

MOUNTAIN VIEWS SUPERVISORY UNION

MOUNTAIN VIEWS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

October 6, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

MVSU Conference Room
and
ZOOM video-conferencing

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wcsu-net.zoom.us/j/89435435695?pwd=V6jZEtlg2qtS3yZRVcmlGR3cjgQtAd.1>

Meeting ID: 894 3543 5695

Passcode: 989204

Agenda

START THE ZOOM RECORDING

1. Call to order
2. Amendments to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Reports:
 - a. Superintendent
 - b. Directors
 - c. Students
5. Time-Scheduled Appointments
 - a. 2025-2026 Opening Enrollment
 - b. Withdraw funds from the MVSD Capital Reserve fund
 - c. Legislative Update
 - d. Board discussion of Supervisory Unions vs. Supervisory District
6. Committee Updates
 - a. Finance Committee
 - b. Policy Committee
 - c. Buildings & Grounds Committee
 - d. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee
 - e. Working Groups
7. Approve Minutes
8. Public Comment
9. Reflection
 - a. What did we do well?
 - b. What could we do better?
10. Adjourn

AGENDA ITEM #1

Call to Order

PURPOSE:

To begin the meeting, the Chair will determine if a quorum is present, then call the meeting to order.

WHO:

Chair: "I call this meeting to order at _____ p.m."

MOTION REQUIRED?

No

AGENDA ITEM #2

Amendments to the Agenda

PURPOSE:

To add or delete items to the agenda. This is the only point in the meeting at which the agenda may be amended.

Amendments added cannot include items that statutorily require a warning to the general public. They should not include items that have a significant impact that ethically should be disclosed to the public. **Amendments should be the exception, not the rule.**

NOTE: Reorganizing existing items on the agenda is not the same as amending it; items can be reorganized at any point in the meeting.

WHO:

Chair

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes, **after** the amendments are announced or after it is determined that there are no amendments.

- "Motion to adopt the agenda." Requires a second and a vote.

PURPOSE:

All meetings of the body are meetings in public, not meetings of the public. Members of the public shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to express opinions, so long as order is maintained.

A public body is within its rights under Open Meeting Law to limit public comment to only those items listed on its meeting agenda. However, the MVSU/SD board feels this creates a barrier preventing the public from bringing to their attention issues that are of importance to them. Thus, the board chooses to be responsive to the needs and concerns of their communities by allowing opportunities for public comment beyond just those items listed on its agenda..

WHO:

Chair

- Comments by the public or members of the body **must be addressed to the Chair or to the body as a whole**, and not to any individual member of the body or public.

MOTION REQUIRED?

No

Board Rules:

- **Public in-person meetings:**
 - ◆ Persons wishing to speak must place their name and town of residence on the sign-in sheet;
 - ◆ person must be acknowledged by Chair before speaking;
 - ◆ speaker stands and addresses Chair or board as a whole;
 - ◆ time limit of two (2) minutes per person.
- **Digital meetings:**
 - ◆ [Digitally raise your hand](#),
 - ◆ wait to be acknowledged by the Chair,
 - ◆ clearly state your name and town of residence for the minutes,
 - ◆ address the Chair or the board as a whole
- If a member of the public has already spoken on a topic, they may not be recognized again until others have first been given the opportunity to comment.
- Order and decorum shall be observed by all persons present at the meeting. Neither members of the body, nor the members of the public, shall delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the meeting or interrupt or disturb any member while speaking. Members of the body and members of the public are prohibited from making personal, impertinent, threatening, or profane remarks.
- Members of the body and members of the public shall obey the orders of the chair or other presiding member.

From the Superintendent

In the last few months, I feel that I've bounced back and forth from the needs of our individual schools to our work at the State level. Within the District, we have identified four workshops that we will be offering through our MVSU Life Learning Series on Caring for Aging Parents. Between October and February, presentations will be offered in person and online from regional experts on estate planning, creating care plans, understanding dementia and self care. These workshops will be offered to all MVSU Faculty and Staff, and to members of the MVSU Communities. I have also held my first meetings with Principals as they identify their professional goals for this school year and to address areas of concern for their buildings.

