

Mt. Blue Regional School District Board of Directors

MINUTES

NOTICE: Pursuant to RSU 9's Health and Safety guidelines, **face masks are required** to attend an in-person event inside a school building.

DATE: September 28, 2021

Place: The Forum

Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Video: <https://vimeo.com/618856890>

In attendance: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison (entered at 6:35pm), Betsey Hyde (listened via Zoom, entered in-person at 7:17pm), Judith "Libby" Kaut, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith

Absent: J. Wayne Kinney, Lisa Laflin, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins

Also present: Nancy Allen, Jeff Brazee, Beth Christopher, Laura Columbia, Todd Demmons, Chris Elkington, Nichole Goodspeed, William Greenlaw, Andy Hutchins, Jennifer Pooler, Monique Poulin, Lisa Sinclair, Tracy Williams

- I. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum at 6:33pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment
 - A. Jesse Sillanpaa, resident of Industry - Announced that he did not have the written statement he was asked to read and will not be speaking tonight.
 - B. Carla Fitch, resident of Wilton, shared issues regarding mental health class, pride flag and stickers, concerns around student privacy, and rules around masking which she had also shared with RSU 9 Admin.
- IV. Report of the Chairperson - Carol Coles
 - A. [BCA Board Member Code of Ethics](#)
 - Focus items C & K
 - a) Board members were reminded of focus items.
 - B. [MSMA Fall Conference](#) - Reminder
Encouraging board members to participate in the conference, and other board members have found the conference to be very helpful
- V. Good news stories from Board / Administrators
 - A. Laura Columbia, Director of Curriculum, is happy to announce that Pooled Testing has begun districtwide. Thanks to the nursing staff for all of the extra work involved with its implementation.
 - B. Nancy Allen, Director of Adult Education, reported that she attended the graduation of CNA students through Sandy River.

- C. Chris Elkington, Superintendent, thanked the Chesterville Selectboard for letting him attend and share a report at their meeting. Shout out to Mt. Blue Campus students for their morning welcomes, and to Jennifer Pooler and Laura Columbia for the hard work over the last several weeks.
- D. Nichole Goodspeed, Principal of Cascade Brook School, reported that the baby turtles mentioned at an earlier meeting have hatched, as well as a previous grant that allowed for a garden, and that those vegetables are now being picked by students.
- E. Carol Coles, Board Chair (Starks), thanked those that put together the FAQ and for the presentation available on the website.
- F. Doug Dunlap, Director from Farmington, reported how he appreciated receiving the notifications of health updates for the nursing team.

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
 - Happy to have these positions being filled, but that staff moving from support roles to teaching positions is causing a ripple effect throughout the district.
- B. Shared that he wanted to continue allowing the superintendent to hire
- C. Instructional concerns for students who quarantine
 - Have been shared by some parents and we are trying to find ways to assist, but staffing is the problem.
 - At this point no in-school transmission has been identified through contact tracing.
- D. ARP/ESSER III Grant Award Project List
 - Was shared for the board to review.
- E. RSU 9 District Physician Agreement
 - Superintendent is impressed with Dr. Jacobs.
- F. Special Education teacher for Remote Academy
 - Will be needed for those identified students.
- G. Games being cancelled/postponed because of field irrigation problems
 - We are continuing to have problems with the field and feel there may be a drain clogged.
- H. Foster Tech Center Admin Update
 - Per Drs. orders Melissa Williams is home resting and Todd Demons is filling in.
- I. 2021-2022 Enrollment & Attendance Update
 - Data was shared and will be updated in Nov.
- J. 2021-2022 Special Education Review
 - Letter from MDOE was shared.
- K. NAEP Testing Sites

- Mt. Blue Middle School and Cascade Brook School will be participating in NAEP testing again this year

VII. Admin Updates

- A. [Cape Cod Hill School](#) - Lisa Sinclair, Principal
- Gave a report out on how the Remote Academy managed through CCHS for the 20/21 school year. Reviewed the report she shared with the board. Questions were heard regarding the ventilation system.
- B. [Mt. Blue High School](#) - Monique Poulin, Principal
- Reported on the hybrid model from last year, as well as the challenges and items to celebrate. Such as technology, health guidelines, and working with students in a hybrid model. Comments were heard regarding the international program and the possibility of inviting the students to an upcoming board meeting for an introduction.
- C. [W.G. Mallett School](#) - Tracy Williams, Principal
- Reported on the success of students wearing masks, smaller class sizes last year that encouraged deep relationships, and low instances of behavior. Staff members grew in their use of technology. A question was heard regarding attendance.
 - A comment was heard regarding a theme among all of the reports - strong communication with parents, support for our teachers

VIII. Presentations

- A. School Resource Officer (SRO) Introduction - Matt Brann & Farmington Police Chief Ken Charles
- Matt Brann shared that the SRO program has been in place for 16+ years. SROs are a resource to staff and students and a liaison between school and law enforcement. Chief Charles shared that this cooperation has worked well and that communication is a huge part of what makes our program successful.
- B. [21st Century 2020-2021 Program Review](#) - Laura Columbia, Director of Curriculum
- Presentation tabled until the October 12 board meeting.
- C. [Cape Cod Hill School Ventilation Update](#) - Bill Greenlaw, Director of Support Services
- IBC determined that the building is healthy; there is adequate airflow coming in and adequate air exchange. A question was heard regarding the loss of heat from an unheated stairwell at CCHS.
- D. [Foster Tech Center Outdoor Leadership Program for 2022-2023](#) - Todd Demmons, Assistant Director of FCTEC/Assistant Principal MBC
- Shared results of a student survey that has expressed interest in the program. Currently starting the organizing of the program with the RREV Grant through Maine DOE. A question was heard regarding where the

indoor learning space will be located. Which will be partially supported outside with inside MBC to be determined.

<i>Motion to extend the meeting until 9pm</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith "Libby" Kaut, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 11:0:0 (677:0:0)	Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Kirk Doyle Motion: Passed
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*Scott Erb was absent for the vote.
No discussion was heard.

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes from [September 14, 2021](#)
- B. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - Operations Committee - None
 - Personnel & Finance - None
 - Educational Policy - None
 - Drop-Out Prevention - None

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Irv Faunce, Betsey Hyde, Judith "Libby" Kaut, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: Cherieann Harrison Vote: 11:0:1 (687:0:74)	Motion: Debbie Smith Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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A clarification was made regarding abstaining from voting if a director was not present at the previous meeting - abstaining is not required and directors can vote if their review of the minutes is in approval.

X. New Business

- A. Reopening Plan Check-in

- Update on present universal masking expectations along with other layers of protection
- [Review of County numbers](#)
 - a) Questions were heard about the exemptions classifications and overlaps, contact tracing, and quarantine for our student-athletes. The board would like to see the overall numbers broken down even more, especially around 3-6ft and universal masking.
- [COVID-19 FAQs](#)
- [Binax Now Testing Review](#)
- Superintendent recommendation
 - a) Keep our current health and safety measures as is until the next update.
- Discussion
 - a) A discussion was heard regarding if other schools with no universal masking are seeing in-school transmission. As well as allocating a sufficient amount of time for discussion and deliberation on future agendas.
 - b) The board chose to keep the current health and safety measures in place until the next update as recommended by the Superintendent.

B. Approval of RSU 9 District Physician

<p><i>Motion to approve Emily Jacobs as the RSU 9 district physician as presented in the Superintendent's Report</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith "Libby" Kaut, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (761:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Irv Faunce Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion: Passed</p>
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No discussion was heard.

C. Approval of New Hires & Resignation

<p><i>Motion to approve the new hires and resignation as presented in the Superintendent's Report</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith</p>	<p>Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion: Passed</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Doray, Special Ed Teacher, AHS • Julia Lent, Adaptive Skills Teacher, MBC • Eric Nichols, PALs Program Teacher, WGM 	“Libby” Kaut, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (761:0:0)	
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A discussion was heard regarding the Superintendent’s earlier request to maintain his ability to hire and notify the board as is the practice during the summer. The request was made so that he can continue to offer positions quickly to applicants during the staffing shortage.

D. Reschedule Dec. 28th Board Meeting to Dec. 21st

<i>Motion to reschedule the Dec. 28th Board Meeting to Dec. 21st</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 11:0:0 (685:0:0)	Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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*Judith Kaut was absent for the vote.

No discussion was heard.

E. [MSBA Resolutions Notice](#)

■ [2021 Proposed MSBA Resolution](#)

<i>Motion to support the resolutions as proposed by MSBA and direct Irv Faunce to place his Delegate vote in favor of the resolutions</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Doug Dunlap, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith “Libby” Kaut, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith Abstained: Kirk Doyle Vote: 11:0:1 (677:0:84)	Motion: Cherieann Harrison Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed
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No discussion was heard.

F. Use of ARP/ESSER III Funds to move RSU 9 Office Staff to one location

<p><i>Motion to approve using up to \$150,000 of ARP/ESSER III funds to open up space at MBC for student and staff needs to be spent by Sept. 30, 2024</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith "Libby" Kaut, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (761:0:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Kirk Doyle Seconded: Cherieann Harrison Motion: Passed</p>
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Discussion was heard about purchasing vs leasing space for Central Office and changing the application to reflect either option.

<p><i>Motion to extend the meeting until 9:10 pm</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith "Libby" Kaut, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: Irv Faunce Abstained: None Vote: 11:1:0 (687:74:0)</p>	<p>Motion: Kirk Doyle Seconded: Gwen Doak Motion: Passed</p>
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Discussion was heard related to reordering the agenda so that items necessitating longer group discussions be put closer to the start of the meeting, putting time limits on presentations, or not having so many presentations at each meeting.

G. Approval of the ARP/ESSER III Grant Award Application

<p><i>Motion to approve the ARP/ESSER III Grant Award Projects/Application and submit it to the Maine DOE</i></p>	<p>Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith "Libby" Kaut, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy "Dee" Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None</p>	<p>Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Kirk Doyle Motion: Passed</p>
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	Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (761:0:0)	
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Discussion was heard regarding possibly including a long-overdue traffic study at W.G. Mallett School. The superintendent advised that the grant award application is due 9/29 and that unfortunately there would be little or no time to rewrite it, but that some adjustments can be made. However, with Maine DOE approval, funds can be moved from project to project, or other projects could possibly be added so long as we stay within the total award amount.

- H. Superintendent’s earlier request to maintain his ability to hire and notify the board as is the practice during the summer was discussed briefly. Further discussion was tabled until the October 12th meeting.
- I. Superintendent Evaluation changes - Tabled and moved back to the Personnel and Finance Committee’s October meeting.

<i>Motion to approve the updated document</i>	Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:	Motion: Seconded: Motion:
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J. Approval of Foster Tech Center Outdoor Leadership Program for 2022-2023

<i>Motion to approve Foster Tech Center Outdoor Leadership Program for 2022-2023</i>	Yeas: Carol Coles, Gwen Doak, Kirk Doyle, Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Irv Faunce, Cherieann Harrison, Betsey Hyde, Judith “Libby” Kaut, Mark Prentiss, Dorothy “Dee” Robinson, Debbie Smith Nays: None Abstained: None Vote: 12:0:0 (761:0:0)	Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Libby Kaut Motion: Passed
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No discussion was heard.

XI. Adjourn

<i>Motion to adjourn without objection</i>	Yeas: Nays: Abstained: Vote:	Motion: Gwen Doak Seconded: Motion: Passed with no objection
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Time adjourned: 9:15 pm

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

October 12, 2021 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

October 26, 2021 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Personnel & Finance - October 5, 2021 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

Educational Policy - October 5, 2021 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus