

Mt. Blue Regional School District Board of Directors

Minutes

DATE: August 10, 2021

Place: The Forum

Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Video: <https://vimeo.com/585926475>

In attendance: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Debbie Smith, Craig Stickney (arrived at 7:20 pm, exited at 7:50 pm)

Absent: Betsey Hyde, Josh Robbins, Jesse Sillanpaa

Also present: Nancy Allen, James Black, Chad Brackett, Jeff Brazee, Beth Christopher, Laura Columbia, Katie Duchesne, Chris Elkington, Nichole Goodspeed, Andy Hutchins, John Jones, Kris Pottle, Monique Poulin, Lisa Sinclair, Melissa Williams, Tracy Williams

- I. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum
 - A. 6:29pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment
 - A. Jesse Sillanpaa, a resident of Industry and parent, shared concern over the requirement of wearing masks.
 - B. Sarah Abbott Pinkham, a resident of New Sharon and parent, shared concerns of the last board meeting not being live, mask requirements for students, as well as focusing on other health and safety requirements.
 - C. Carla Fitch, a resident of Wilton and parent, shared concerns around COVID-19 implications, and concerns around the mental health of students.
- IV. Report of the Chairperson - Carol Coles
 - A. [Committee Assignments](#)
 1. Gloria McGraw has volunteered to switch committees to Operations.
 2. Libby Kaut has offered to serve as the Booster Liaison.
 - B. Training/Refresher training for the Board
 1. Earlier in July, the board held a refresher training for new board members and was thinking about a future review training for current members.
 - C. Board Member Policy [BCA: Code of Ethics](#)
 1. The first sentence was reviewed regarding the priority of focusing on students.
- V. Good news stories from Board / Administrators

- A. Lisa Sinclair, principal at CCHS, reported about their new floors and gave a big thank you to the maintenance department. She also shared info about a recently approved Homeless Grant.
 - B. Monique Poulin, principal at MBC, shared the good work that has been happening over the summer to assist and work on welcoming students back, as well as custodians and maintenance for keeping our campus looking great.
 - C. Jeff Brazee, technology director shared that student laptops have been changed to shipped status.
 - D. James Black, principal at Mt.Blue Middle School is working on open positions and gave a shout out to Chef Andy for the great work on the cafeteria at MBMS.
 - E. Superintendent Elkington gave a shoutout to Kirk Libby, and the fine leadership he has demonstrated at MBC, as well as to Mike Turner and his crew for all of the work they have done this summer. Lastly he thanked the EAC (Educational Advisory Committee) for attending an emergency meeting.
 - F. Richard Wilde, instructor at Foster Tech, reported that the Blue Crew did an excellent job in their recent event and the fundraising efforts.
- VI. [Superintendent's Report](#) - Christian Elkington
- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
 - 1. Currently making progress on filling the open positions.
 - B. Reopening Planning 8-10-2021 FYIs
 - 1. Full Return Update
 - a) Universal Masking PreK-12, masks/face shield for vaccinated students and staff in grades 9-12, as well as other requirements with busing, etc. If there are documented health concerns with masks, they can request a shield. Our goal is to have school every day, a full return so we can have students at school every day.
 - 2. Remote Learning Options
 - a) The district has sent out information for families interested in our remote learning opportunity. With more information being sent out this week.
 - C. Open Positions as of 8/5/2021
 - 1. Currently, we are below 60 open positions and we are currently working towards filling several of them.
 - D. Foster Career and Technical Education Center Logging Equipment Purchase
 - 1. [Equipment Quote](#)
 - 2. The grant will cover the piece of equipment, with the remainder coming out of the FTC contingency.
 - E. [21-22 Fuel Quote Summary](#)
 - 1. Bill Greenlaw has found this to be the best quote.
 - F. [Substitute Rates for 2021-2022](#)

1. Our goal is to have competitive rates, to ensure we are educating our students and so will be continuing what was created for the Pandemic, post Pandemic.

G. [Planning Board Approval](#)

1. Still waiting for one document from DEP, but we are hopeful that in a few weeks we will be able to move forward.

VII. Admin Updates

A. [Technology](#) - Jeff Brazee, Director of Technology

1. Jeff Brazee, reported on the progress that has been made this past year to prepare for remote learning as needed. As well as working on getting all of our families connected to the internet.
2. It was requested that the updates be [posted on the website](#).

B. [Food Service](#) - Andy Hutchins, Director of Food Service

1. Andy Hutchins, reported on the struggles of the hybrid model for foodservice, there was an increase in participation in the second half of the year, and delivering meals to remote students. For this coming year, all meals will be free, and in Maine, all students will continue to eat for free in public schools. Cost of food will be an impact for next year, as well as supply chain issues.
2. Questions were asked regarding how free meals are affecting student debt, what food was allowed, and thanking Andy and the team for the work they have done, and expressing the importance of families filling out the Free and Reduced Lunch Form.

C. [Athletics](#) (Grades 9 - 12) - Chad Bracket, Athletic Director

1. Chad Brackett, reported on a recap of this past spring season, he shared that the following of our district health procedures made for an excellent spring, the success of the new girls' lacrosse team, and successes of other sports teams. All students who wanted to participate were able to participate, and coaches did an excellent job of including students. Chad also expressed the importance of sports, and how sports had helped students inside and outside the classroom. A summary of summer sports camps was also reviewed.

VIII. Presentations

A. [Possible Special Education Program Adjustments](#) - John Jones, Director of Special Education

1. John Jones reported on the openings for teachers and ed techs in special education, and the teamwork needed to meet the goals and objectives of IEPs. We will be looking at strategies to support our current and new staff members, especially our staff members who are in emergency or conditional certification.

2. Questions were heard regarding speech and language services and contracting out with services if positions were not filled. As well as how we will be supporting new staff members, how we use our ed techs, least restrictive environment questions, and how we can deal with this in the long term.

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes from [July 27, 2021](#)
- B. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 1. Operations Committee - [August 3, 2021](#)
 2. Personnel & Finance - [August 3, 2021](#)
 3. Educational Policy - [August 3, 2021](#)
 4. Drop-Out Prevention - None

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda</i>	Yeas: Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Debbie Smith, Lisa Laflin, Cherieann Harrison, Carol Coles, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak, Judith Kaut, Gloria McGraw, Irv Faunce, Wayne Kinney Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 12:0:0 (817:0:0)	Motion: Lisa Laflin Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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No discussion

<i>Motion to extend meeting to 9 pm.</i>	Yeas: Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Debbie Smith, Lisa Laflin, Cherieann Harrison, Carol Coles, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak, Judith Kaut, Gloria McGraw, Irv Faunce, Wayne Kinney Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 12:0:0 (817:0:0)	Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Kirk Doyle Motion: Passed
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No discussion

X. New Business

- A. Mask Changes for RSU 9 to start the 2021-2022 School Year

<i>Motion to approve new mask and shield wearing expectations in grades 9-12 for the 2021-2022 School</i>	Yeas: Doug Dunlap, Debbie Smith, Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Gloria McGraw, Irv Faunce, Wayne Kinney	Motion: Debbie Smith Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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<i>Year as presented in the Superintendent's Report.</i>	Nays: Judith Kaut, Scott Erb, Lisa Laflin, Cherieann Harrison, Kirk Doyle Abstained: 0 Vote: 7:5:0 (458:359:0)	
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The discussion revolved around:

- the variety of students that attend our schools
- the stress that some students and families may have regarding wearing masks
- the vaccine status of students
- The difficulty of weighing the information that is being provided
- The risks associated with masking and not masking with students in grades 9-12
- That the board appreciated hearing concerns from multiple perspectives for wearing or not wearing masks.

Questions were asked regarding what is the threshold and trigger for revisiting the conversation, and the Maine CDC, and Maine DOE recommendations and requirements.

B. [MSBA Resolutions Notice](#) - tabled to next meeting

1. [2021 Proposed MSBA Resolutions](#)

C. Election of MSBA Delegate - tabled to next meeting

	Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:	Motion: Seconded: Motion:
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D. Approve New Hires

<i>Motion to approve the new hires as presented in the Superintendent's Report.</i>	Yeas: Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Debbie Smith, Lisa Laflin, Cherieann Harrison, Carol Coles, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak, Judith Kaut, Gloria McGraw, Irv Faunce, Wayne Kinney Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 12:0:0 (817:0:0)	Motion: Lisa Laflin Seconded: Doug Dulap Motion: Passed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noah Carroll - Spec Ed Teacher/Behavior ● Amanda Chick - Spec Ed/Resource Room Teacher ● Paul DeLucia - Bus Driver ● Kimberly Foss - School Nurse ● Scott Franzose - Interventionist ● Vicki Gerstenberger - School Nurse 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adam Goodspeed - Science ● Jolene Greenleaf - Spec Ed/Ed Tech/Resource ● Ian Grima - Spec Ed/Ed Tech/Behavior ● Raymond Loon - Lead Custodian ● Ashley Marden - Spec Ed/Ed Tech/Resource ● Samuel McFarlane - Custodian ● Jessica Merrill - Spec Ed/Resource Room Teacher ● Sarah Nye - Spec Ed/Ed Tech/Day Treatment ● Stacey Schondel - Math ● Erin Simpson - Spec Ed/Ed Tech/Resource ● Jacob Turner - Social Worker ● Sherry Wyman - COVID Grant Coordinator 		
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No discussion