On the State and Federal level, I am working to respond to *Mahmoud v. Taylor* Supreme Court decision. This finding requires public schools to provide parents and guardians advance notice of lessons in which the *primary instructional focus* is sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, schools must allow families the opportunity to request that their child participate in an alternative activity during those specific lessons if the parent asserts that the lesson substantially interferes with the religious development of their child. I was also asked to present the work of the Southeast Superintendents to create a BOCES to the Vermont Redistricting Task Force and to respond to my experience as an educational leader in moving from a Supervisory Union to a School District. In my meetings with the Vermont Superintendent Association, I shared the charge of the Regional Hub Working Group to ask Legislators to decouple capital projects from the Per Pupil Spend for educational costs.

From the Director of Technology and Innovation

This fall, we signed a service agreement with Massachusetts-based The Education Cooperative (TEC) Student Data Privacy Alliance. TEC will be helping us secure signed Data Privacy Agreements with software vendors by providing administrative and legal support. These agreements help ensure that the vendors are in compliance with all federal privacy laws, including FERPA, PPRA, COPPA, and all applicable state laws. The MVSU has been a member of the Student Data Privacy Consortium for a number of years, but it is our hope that working with TEC will make this process more efficient and comprehensive.

We have also purchased an add-on to our ParentSquare license allowing us to use their secure document delivery tool. This will decrease the administrative burden on schools of sending reports like the VTCAP Individual Student Reports and other standardized reports. It will also allow parents to receive important files in ParentSquare like they receive other communications from the school.

From the Director of Student Support Services

It's hard to believe we've been in school for a month already. The special education department has been aflutter welcoming new students from other districts and states and getting them settled and services set up with our providers. We have spent a great deal of time looking at ways to be as efficient as possible and maximize time spent with students. All our buildings now have dedicated special educators in them instead of driving between locations.

The team recently gathered for the first monthly department wide meeting where small groups broke out into teams and discussed topics such as literacy assessments and instruction and the recent kindergarten screeners that were conducted across the district. These screeners will be used to develop key moves teachers can make to build language skills and facilitate fine and gross motor skill development by incorporating simple strategies or shifts in things they are doing every day. This information can also help inform what we may build into pre k.

The literacy conversation was a follow up to the 2 days of work the special educators and interventionists did with Julie Brown. Julie spent a full day training special educators and interventionists across the district in the administration of the DIBELS foundational reading assessment so they can be equipped to collect data and design instruction that matches students' needs. Julie did an additional day training the same group of teachers in the use of the Six Step Lesson Plan which is an explicit phonics lesson sequence that helps teachers plan and teach efficiently. The 30-40 minute plan can be used daily to help students build decoding and automatic word recognition skills.

From the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Math & Literacy Facilitators are Building Teacher Capacity: This time of year launches professional development with our Math and Literacy Facilitators, Patty Kelly (Math) and Julie Brown (Literacy). Elementary teachers new to the district are engaging in 80 hours of professional learning with Julie Brown in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS 1). Teachers who haven't been trained in our district's Math Pact will receive 32 hours of mathematics instructional training with Patty Kelly. All teachers K-6 are receiving 12 hours of training over the course of this school year with Patty Kelly on our new Mathematics Program, Imagine Learning's Illustrative Mathematics. Teacher support from our facilitators in the form of in-person coaching and training is happening in each school building over the course of the year, with short and long-term visits scheduled. During these visits, Julie & Patty model teaching,

support teachers in planning for instruction with high quality instructional materials, and partner with principals in supporting the daily work of curriculum and instruction. At the district level, Patty and Julie each run teacher workgroups to elevate student learning. Patty runs a Math Equity Workgroup to implement the math strategic plan, and Julie runs a Secondary Literacy Council to support the Middle & High School's schoolwide goal of having students read, write, and speak in every class, every day (Dr. Anita Archer). The Secondary Literacy Council group is developing and delivering professional development workshops in support of this goal throughout the school year. In September they used a Teachers-Teaching-Teachers model of professional development that included classroom teaching videos demonstrating instructional moves for discussion & analysis. Additionally, both Patty and Julie work with Shayna Kalnitsky to develop training specific to Special Educators in assessment and instruction, and have been integral to our district's new Microcredentialing system, an important new program to support teacher professional development beyond degrees and workshops.

