

WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT

By and Between

Maine School Administrative District No. 58 and the Town of Strong Withdrawal Committee

1. Specify

This Agreement dated as of July 9, 2026, by and between Regional School Unit No. 58 d/b/a Maine School Administrative District No. 58, The Regional School Unit is a district comprised of the municipalities of, Avon, Kingfield, Phillips and Strong (hereinafter “MSAD 58” and the Town of Strong Withdrawal Committee, a duly appointed municipal withdrawal committee representing the Town of Strong (hereinafter “Strong” or the “Town”) organized in accordance with Title 20-A MRS § 1466(4)(A). The effective date of the withdrawal will be July 1, 2027.

The purposes of this Agreement are:

- a. To provide for the timely and orderly withdrawal of the Town of Strong from MSAD 58 in accordance with (Title 20-A MRS §1466(2-A)
- b. To provide educational continuity for all students residing in the Town of Strong.
- c. To allocate MSAD 58’s financial and contractual obligations, and its assets, between MSAD 58 and the new administrative unit that includes or is comprised solely of the Town of Strong as of the effective date of Strong's withdrawal in a manner that fairly considers the continuing educational needs of students and the continuity of educational programs.

For the purposes of this Agreement the New School Administrative Unit, the term “new Strong SAU” shall mean the Town of Strong's municipal school unit or any school administrative unit that includes the Town of Strong as a member during the term of this Agreement.

Withdrawal. Pursuant to Title 20-A MRS§1466(4)(2), the Town shall withdraw from MSAD 58 in accordance with the terms of this Agreement as of June 30, 2027 (hereinafter the “Effective Date”) and thereafter shall no longer be a member of the MSAD 58 school administrative unit. As of **November 3, 2026** the Town shall create the New Strong SAU which will be a separate municipal school administrative unit comprised solely of the Town of Strong unless the Town of Strong joins, merges with or otherwise combines with another school administrative unit.

2. Education of Students in the First Year After Withdrawal.

- a. **Right to Continued Enrollment.** In accordance with Title 20-A MRS § 1466(4)(A)(1), any student in grades Pre-K-12 residing in Strong, who attends a MSAD 58 school outside of Strong and is enrolled in that school at the close of the school year prior to the effective date, and any student in grades Pre-K-12 residing in Strong, who would have attended a MSAD 58 school outside of Strong during the school year following withdrawal if Strong had not withdrawn from MSAD 58, may continue to attend that

same MSAD 58 school during the first year after withdrawal (i.e. from July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028, and the New Strong SAU shall pay tuition and costs as described in Section 2b of this agreement. In accordance with Title 20-A MRS § 1466 (A)(1), any student in grades Pre-K-12 residing in an MSAD 58 municipality other than Strong, who attends a Strong School Facility and is enrolled in that school at the close of the school year prior to the effective date, or any student in grades Pre-K-12 residing in an MSAD 58 municipality other than Strong, who would have attended a Strong School Facility during the school year following withdrawal from MSAD 58, may continue to attend that Strong School Facility during the first year after withdrawal. For students in the remaining MSAD 58 municipalities, who attend a Strong School Facility in the school year following withdrawal, MSAD 58 shall pay tuition and costs as described in Section 2b. The Superintendents of MSAD 58 and the New Strong SAU shall determine enrollments for students in accordance with applicable laws. On or about the effective date, the Superintendents shall confer with each other and shall jointly certify the list of students who, during the school year following withdrawal, are either (a) Strong residents who will continue attend MSAD 58 schools, or (b) residents of the other MSAD 58 municipalities who will continue attending Strong School Facilities. A student's right to continue enrollment under this section, during the 2027-28 school year may be discontinued to the extent provided by law, including without limitation suspension, expulsion, out-of-district placement, or enrollment in another public or private school.

b. Determination of Tuition for the First Year After Withdrawal

Elementary Tuition in First Year:

In accordance with Chapter 219 of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, the New Strong SAU shall pay Elementary tuition and special education costs to MSAD 58 for students residing in Strong who attend MSAD 58 schools outside of Strong under section 2 of this Agreement.

Secondary Tuition during the First Year:

Pursuant to Title 20-A MRS § 1466(4)(A)(1), the tuition rate for students in grades 9-12 shall be determined under Title 20-A MRS § 5804(1) during FY 2027-28 with the rate being established by the Maine Department of Education. Thereafter, through 2037, tuition shall be 105% of the rate determined under Title 20-A M.R.S. § 5804(1). Students will attend one of the three schools with a written agreement for enrollment. Students at the Secondary Level choosing to attend a regional vocational technical center will be transported from their school of choice to the regional vocational technical center just as other students from that school.

3.New School Administrative Unit:

- a. If this Agreement is approved by the Commissioner of Education and the voters of Strong, upon withdrawal from MSAD 58, the administration and governance of education for Strong students will be transferred directly from MSAD 58 to the New Strong SAU as of July 1, 2027, except as provided herein with respect to Strong students attending MSAD 58 schools as tuition students. The Town of Strong will become a municipal school administrative unit.

- b. If a vote to withdraw from MSAD 58 is approved by the Town of Strong, the Town of Strong will, as soon as possible, hold an election to form a five (5) person Strong SAU School Board according to state law (Title 20-A and 5 MRS). The municipal election of the Strong School Board will occur within 180 days of the withdrawal vote. Upon the election completion, using staggered 3-year terms with one member for a 1-year term; two members for a 2-year term, and 2 members for a 3-year term. The Strong SAU School Board will constitute the governing body of the new Strong SAU and shall have authority to take action necessary to prepare for the establishment of the new Strong SAU, including but not limited to establishing a budget for fiscal year to commence on the effective date of the withdrawal agreement. Until such election can be held, the Strong Withdrawal Committee shall have authority to perform all duties and responsibilities required for withdrawal from MSAD 58 and preparation for the new Strong SAU.
- c. As soon as is practicable, the Strong School Committee will contract for administrative services to put in place policies and practices necessary to support educational services to Strong resident students, including the development of a budget, the transfer of employment contracts, and the continuous provision of necessary services including but not limited to insurance. Where possible and reasonable, cooperative agreements and other forms of collaboration with neighboring SAUs may be considered.
- d. The budget attached (Attachment 6) is based on the current FY 26 MSAD 58. An additional increase has been added to anticipate projected cost increases.
- e. Cooperation: Records- MSAD 58 and the New Strong SAU shall reasonably cooperate to effect the withdrawal. All MSAD 58 files and records in any form, including computer files, shall remain the property of MSAD 58, except for files and records applicable to the new Strong SAU facilities, Strong employees, or Strong student records, which shall be provided on or before the Effective Date to duly authorized school officials of the new Strong SAU. MSAD 58 shall not be required to create records not otherwise in its possession, and copying of computer files shall be done in whatever medium is convenient for MSAD 58.
- f. Under Maine Revised Statutes Title 20A, § 1001, the Strong SAU school board will have the authority to provide liability, health, and other necessary coverages, to include, but not limited to liability, property coverage, health insurances, Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Compensation. The Strong School Board will do this through a competitive bid process as required by law. This bidding process may include an interlocal agreement with the Town of Strong, other school units and/or the Regional Collaborative.
- g. The Strong School Board will adopt and adapt all current MSAD 58 policies. These policies will be modified to reference the Strong SAU. A review schedule will be developed and implemented to first, review and modify required policies, followed by policies most applicable to the Strong SAU. The remaining policies will then be

reviewed and updated. An ongoing process for policy review and updating will be maintained.

- h. Any MSAD 58 interlocal agreements with regional service centers will be reviewed and considered for the Strong SAU. The Strong SAU will investigate and pursue opportunities for participating in appropriate interlocal agreements, including the Western Maine Regional Service Center.
- i. Under Title 20-A MRS § 1466(4)(A)(12), the Strong SAU will provide daily child nutrition services compliant with State and Federal laws.

