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Gloria McGraw Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed</p>
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<p><i>Motion to extend the meeting until 9:00pm</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 13:0:0 (844:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Lisa Laflin Motion: Passed</p>
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XIV. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - Labor Contract discussion

<p><i>Motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - Labor Contract discussion.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 13:0:0 (844:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Lisa Laflin Motion: Passed</p>
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Time entered: 8:21pm

Time exited: 8:45pm

XV. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - Evaluation of the Superintendent

<p><i>Motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Scott Erb,</p>	<p>Motion: Kirk Doyle Seconded: Cherieann</p>
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<i>M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - Evaluation of the Superintendent</i>	Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 13:0:0 (844:0:0)	Harrison Motion: Passed
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Time entered: 8:46pm

Time exited: 9:02pm

XVI. Adjourn

<i>Motion to adjourn without objection</i>		Motion: Passed Motion passed without objection
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Adjourned at 9:02

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

May 24, 2022 - 6:30pm - Bjorn Auditorium - Annual Budget Meeting

June 14, 2022 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

June 28, 2022 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

UPCOMING STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 23, 2022 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

June 6, 2022 - 6:00pm - Zoom

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - June 7, 2022 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Personnel & Finance - June 7, 2022 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Educational Policy - June 7, 2022 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus