

**Mt. Blue Regional School District Board of Directors**  
**Minutes**

**DATE: September 19, 2017**

**Place: The Forum-Mt. Blue Campus**

**5:30-Executive Session**

**7:00pm- Board Business meeting**

**Board Members 2017-18**

**In attendance:** Jennifer Zweig Hebert, Cherieann Harrison, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Richard Hargreaves, Jeff Harris, Betsey Hyde, Tami Labul, Angie LeClair, Ryan Morgan, Robert Patterson, Lidie Robbins, Iris Silverstein, Debbie Smith, Craig Stickney, ~~Joe Crandall~~, and Griffin Mayhew.

**Also present:** Monique Poulin, James Black, Nichole Goodspeed, Tracy Williams, Darlene Paine, Keith Acedo, Melissa Williams, ~~Andy Hutchins~~, ~~Glenn Kapiloff~~, Jonathan Chalmers, ~~Richard Joseph~~, ~~Katie Duchesne~~, Christine Gatto-Shea, Cynthia Bernstein, Laura Columbia

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge
- III. Executive session: Discussion of litigation, pending or contemplated M.R.S.A § 405(6)(E)  
Motion to go into executive session for discussion of litigation, pending or contemplated M.R.S.A § 405(6)(E): Angie LeClair Second: Cherieann Harrison Vote: Unanimous

Entered into executive session at 5:40  
Returned from executive session at 6:03

Executive session: Employment of officials/appointees/employees M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A)  
Motion to go into executive session for employment of officials/appointees/employees M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A): Angie LeClair Second: Cherieann Harrison Vote: Unanimous

Entered into executive session at 6:04  
Returned from executive session at 6:28

Executive session: Discussion of litigation, pending or contemplated M.R.S.A § 405(6)(E)  
Motion to go into executive session for discussion of litigation, pending or contemplated M.R.S.A § 405(6)(E): Angie LeClair Second: Scott Erb Vote: Unanimous

Entered into executive session at 6:29  
Returned from executive session at 6:40  
Motion to adopt Dr. Ward's letter made by Cheriann Harrison Second: Ryan Morgan Vote: In Favor with one abstention (Richard Hargreaves)

Back into regular session 7:02

IV. Consideration of the meeting minutes of August 22, 2017

Motion to accept the minutes as written: Betsey Hyde Second: Angie LeClair Vote: Unanimous

V. Consideration of the Annual Budget meeting minutes of September 5, 2017

Motion to accept the minutes as written: Jeff Harris Second: Angie LeClair 14:0:2 Doug Dunlap and Ryan Morgan abstained.

VI. Report of the Chairperson

- A. Good news stories from Board/Admin
- B. Christine Gatto-Shea shared that director Irving Faunce came to visit the Special Ed Dept at MBC. She invited any others who want to visit to contact her.
- C. Monica Poulin shared that the Mt Blue Campus Celebration was held on 9/8. Maria Howatt organized the day which was held for the purpose of building relationships.
- D. Ag Ed Day-Thanks to Erica Emery; parent volunteers, Richard Joseph, transportation director; and Darlene Paine. The event was a success and all of the students enjoyed it and learned a lot.

VII. Public Comment

- A. Courtney Schools- Thanked board for all of their hard work throughout the year. She spoke on behalf of small class-size in order to build relationships and connections with students. Students slip through the cracks when class sizes are larger. Students need to feel loved, accepted, and valued.
- B. Stephanie Marcotte- a Mt. Blue grad and parent of two students. One of her children attended a private arts school that wasn't up to par with Mt.Blue High School, so he transferred back. As a realtor, she is repeatedly asked about our schools and what they offer.
- C. Kat Zachary- Mt. Blue grad and middle school teacher read a letter from a neighbor in Wilton, Jami Holmes in support of the music programs, teachers and community spirit.
- D. Karol Maybury- spoke to the extraordinary opportunities the district provides under such a tight budget. She encouraged the board to go back to the third budget before it was cut at the Annual Budget Meeting.
- E. Heather Ahern Huish- stated, "if we want economic success so that our elders and our young people are equally supported, we need to keep our money local. We also need to be sure that the Mainers in whom we are investing are gaining skills for the century that will be, not the century that was."
- F. Motion to extend public commentary: Cherianne Harrison, Second: Angie LeClair. Vote: Unanimous
- G. Jeanne Mason: Mt Blue grad and parent of two autistic students is concerned that the special ed. program will suffer if it is cut. Students with special needs require a changing program which requires many planning meetings. Outside placements are very expensive, yet sometimes necessary.
- H. Stacey Damon- a parent and substitute spoke in favor of supporting Foster Tech and other programs. She referred to teachers as Educational Engineers and said they should be respected and paid as such and that administrators earn what they are paid.

- I. Siiri Stinson- Has served as a ballot clerk, but counting hand votes is very difficult. Respectfully requests another method for counting hand votes, possibly two different colored cards, one for yes and one for no.
- J. Amy Graham- Mt. Blue grad with two students at MBHS, who is a library tech at Cascade Brook School. She reported that students expressed disappointment in the absence of new books. Thanked the board for their hard work.
- K. Vicky Cohen read a letter from her daughter, Miriam, who was thankful for the music, sports, and art programs that propelled her to Yale.
- L. Cherianne Harrison made a motion to continue public comment for six more minutes. Scott Erb seconded. Vote: Unanimous
- M. Elaine Graham asked how many new students are special education students. She questioned about out of district placements, as well as the half-time nurse at Mallett for a student.
- N. Christine Gatto-Shea, Special Services Director- stated tht Special Ed. is the law. Eligibility is monitored by the state. Special Education is expensive. Our percentage of special education students is less than the state average. Our programs are very effective. Child Find is the law. She is honored to serve students requiring special services and their families. Tuition to Special Service Private Schools is overseen by the state.
- O. Gregory Baxter, Mt. Blue graduate who now attends UMF. Excelled in school thanks to the music program. These programs made him who he is today and what we have here in this district is special.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Personnel
- B. VOTED: That the Computation and Declaration of votes dated September 14, 2017 and attached hereto be approved. FURTHER VOTED: That the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of Regional School Unit No. 9. FURTHER VOTED: That a certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to each of the Municipal Clerks within the Regional School Unit.

Motion: Betsey Hyde Second: Cherieanne Harrison Vote: Unanimous  
Griffin Mayhew entered at 8:18.

IX. New Business

- A. MSBA Delegate

Motion to nominate Irving Faunce made by Doug Dunlap Second: Betsey Hyde Vote: Unanimous

- B. Budget Deliberations

Motion to add \$100,00 in order to cover unforeseen out of district placements Irv Faunce  
Second: Scott Erb

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to cut budget for heating by \$12,800 and diesel by \$35,200 Scott Erb Second: Doug Dunlap

Vote: 15:1 Ryan Morgan 917:84

Motion to add \$26,000 for half-time nurse to health services Cherieann Harrison Second: Angie LeClair

Vote: Unanimous

Irv Faunce moved the question, failed 56% (two-thirds is required)

Motion to reduce the contingency fund by \$78,000 Cherieann Harrison Second: Scott Erb Vote:  
15:1 Ryan Morgan

C. Set the Budget

Motion to set the budget at \$33, 637,093 Scott Erb, Second: Angie LeClair

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to have open articles made by Iris Silverstein Second: Cherianne Harrison

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to adjourn-Irv Faunce Second: Jeff Harris Unanimous

It was mentioned that we should include the Annual Budget Meeting in the list of future board meetings at the bottom of the agendas.

X. Adjournment at 9:03

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:**

September 26, 2017 - The Forum at Mt. Blue Campus-Sign Warrants

October 17, 2017 - The Forum at Mt. Blue Campus

October 24, 2017 - The Forum at Mt. Blue Campus