

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL

2420 ROUTE 302
WELLS RIVER, VT 05081

Regular Meeting

Place: Library

Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Time: 7pm

- I. Call to Order (7:00-7:02)
 - II. Approval of minutes for January 16, 2019 (7:02-7:05)
 - III. Committee reports (7:05-7:15)
 - IV. OESU update (7:15-7:30)
 - V. Correspondence (7:30-7:35)
 - VI. Public participation (7:35-7:55)
 - VII. Action items (7:55-8:05)
 - a. Hire VSBA for model policies
 - b. Set number of students in/out for 2019-20
 - VIII. Executive Session - if necessary (8:05-8:10)
 - IX. Other Business (8:10-8:20)
 - X. Setting the next agenda (8:20-8:25)
 - XI. Adjournment (8:30)
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"What's best for the community is a good school, one that has a good reputation. What is best for the kids is a good school." -Dr. Rowe

*Public Comments at Board Meetings The BMU Board is working to improve the response to public comments made at Board meetings. The Board reserves the right to ask visitors the following questions before they are invited to address complaints to the Board: Have you directed your complaint through our "Complaint" Policy i.e.:

Attempt to address the complaint first with teacher/staff member, and,

If not satisfied, discuss complaint with the principal, and,

- Still not resolved, then meet with the superintendent,
- Only then, will the Board hear your concern at a Board meeting.

When speaking with the Board, if the complaint becomes personal, disrespectful, or threatening, then the Board chair may rule the speaker "Out of Order" or, if the complaint addresses specific personnel or is evaluative then the Board chair may invite the complainant into executive session, and, the Board chair may limit speaking time for each individual and ask that similar points of view from multiple speakers not be presented.

Notes from 1/16/18 BMU Board meeting

- Called to order 7:22pm
- Motion by Bruce Seconded by Paul to approve the 1/2/19 meeting minutes.
 - Approved with two abstentions (Sara & Julie)
- Reviewed correspondence
 - Angeline entered the Groton Select Board letter into correspondence
 - Reviewed Mackenzie Prasch's resignation letter
 - Motion by Bruce Seconded by Paul to accept her resignation with regret.
- Set date for Annual meeting
 - March 4, 2019 @ 6:00pm
 - Budget hearing to follow this meeting
- Budget Review: Executive Session
 - Entered Executive Session 7:40pm (Motion by Bruce seconded by Paul)
 - Exited Executive Session 8:21 pm (Motion by Bruce Seconded by Sara)
- Budget Review: Public Session
 - Original request was a 6.93% increase in educations spending, the majority of this increase related to state driven increases in health care costs (11.8%) and a 2.75% salary increase based on the last year of the current BMU contract. This request also included personnel and equipment requests.
 - Reviewed the budget requests line by line. Based on this review and discussions of budget cuts that would lower the increase in education spending to less than 4%, but not significantly impact on programming for the students were discussed. Based on the cuts made in the budget request, the Board adopted a 3.97% increase in education spending for FY20. Based on the equalized pupil count for BMU provided by the State, this is a 4.4% increase for equalized pupil.
 - The surplus of \$117,298 was applied to reduce the budget increase.
 - While there is an increase an in overall educations spending, the specific services we are receiving from OESU saved BMU approximately \$130,000.00. These savings were absorbed by other costs related specifically to BMU.
 - Motion to adopt an \$8,100,673 FY20 budget was approved 8 – yes, 1 no (Brent Abare), 0 abstentions. (missed who made the motion)
 - This budget number is less than FY19, but this is because the assessment (fee) for OESU services of \$452,932 is not included in this number.
 - Based on budget discussion, the Board considered the benefits of extending the retirement notification deadline this year. They agreed that this option should be extended to the staff. (Motion by Bruce seconded by Judy)
- Motion by Bruce Seconded by Paul to set the FY20 tuition rate of \$16,050, which is below the allowable State allowable tuition rate. Motion passed anonymously.
- Set upcoming meeting schedule
 - 1/24/19: Community Relations Committee at 5:30pm at the Wellness Hall in Wells River, VT.
 - Board authorized CRC to develop communication document for sharing on social media and in the press regarding the FY20 budget. Review and edit will be conducted via email with the entire Board before publication.

REVISED Summary of BMU School Board Meeting 1/16/19

The January 16th meeting was dedicated to review of the FY20 school budget. We have been waiting for the equalized pupil count for BMU from the State before a final budget could be presented.

The budget request represented a 6.93% increase in education spending, the majority of this increase related to state driven increases in health care costs (11.8%) and a 2.75% salary increase based on the last year of the current BMU contract. This request also included personnel and equipment requests that would expand programming.

The Board reviewed the budget requests line by line. Based on this review and agreed upon budget cuts, which limited impact on existing programming while remaining in compliance with state mandates, the Board adopted a 3.97% increase in education spending for FY20 (8-1). Based on the equalized pupil count for BMU provided by the State, this is a 4.4% increase for equalized pupil. The annual meeting warning amount of \$8,100,673 which was approved by the board is inclusive of all of the school district's expenses. Within this number, is all of Blue Mountain's share of expenses needed to cover the Orange East Supervisory Union (OESU) costs. It has been determined that the savings Blue Mountain will realize as a result of the school district's transition to OESU is approximately \$130,000 FY2020. The surplus of \$117,298 was applied to reduce the budget increase.

- The total Assessment fee for all OESU services and SPED for FY20 will be \$1,040,512.00. There is a savings of \$130,000 by sharing these services, but these savings were absorbed by other costs specific to BMU.
 - Services covered in the OESU Assessment
 - Central Office Administration = \$382,812
 - Early Childhood (EEE) Special Education = \$48,795
 - Ropes Course at Waites River Valley School = \$1,280
 - English Language Learner teacher = \$20,046
 - Special Education (SPED) teachers and services will now be under the umbrella of OESU which is a separate cost that is also part of the Assessment, but our SPED staff is still located at BMU = \$587,579

The FY20 tuition rate of \$16,050, which is below the State Allowable Tuition Rate, was also approved.

Our next BMU School Board meeting is planned for February 6, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Upcoming meetings agreed to by the Board:

- 1/24/19: Community Relations Committee at 5:30pm at the Wellness Hall in Wells River, VT.
- 2/6/19: BMU Board meeting at 7:00pm
- 2/27/19: BMU Board meeting at 7:00pm – Administration presentations
- 3/4/19: BMU Annual Meeting a 6:00pm followed by the Annual Budget Meeting
- 3/5/19: Town Meeting

Respectively, the Community Relations Committee



Judy Colby <jcolby@oesu.org>

Fwd: BMU Budget Drafts

1 message

Angeline Alley <angeline.alley@bmuschool.org>
To: Judy Colby <jcolby@oesu.org>

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:46 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Emilie Knisley** <eknisley@oesu.org>
Date: Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 5:19 PM
Subject: Fwd: BMU Budget Drafts
To: Brent Abare <brent.abare@bmuschool.org>, Angeline Alley <angeline.alley@bmuschool.org>

Emilie B. Knisley, M.Ed., CAGS
Superintendent

Orange East Supervisory Union
530 Waits River Road
Bradford, VT 05033
(802)222-5216

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future. —John Fitzgerald Kennedy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Judy Colby** <judy.colby@bmuschool.org>
Date: Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 5:14 PM
Subject: Re: BMU Budget Drafts
To: Emilie Knisley <eknisley@oesu.org>

Attached

On Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 2:35 PM Emilie Knisley <eknisley@oesu.org> wrote:

Do you have a blank coaching contract you could send me?

Emilie B. Knisley, M.Ed., CAGS
Superintendent

Orange East Supervisory Union
530 Waits River Road
Bradford, VT 05033
(802)222-5216

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brent Abare** <brent.abare@bmuschool.org>
Date: Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 12:20 PM
Subject: Re: BMU Budget Drafts
To: Emilie Knisley <eknisley@oesu.org>, Angeline Alley <angeline.alley@bmuschool.org>

Cc: Bruce Stevens <bruce.stevens@bmschool.org>, Wade Parker <wade.parker@bmschool.org>, Julie Oliver <julie.oliver@bmschool.org>, Sara Dennis <sara.dennis@bmschool.org>, Judy Murray <judy.murray@bmschool.org>, Kelsey Root-Winchester <kelsey.root-winchester@bmschool.org>, Paul Hazel <paul.hazel@bmschool.org>

Emilie and Angeline, please send to me a standard (blank) coaching contract along with the salary scale. Also, how many sports staff do we have on these coaching contracts and what is their salary? I do not need or desire the referee/official information. Some members of the Community are very concerned that the Board has elected to make significant cuts to Academic and Special Education Programs with none to Athletics despite clearly areas where cuts could, perhaps should be made if applying a performance-based metric. Nearly \$200K could buy a lot of intervention and support for kiddos who need it. The CRC might wish to address the Board position for these decisions in the Press Release. I have invited those seeking answers to the question of a sports versus education funding priority to attend the CRC open meeting. Thanks in advance. vr Brent

On Mon, Jan 14, 2019 at 3:32 PM Emilie Knisley <eknisley@oesu.org> wrote:

Dear Board,

Please see the attached spreadsheet, to be discussed at Wednesday's Meeting, regarding the FY20 Budget. The last page of the packet, page 12, discusses a variety of possible cuts to reduce spending. These will be discussed in detail on Wednesday evening. However, the discussion of the particulars of these will need to be done in executive session, as it impacts individuals and their employment.

Therefore, the last page of the packet is considered highly confidential and is executive session material. The budget pages themselves are public, but that last page should not be shared publicly at this point. It would be inappropriate for an employee to learn about these possible cuts before John and Scott had the opportunity to discuss those with the employees. Therefore, we ask that you hold that information in confidence at this point in the process.

Thank you,

Emilie B. Knisley, M.Ed., CAGS

Superintendent

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Judy Colby
Administrative Assistant
Orange East Supervisory Union
530 Waits River Road
Bradford, VT 05033
802-222-5216
Fax: 802-222-4451

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25K

**Blue Mountain Union School District #21
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

Extra-Curricular Personnel

This agreement is between [redacted] and Blue Mountain Union School for the **2018-2019** school year to fulfill all responsibilities of the position of [redacted] as defined by the Athletic Director, and/or by written job description.

Under the terms of the 2017-2020 Master Contract, [redacted] is placed on **Class** [redacted] **Step** [redacted] of the Athletics/Activities Salary Schedule, and the annual salary shall be \$ [redacted] which shall be paid in full at completion of the season or activity after all financial activities have been completed, all materials collected, and all inventories submitted.

This Contract is for one season only. Future contracts are at the sole discretion of the Blue Mountain Union School Board of Directors.

Employee

Date

Superintendent

Date

School Board Chair

Date