Math and Literacy Facilitators, as subject experts, have allowed us to create strategic plans for each subject. Our district's mathematics and literacy local and state assessment scores are strengthening and on the right trajectory thanks to their vital work.

[From the Director of Finance & Operations](#)

Budget season is well underway. We are moving forward under the guidance of the Finance Committee with a maintenance budget that preserves all current positions but does not add any new FTEs. Earlier this week the AOE sent out a preliminary Excess Spending threshold that they are suggesting might be around \$16,331. This is an increase of \$405 per student or about 2.5% increase. There appears to be a real disconnect between the law on this threshold and the reality of:

1. Another 12% increase in health insurance rate as negotiated on our behalf by the state structured committee,
2. A Northeast urban CPI-U index of 3.31% inflation for the period of August 2024 to August 2025, as calculated by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and a seasonally adjusted first half index of 3.30%. (The State of Vermont uses the obscure NEEP index which I do not have access to.)
3. The impact of tariffs on the items we buy, for instance Chromebooks used by all of our students were up 15% this year, as negotiated by the the State of Vermont contract, and are projected to increase again next year by as much as 34%.
4. Wage increases for Vermont School employees as negotiated through CBA averaging between 3.5 - 8.0% for next year.
5. I have many more examples if needed.

We continue to deal with the reality of a worn out building. In September Joe and I presented to the board images of the failed sewer pipes. This week we determined that our 1958 boiler will probably not last the entire heating season this year. Cast iron

boilers typically have a life expectancy of 25 - 30 years. This boiler is 67 years old. Because of excellent maintenance from our team it has lasted more than two expected lifetimes, but it now needs to be replaced. In 2022 the AOE facilities condition assessment determined that this boiler needed to be replaced. At that time they suggested that a replacement boiler would cost us \$320,000 PLUS installation. We are currently gathering information about what an installed price will be for replacement heat generation. We will keep you posted.

From the Student Representatives

Lylah Zeitlin:

The Yoh Theater concluded performances of Elektra last Sunday. Ms. Bender wrote the music, which couldn't have been more incredible. The choral performances she composed were definitively my favorite part. It was a wonderful experience and I'm so grateful for everyone involved. I'm also really tired.

On another note, I'm concerned about the proposition to reduce the number of class slots to 7. I bring it up not only because I believe it will negatively impact college admissions and student wellbeing but also because I worry it will be used as an excuse to cut electives (especially in the arts) without input from the public. Even with one fewer class, people will struggle to find the time to enroll in more specialized courses. With lower enrollment, the classes and potentially their teachers, will be cut. I understand that the budget is tight and we'd like to average less study halls per-student. However, the leg up our elective programs and study halls afford Woodstock students in the college admissions process, as well as life after high school, shouldn't be overlooked. The most important thing to universities and trade programs is a demonstrated capacity to succeed at what you're passionate about. Not statistics. The reason our students get into elite universities is because Woodstock allows for the discovery of unique passion. The reason many people show up to school is their passions. I really do believe that the extra time, whether it's for a study hall or an elective, is impactful.

AGENDA ITEM #5	Time-Scheduled Appointments
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5.A.	2025-2026 Opening Enrollment
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WHO:
Raphael Adamek

PURPOSE:
To review enrollment for this year.