4. Ongoing Education of Students:

a. 5 YEAR STRONG PROJECTION-BASED ON BIRTH RATES

	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
2026	6	6	4	8	13	10	8	7	13	13	14	19	13	13	147
2027	7	6	6	4	8	13	10	8	7	13	13	14	19	13	141
2028	5	7	6	6	4	8	13	10	8	7	13	13	14	19	133
2029	13	5	7	6	6	4	8	13	10	8	7	13	13	14	127
2030	8	13	5	7	6	6	4	8	13	10	8	7	13	13	121
2031	5	8	13	5	7	6	6	4	8	13	10	8	7	13	113

The Town of Strong SAU will adopt a 3-year-old program if required by law. An estimate of such enrollment is as follows:
3-year-old(projected)- 5 students

The Town of Strong SAU will be responsible for providing educational services for grades pre-K-12 students. Students in pre-K-8 will receive a comprehensive educational program at Day Mountain Regional Middle School (formerly Strong Elementary School) Students in grades 9-12 will have School Choice.

In order to meet the requirements of Basic School Approval in accordance with the Maine Department of Education Chapter 125, Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and Administrative Units, as soon as possible, the Strong School Board will form a committee to develop a Comprehensive Education Plan for the Strong School SAU. This plan will address the statutory and regulatory components of Title 20-A MRS §

4502(5). Participation in the development of this plan will include parents, citizens, staff, and students of the Strong SAU.

The final plan will be reviewed, modified as necessary and adopted by the Strong School Board prior to the opening of the Strong Elementary School for the FY 28 school year.

The Comprehensive Education Plan, in compliance with Chapter 127, will include a curriculum aligned with the Maine Learning Results, as well as all other requirements of this rule. The Strong School Board will work with the Superintendent to support the resources and personnel necessary for the implementation of all requirements of Chapter 125 and Chapter 127 through appropriate budgeting and policy development.

- b. Grade PreK-8 Students. The Strong SAU will provide educational services for its grade PreK-8 students in the local school, currently named Day Mountain Regional Middle School, which is located in the Town of Strong. The School in the Town of Strong will revert to the model of a PreK-8 school, the Strong Elementary School, and education for grade PreK-8 students focused on mastery of Maine's Learning Results, with a comprehensive educational program provided within the Strong Elementary School, including special education services, gifted/talented, intervention services, and activities in the individual grade classrooms. At the 5-8 level, staff will teach using a multiple content model. A new 3-year-old program will also be housed at the Strong Elementary School.
- c. If the new Strong SAU ceases to operate a PreK-8 school or maintain any of the PreK-8 grades, to the extent that those grades are not maintained, the new Strong SAU may consider sending, and MSAD58 may consider accepting PreK-8 students residing in Strong to attend school in MSAD58. Tuition for those students shall be determined under Title 20-A M.R.S. § 5804.
- d. Students would be placed in classrooms by grade level or multi-grade level based on class sizes and needs. There would be some multi-age classrooms and no elementary classroom larger than 18. All multi-grade classrooms would have lower enrollment and not exceed 16 students without support of an educational technician. All students in grades pre-K-4 would be in a self-contained model and students in 5-8 would have multiple teachers with instruction based on content.

Grade	# of Students	Teachers	Ed Tech	Other
Identified 3-year-old program	3	1		Other personnel as determined by IEPs
Pre-K-k	13	1	1	
1-2	10	1		
3	8	1		
4	13	1		

5-6	18	1	1	
7	7	1		
8	13	1		

The following content areas of the Maine Learning Results will be taught in self-contained classrooms: Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Engineering, Social Studies, Life and Career Readiness. World Language will be embedded in content areas by employing exploratory opportunities. Visual and Performing Arts and Health and Physical Education will be taught by part-time staff who may be shared with other neighboring schools.

Other Staffing:

Position	FTE	Comments
Technology	Ed Tech Iii	
Library Media	.5 Ed Tech	
Guidance	1 day per week	
School Nurse	1 day per week	
School Admin.	Supt- 1 day per week Building Principal full time	
School Sec.	Full time	School year plus 3 weeks
Special Ed Dir		Contracted with other schools
Multi Language Learners		Non required at this time
School Nutrition	1 full time	
Operations and Maintenance		Bus Drivers/Custodians
Transportation		4 driver/custodians
Interventionist		part time

e. **Secondary Students.** Secondary students residing in Strong may attend schools of their choice that are schools in Maine School Administrative Units or private schools approved for public tuition funds, provided that the selected school has programming for grades 9-12. The New Strong SAU shall notify MSAD 58 by March 1, 2027, and thereafter annually of the projected number of students who intend to attend a MSAD 58 secondary school. Enrollment at any of the tuition agreement systems will be based on the individual contract for each. All three school systems will serve as a School of Guaranteed Acceptance.

