

Mt. Blue Regional School District Board of Directors

Minutes

DATE: August 24, 2021

Place: The Forum

Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Video: <https://vimeo.com/592077837>

In attendance: 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, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith

Absent: Craig Stickney

Also present: Keith Acedo, Jeff Brazee, Beth Christopher, Laura Columbia, Katie Duchesne, Chris Elkington, Nichole Goodspeed, William Greenlaw, John Jones, Richard Joseph, Jennifer Pooler, Monique Poulin, Lisa Sinclair, Joel Smith, Melissa Williams, Tracy Williams

- I. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum
 - A. 6:30pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment
 - A. Review of expectations for Public Comment
 1. 10 minutes for public comment
 2. State your name and your town
 - B. Mark Simonpietri, Farmington, shared concerns around mask wearing and potential side effects.
 - C. Jeff Seaberg, Phillips, parent of children in RSU 9, concerned parent sharing in support of optional masking.
 - D. Alexander Creznic, Farmington, mask mandate and shared concerns around students wearing masks.
 - E. Vicky Cohen, Farmington, reviewed school protocols, and support for the mask mandate.
- IV. Report of the Chairperson - Carol Coles
 - A. [Board Informational Pamphlet](#)
 - B. Board Member Policy [BCA: Code of Ethics](#)
- V. Good news stories from Board / Administrators
 - A. Monique Poulin, principal of Mt. Blue Campus, reported student athletes are back and getting into the swing of things, and using leadership teams to plan for a

strong return, and still working on filling positions. And student laptops are in, and the IT are working on getting those ready.

- B. Laura Columbia, Director of Curriculum, New Staff Orientation last week.
- C. Wayne Kinney, Director from Farmington, shared support for the forums, and the attendance at each forum.
- D. Superintendent Chris Elkington, thanked the individuals that did come to the forums, and the respect that was shown for differing opinions. Also thanked our social workers and counselors that met and reviewed a district plan for social emotional learning.

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Foster Career and Technical Education Center Logging Equipment Purchase
- C. American Rescue Plan Homeless Grant

VII. Admin Updates

- A. [Cascade Brook School](#) - Nichole Goodspeed, Principal
 - 1. Questions were heard regarding test scores, outdoor classrooms, small class sizes, recess, and numbers of incidents of behaviors.
- B. [Foster Career and Technical Education Center](#) - Melissa Williams, Director
 - 1. Questions were heard regarding the electrical program, spacing needs for CTE, shared support of the base level understanding that FCTEC provides, and the regular education program.
- C. [Transportation](#) - Richard Joseph, Transportation Specialist
 - 1. Kudos were shared with Richard Joseph in regards to the work he has done and in his earning employee of the year for 20-21!

VIII. Presentations

- A. None

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes from [August 10, 2021](#)
- B. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - None
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - None
 - 3. Educational Policy - None
 - 4. Drop-Out Prevention - None
 - *Motion to approve the consent agenda.*

<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	Motion: Lisa Laflin Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion: Passed
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	Robbins, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (927:0:0)	
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Discussion - Correct spelling of Jesse Sillanpaa's name

X. New Business

A. Out of State Field Trip Request

1. [AeroSpace Festival 2021](#)

<i>Motion to approve the field trip request to the AeroSpace Festival on Sept. 4, 2021 in Concord, NH.</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, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (927:0:0)	Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Josh Robbins Motion: Passed
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No discussion was heard.

B. Adjust Masking Expectations in grades 9-12 to include Universal Masking for all students and staff, with shields for those students and staff per their current IEP/504 Plan or with a medically documented need.

<i>Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for adjusting the Universal Masking expectations for grades 9-12.</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Debbie Smith Nays: Jesse Sillanpaa, Judith Kaut Abstained: None Vote: 13:2:0 (801:126:0)	Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Wayne Kinney Motion: Passed
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Discussion: Superintendent Elkington shared an update regarding the proposal changes, which would include universal masking, and no longer allowing shields for vaccinated individuals, but masks for all. Questions were heard regarding how masking relates to contact tracing and quarantining.

- C. Add into the RSU 9 Reopening Plan a monthly review (2nd mtg. of the month), of the recommended Maine CDC Guidelines and expectations for Universal Masking and to review county and neighboring county infection and positivity rates to see if changes should be made to RSU 9's Universal Masking expectations based on new data.

<p><i>Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for a monthly review (2nd mtg. of the month), of the Maine CDC Guidelines and recommendations, along with infection and positivity rates in order to see if RSU 9 Universal Masking expectations should be adjusted based on new data.</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, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (927:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Wayne Kiney Seconded: Scott Erb Motion: Passed</p>
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Discussion was heard, that if we find a different answer regarding universal masking mandate that this should be discussed. The superintendent will look into it and report back. Concern around the continuity of our school plan and that we should hold the decision for a period of time and not change it monthly.

D. [MSBA Resolutions Notice](#)

1. [2021 Proposed MSBA Resolutions](#)

<p>No action necessary</p>	<p>Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:</p>	<p>Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion:</p>
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No discussion was heard.

D. Election of MSBA Delegate

<p>Motion to elect Irv Faunce as the MSBA Delegate for the 2021/22 school year.</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, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (927:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed</p>
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No discussion was heard.

E. Approve New Hires

<i>Motion to approve the new hires as presented in the Superintendent's Report.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Christina Johnson - Spec Ed Teacher/Resource RoomChristopher Lewis - Law Enforcement InstructorMary O'Rourke - Ed Tech/PreKDeborah Warren - Food Service	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, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (927:0:0)	Motion: Debbie Smith Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion: Passed
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No discussion was heard.

F. Acceptance of Foster Career and Technical Education Center Grant

- [Grant Award](#)
- [Grant Selections](#)

<i>Motion to accept the \$50,000 grant from the Logging and Forestry Education Grant Program of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry – Bureau of Parks and Lands.</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, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (927:0:0)	Motion: Lisa Laflin Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion: Passed
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No discussion was heard.

G. Acceptance of American Rescue Plan Homeless Grant

- [Grant Award](#)
- [Grant Application](#)

<i>Motion to accept the \$9,000 American Rescue Plan Homeless Grant from the MDOE.</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	Motion: Lisa Laflin Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion:
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	Robbins, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (927:0:0)	
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Questions were heard regarding funding, and previous funding. And how we are currently supporting homeless students.

H. First reading of RSU 9 [Draft Affirmative Action Plan](#)

Discussion was heard regarding parts of the plan that were law, requirements, or local decisions, and how RSU 9 is following the affirmative action laws. Input on formatting, and that the plan is not a policy.

Motion to approve Draft Affirmative Action Plan.	Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:	Motion: Seconded: Motion:
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Debbie Smith withdrew her motion, and Cherieann Harrison withdrew her second of the motion. This will be moved to a second reading and proposed adoption.

I. First reading of [GCI: Professional Staff Development Opportunities](#)

Discussion was heard regarding the first reading. No other questions or comments. This will be moved to a second reading and proposed adoption.

<i>Motion to extend the meeting until 9:00 pm</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, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (927:0:0)	Motion: Kirk Doyle Seconded: Wayne Kinney Motion:
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No discussion was heard.

K. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E). To Seek Legal Counsel on the Rights & Duties of the School Unit & Board

<i>Motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A Sec. 405(6)(E) - To Seek Legal Counsel</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison,	Motion: Doug Dunlap Seconded: Jesse Sillanpaa Motion:
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	Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (927:0:0)	
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No discussion was heard.

Time entered: 8:27pm

Time exited: 9:00pm

<i>Motion to extend the meeting to 9:15pm</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith Kaut, J. Wayne Kinney, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: Lisa Laflin, Irv Faunce Abstained: None Vote: 13:2:0 (812:115:0)	Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion: Passed
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<i>Motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A Sec. 405(6)(E) - To Seek Legal Counsel</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, Jesse Sillanpaa, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 15:0:0 (927:0:0)	Motion: Betsey Hyde Seconded: Deb Smith Motion: Passed
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Time entered: 9:03pm

Time exited: 9:20pm

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

XI. Adjourn

<i>Motion to adjourn without objection</i>		Motion: Cherieann Harrison No objection
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Adjourned at 9:21pm

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