**Monday, September 29,
2025**

	BA	KES	RES	TPVS	WES	WUHSMS	Totals
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Pre K 3	11	5	4		22		42
Pre K 4	2	11	9		37		59
K	5	12	3		30		50
Grade 1	6	14	5		42		67
Grade 2	8	11	4		59		82
Grade 3	8	13	6		31		58
Grade 4	3	13	4		37		57
Grade 5	9	8		57			74
Grade 6	13	22		53			88
Grade 7						59	59
Grade 8						63	63
Grade 9						77	77
Grade 10						76	76
Grade 11						76	76
Grade 12						73	73

Total Pre K	13	16	13		59		101
Total K-12	52	93	22	110	199	424	900

Total by School	65	109	35	110	258	424	1001	District Total
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Enrollment in September 2024	57	115	38	90	259	442	1001	
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Percentage change since September 2024	14% (+8)	-5% (-6)	-8% (-3)	22% (+20)	-0.3% (-1)	-4% (-18)	0.0%	District Change
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	2023	2024	2025	Percent change 2024 to 2025
Tuition Funding Source = "Operating School District"	909	897	915	+2%
Tuition Funding Source = "Other" (i.e., Exchange Students)	2	1	1	0
Tuition Funding Source = "Other VT School District"	90	103	85	-17%
Total	1,001	1,001	1,001	0

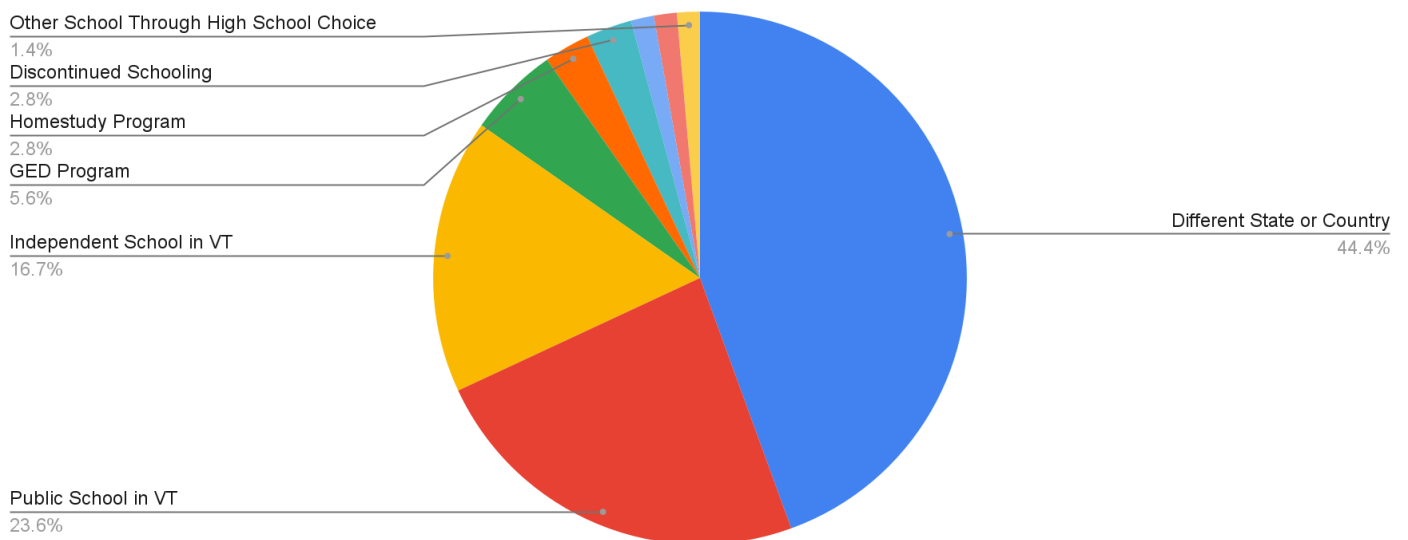
MVSU Enrollment by Town (as of 9-29-25):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zOVKcL_iufzr4YWDIGN83IDRJijAyFOcAVbpHiPekzM/edit?usp=sharing