E. Acceptance of Foster Career and Technical Education Center Grant - tabled to next meeting

1. [Grant Award](#)
2. [Grant Selections](#)

	Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:	Motion: Seconded: Motion:
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F. Acceptance of American Rescue Plan Homeless Grant - tabled to next meeting

1. [Grant Award](#)
2. [Grant Application](#)

	Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:	Motion: Seconded: Motion:
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G. Adding Paid Staff Days to the 2021-2022 School Calendar through ESSER 3 funds

<p><i>Motion to increase paid staff training days for 2021-2022 by two days for school year staff, with RSU 9 Union approval using ESSER 3 funds (approximate cost \$200,000).</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Debbie Smith, Lisa Laflin, Carol Coles, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak, Judith Kaut, Gloria McGraw, Irv Faunce, Wayne Kinney Nays: Cherieann Harrison Abstained: 0 Vote: 11:1:0 (743:74:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Debbie Smith Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed</p>
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The discussion revolved around what part of the year the days would be used, to start the year with two additional paid days, move the calendar back for the student start, and adjust the calendar at the end of the year. Reasoning was based on: materials being delivered late, additional training time needed and needing more time to hire. A question was heard regarding how we would proceed with this in future years, as the present funding source would dry up.

H. Adjust the 2021/22 School Calendar

<p><i>Motion to adjust the school calendar as presented in the Superintendent's Report.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Debbie Smith, Lisa Laflin, Cherieann Harrison, Carol Coles, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak, Judith Kaut, Gloria McGraw, Irv Faunce, Wayne Kinney Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 12:0:0 (817:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Doug Dunlap Seconded: Kirk Doyle Motion: Passed</p>
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Question was heard regarding staff input; an emergency meeting with the EAC showed broad support.

I. First reading of RSU 9 [Draft Affirmative Action Plan](#) - tabled to next meeting

	<p>Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:</p>	<p>Motion: Seconded: Motion:</p>
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J. First reading of [GCI: Professional Staff Development Opportunities](#) - tabled to next meeting

	<p>Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:</p>	<p>Motion: Seconded: Motion:</p>
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XI. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) - Labor Contract discussion for the Support Staff's Bargaining Unit

<p><i>Motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(D) - Labor Contract discussion for the Support Staff's Bargaining Unit.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Debbie Smith, Lisa Laflin, Cherieann Harrison, Carol Coles, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak, Judith Kaut, Gloria McGraw, Irv Faunce, Wayne Kinney Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 12:0:0 (817:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Kirk Doyle Motion: Passed</p>
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Time entered: 8:45pm

Time exited: 9:00pm

<p><i>Motion to extend the meeting to 9:15</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Debbie Smith, Lisa Laflin, Cherieann Harrison, Carol Coles, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak, Judith Kaut, Gloria McGraw, Irv Faunce, Wayne Kinney Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 12:0:0 (817:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Kirk Doyle Motion: Passed</p>
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No discussion

<p><i>Motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Support Staff for contract years 2021-2024 as discussed in executive session.</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Debbie Smith, Lisa Laflin, Cherieann Harrison, Carol Coles, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak, Judith Kaut, Gloria McGraw, Irv Faunce, Wayne Kinney Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 12:0:0 (817:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Doug Dunlap Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion: Passed</p>
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No discussion

<p><i>Motion to move all other new business agenda items to the next meeting</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Debbie Smith, Lisa Laflin, Cherieann Harrison, Carol Coles, Scott Erb, Gwen</p>	<p>Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Kirk Doyle Motion: Passed</p>
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	Doak, Judith Kaut, Gloria McGraw, Irv Faunce, Wayne Kinney Nays: 0 Abstained: 0 Vote: 12:0:0 (817:0:0)	
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No discussion

XII. Adjourn

<i>Motion to adjourn without objection</i>		Motion: Carol Coles Motion: Passed without objection
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Adjourned at 9:13pm

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

September 14, 2021 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

September 28, 2021 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - September 7, 2021 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Personnel & Finance - September 7, 2021 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Educational Policy - September 7, 2021 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus