

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL

2420 ROUTE 302
WELLS RIVER, VT 05081

Regular Meeting

Place: Library

Date: Wednesday, February 27, 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. Principal presentation – test score follow-up (7:30-8:00)
- VI. Correspondence (8:00-8:10)
- VII. Public participation (8:10-8:25)
- VIII. Action items (8:25-8:35)
 - a. Hire VSBA for model policies
 - b. Set number of students in/out for 2019-20
 - c. Approve International Trip for February 2020
 - d. Approve MOA – Bereavement leave
 - e. Approve 2017-18 Audit
- IX. Executive Session - if necessary (8:35-8:50)
- X. Other Business (8:50-9:00)
- XI. Setting the next agenda (9:00-9:05)
- XII. Adjournment (9:05)

"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 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.

**Director of Special Education Report to the School Board
For 2/27/19 Meeting**



Special education updates:

- ❖ I continue to work with Sandra Stanley, Director of Student Services, Alison Kidder, Assistant Director, and Marla Ianello, Early Childhood Programs, on a smooth transition from our current special education organization to a new SU -wide model. Currently, they are looking to next year and considering different models.
- ❖ Alison Kidder has been named the new OESU Director for Student Services for next year. I have known Alison, professionally, for at least 3 years now and am looking forward to her energy, skill, knowledge, and commitment to the children in our SU.
- ❖ Part of the transition is looking at the changes to my role. I will not be the SU Director next year and many of my current fiscal and reporting responsibilities will move to the OESU level. I hope to be able to focus on more supervision with staff, to provide more direct time as LEA representative at meetings, and to look more closely at our evaluations and IEP's to continue improving our services to students and families.
- ❖ Please keep up to date on legislative developments:
- ❖ 1. Special education funding changes continue to be a topic for the Legislature and the Agency of Education. There is an advisory committee looking at the supports that schools will need to successfully navigate this change.
- ❖ 2. Changes again to the universal Preschool rules, particularly a move to remove PreK students in public school programs from the ADM.
- ❖ The Co-Teaching Teams continue to work well together. They are:

Shelby Knudson and Tracy Emerson, Gr. 2 Math
Jennie Lund and Dawn Blanchard, Middle School Language Arts
Beth Fraser and Dawn Blanchard, Middle School Math
Nancy Kane and Shyanne Allbee, High School English (Yay, Shyanne is
back)
Lindsay Walbridge and Courtney Musty, Life Skills Language Arts
Savannah Eng and Kristen Robinson, High School Math

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Waelter

Blue Mountain School Board - To Do List 2018-2019 for 07.18.18

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DATE TO BE COMPLETED
Transition Planning	Board/Admin/OESU	August-on going
MOA – Bereavement leave	Emilie	2/27/19
VSBA – policies	Emilie/Scott/John	2/27/19
Board Retreat	School Board	Spring '19
Tech update	Administration	Spring '19