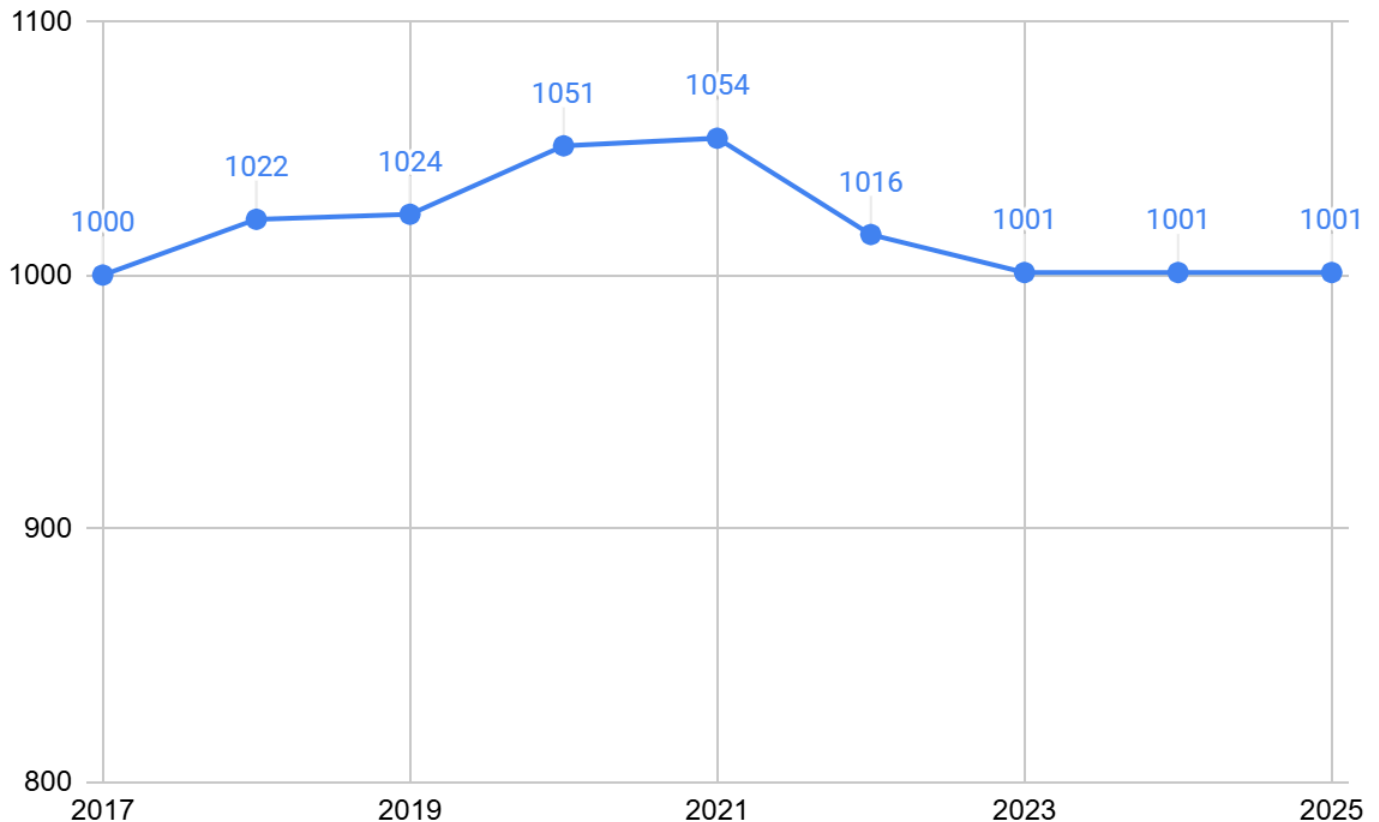
MVSU Enrollment by School and Town (as of 9-29-25):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fJ10axDqbT6vra8wr2xqHaCuDQ4QZzAOSUJU4xhjZc/edit?usp=sharing>

72 Unenrolled from MVSU Schools this school year (as of 9-29-25).



WCSU/MVSU September Student Enrollment



- The overall district enrollment was stable again at 1,001, but some schools had large changes:
 - TPVS had an increase of 20 students (+22%) due to a large 5th grade class
 - BA had an increase of 8 students (+14%) due in part to a large PreK class
 - WES had a stable enrollment losing only 1 student (-0.3%)
 - RES had a decrease of 3 students (-8%)
 - KES had a decrease of 6 students (-5%)
 - WUHSMS had a decrease of 18 students (-4%) due in part to the incoming 7th grade class being smaller than the graduating 12th grade class
- The number of students residing in our district has increased slightly (although it is important to note that 13 of the students whose Tuition Funding Source is "Operating School District" do not reside in our district and are participating in the high school choice program, so we do not get their ADM).
- The number of students attending our schools from neighboring towns has decreased by 18 students (-18%).
 - Enrollment from Pittsfield is stable at 37.
 - Enrollment from Weathersfield decreased by 8 students (-29%) due in part to a large class of graduating 12th graders and no new 9th graders.

- There are 72 MVSU students who have unenrolled this year, an increase from the 40 students at this time last year (an increase of 78%). The most common reasons for unenrolling are:
 - Attending a school in a different state or country = 32 students (44%)
 - Attending a different public school in Vermont = 17 students (24%)
 - Attending an independent school in Vermont = 12 students (17%)
- WES is drawing students from 7 different towns, including 12 students from Barnard and 11 students from Reading.

5.B.	Withdraw funds from the MVSD Capital Reserve fund
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WHO:

Jim Fenn/Joe Rigoli

PURPOSE:

During the summer, we constructed a new Pre-K playground at Barnard Academy. When this project was designed, the Barnard Recreation Department had planned to raise funds and install a fence around the playground. The Barnard Rec has not been able to raise enough funds to complete this project this fall, so the District will contract to have the fence installed in early October for \$8,370. The Barnard Recreation Department will contribute the funds they have raised to this project. The B&G Committee and the Finance Committee have both reviewed the project and support completing it as soon as possible. As funds were not budgeted for this fence, we are recommending the board withdraw up to \$8,370 from capital reserve funds to complete this project.

[Fencing Quote](#)

[Capital Reserve Fund Balances 09/26/25](#)

SUGGESTED MOTION: I move that the board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$8,370 from the MVSD Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of installing a fence around the new Barnard Academy Pre-K playground.

5.C.	Legislative Update
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WHO:

Keri Bristow and Legislators

PURPOSE:

To keep up to date on what is happening in the legislature and/or AOE

5.D.	Board discussion of Supervisory Union versus Supervisory District
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WHO:

Carin Ewing Park

PURPOSE:

To understand the difference between a Supervisory Union and a Supervisory District.

AGENDA ITEM #6	Committee Updates
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PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the work of Committees and Working Groups.

WHO:

- A. Finance Committee Update
- B. Policy Committee Update

For 1st Reading:

- 1. Student Activities, Clubs & Athletic Policy
 - a. [MVSU working draft \(version5\)/clean](#)

For 2nd Reading:

- 1. D2: Course and Grade Advancement, Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration of Students
 - a. [Current/Draft/Clean](#)
- 2. C5: Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) Teams
 - a. [C5 MVSU Working Draft/Clean](#)
- 3. D8: Selection of Library Materials
 - a. [D8 MVSU Draft as per VSBA Template, D8 MVSU Draft with Access Section, Clean](#)
 - b. [D22 Selection of Library Materials, Collection Development Procedures, and Reconsideration Procedures](#)
 - c. [VT Act 220](#)

- C. Buildings & Grounds Committee Update
- D. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee Update
- E. Working Groups Update

AGENDA ITEM #7	Approve Minutes
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[September 8, 2025](#)

AGENDA ITEM #8	Public Comment 10 minutes
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PURPOSE:

To hear input, concerns, etc., from the attending public.

WHO:

Chair

MOTION REQUIRED?

No

Board Rules: Public sign-in sheet (when in-person meetings are resumed). Person stands and announces name; time limit of two (2) minutes per person.

Digital meetings: Digitally raise your hand, wait to be acknowledged by the Chair, please identify yourself for the record, then address the board.

AGENDA ITEM #9	Reflection
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PURPOSE:

This is a time to process board self-evaluation and implement recommendations for improvement.

WHO:

Full board

MOTION REQUIRED?

No.

AGENDA ITEM #10	Adjourn
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PURPOSE:

Ends the meeting

WHO:

Chair calls for a member to make the motion to adjourn and notes the time.

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes. Needs a second and vote.