- The new Strong SAU will enter into an agreement with MSAD 58 secondary school to allow tuition for resident student for a period 10 years.
- The new Strong SAU will enter into an agreement with RSU 74 secondary school to allow tuition for resident student for a period 10 years.
- The new Strong SAU will enter into an agreement with RSU 9 secondary school to allow tuition for resident student for a period 10 years.

By January 15th each year, parents of secondary students residing in Strong will be expected to notify the New Strong SAU of the location their child intends to attend school the following school year.

5. Special Education.

- a. Strong Special Education Students Attending the Strong SAU School. The new Strong SAU will comply with federal and state requirements of students with disabilities for resident students, including commitment to comply with regulations pertaining to management of federal funds.
- b. The new Strong SAU, at its sole expense, will provide for a continuum of special education programming for all special education students residing within the Town of Strong and attending the Day Mountain Regional Middle School which will be renamed Strong Elementary School located in Strong. The new Strong SAU assumes the offer of free appropriate public education (FAPE) for these students.
- c. Town of Strong Special Education Students Attending a School of Guaranteed Acceptance pursuant to this Agreement, the new Strong SAU continues to maintain responsibility for FAPE for students in special education. The new Strong SAU will enter into contractual agreement with the attending School of Guaranteed Acceptance to provide special education and related services required by the IEP prepared by each student's IEP Team (MUSER IV.4.B).
- d. Students who attend the Strong School Facilities from other MSAD 58 municipalities: The MSAD 58 sending students residing in another municipality other than Strong and attending the Strong School Facility in the first year after withdrawal pursuant to this Agreement, the Strong SAU shall provide all special education services required by the IEP prepared by each student's IEP Team to the extent that the Strong SAU has an appropriate program to meet the terms of the IEP and applicable requirements of Maine and federal laws and regulations. Decisions about whether the Strong SAU can

implement the terms of the IEP, and whether the Strong SAU has an appropriate program or placement for a student pursuant to the requirements of the IEP shall be made by the Strong SAU after a careful review of the IEP for the student. In no event shall the Strong SAU refuse to provide needed special education services as provided in the IEP for students residing in MSAD 58 who are permitted to attend a Strong School Facility under this Agreement, except for student removals of more than ten (10) cumulative days in the school year, when a student has been properly expelled from the Strong SAU, or when the Strong SAU has determined that it cannot provide an appropriate program or placement for a student. MSAD 58 Director of Special Education Services (or other administrative designee) shall represent MSAD 58 for special education programming, supervision of the IEP Team process, and supervision of the student evaluation process for MSAD 58 students attending the Strong SAU school. If the IEP Team is unable to reach consensus on issues that are the responsibility of the IEP Team, MSAD 58's representative at that IEP Team meeting shall make the decisions on those issues, subject to parental due process rights in relation thereto. The Strong SAU personnel will work cooperatively with the MSAD 58's representative, and upon request will provide the MSAD 58 representative with all information regarding classroom observations, student performance, academic achievement testing and functional behavior assessment components of the student evaluation process. MSAD 58's representative shall provide input to the Strong SAU's Special Education Director (or other administrative designee) on the proper implementation of the IEPs of MSAD 58 students attending the Strong SAU school or perceived deficiencies in the IEP implementation. The Strong SAU shall consider that input in good faith and shall respond in an appropriate manner consistent with the terms of this Agreement. In accordance with Chapter 101 of the Rules of the Maine Department of Education, Maine Unified Special Education Regulation, Section IV(4)(A) and (B), MSAD 58 shall be responsible for all the costs of special education, whether or not those costs qualify for state subsidy, for special education students residing in MSAD 58 municipalities, who attend Strong School Facilities pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. MSAD 58 shall pay the Strong SAU for the special education costs for any such student as follows:

- i. MSAD 58, in addition to the tuition for those students as calculated under sections 5804 or, as applicable, 5805, of Title 20-A, shall be responsible for the actual costs of special education for those students, including special education transportation costs and costs for facilities modifications required to accommodate the students.
- ii. The Strong SAU will provide itemized invoices to MSAD 58 for regular and special education costs in the same manner as specified in Section 4(0).

e. Educational Decision-Making Authority:

- a. The new Strong SAU's Director of Special Education Services (or other administrative designee) shall represent the new Strong SAU as the special education administrator for IEP team meetings. The special education administrator will provide oversight of all aspects of special education, from child find to dismissal, for special educational process for the Town of Strong students attending another SAU. In the event that the IEP Team is unable to reach consensus on issues that are the

responsibility of the IEP Team, the new Strong SAU representative at that IEP Team meeting shall make the determinations on the development and implementation of the IEP, subject to the parents' due process rights in relation thereto. The School of Guaranteed Acceptance personnel will work cooperatively with the new Strong SAU representative and, upon request, will provide the new Strong SAU representative with all information regarding classroom observations, student performance, academic achievement testing, and functional behavioral assessment components of the student evaluation process. The new Strong SAU's representative shall coordinate IEP programming with the special education director from students attending the School of Guaranteed Acceptance while maintaining authority as the IEP team administrator.

f. Child Find

- a. The new Strong SAU will ensure that all students residing in the new Strong SAU who are between the ages of 3 and under 22 years of age, including children with disabilities that are homeless children, are wards of the State or state agency clients, children with disabilities attending private schools and receiving home instruction, highly mobile children (including migrant or homeless), children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year, and children incarcerated in county jails, and who are in need of special education and related services, even though they are advancing from grade to grade, are identified, located and evaluated at public expense [24 CFS 300.11(a)(i.ii) and 9C0(1,2), MUSER IV.2(a)]

g. Discipline:

- a. The new Strong SAU will remain the local educational agency (LEA) responsible for ensuring that all disciplinary actions involving students with disabilities comply with IDEA, MUSER, and all applicable state and federal laws. This responsibility extends to students attending any School of Guaranteed Acceptance agreement. Because the new Strong SAU retains responsibility for providing FAPE, it also retains responsibility for ensuring that disciplinary decisions involving students with disabilities are made in accordance with relevant statute and MUSER, including the procedural safeguards set forth in Section XVII. A student with a disability in grades 6 and above may be removed from his or her current educational placement for up to ten (10) cumulative school days in a school year to the same extent as a nondisabled peer, provided the removals do not constitute a change of placement. When removals exceed ten (10) cumulative school days or otherwise constitute a disciplinary change in placement, the new Strong SAU, in collaboration with any School of Guaranteed Acceptance as the attending SAU, shall ensure that all IDEA requirements are met, including determining whether the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, convening the IEP Team as required, conducting or reviewing a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP) when appropriate, and ensuring the continuation of educational services necessary for the student to continue participating in the general educational curriculum and make progress toward IEP goals. Any of the Schools of Guaranteed Acceptance shall promptly notify the new Strong SAU of any suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary action involving a Town of Strong resident student receiving special education services so

that the Strong can fulfill its continuing FAPE and due process obligations under MUSER.

- b. In accordance with Title 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§8-A, an out-of-school suspension for a student enrolled in grade 5 may not exceed three days unless the principal determines that there is an imminent danger of serious physical injury to a student or other students and less restrictive interventions would be ineffective.

h. Educational Placement:

- a. The new Strong SAU, as the resident SAU, shall retain the authority and responsibility for all decisions regarding educational placement of students identified with disability, including the provision of special education and related services for students residing in Town of Strong. Educational placement decisions must be made by the students' IEP Team, which includes the parent and representatives of both the new Strong SAU and the School of Guaranteed Acceptance if the student attends high school. Educational placement decisions are based on each student's unique needs, the requirements of IDEA and MUSER, and take into account the least restrictive environment (LRE). The School of Guaranteed Acceptance for Town of Strong students shall provide information regarding the student's educational program, progress, and available services to assist the IEP Team in making informed decisions. However, attendance at a School of Guaranteed Acceptance does not transfer the new Strong SAU's legal responsibility for FAPE or its authority as the responsible LEA. Any decision to change a student's educational placement, services, or program shall be made only through the IEP Team process in accordance with IDEA and MUSER, with the new Strong SAU retaining final responsibility for ensuring that all decisions comply with applicable state and federal special education requirements.
- b. Once an educational placement decision is established, that placement will be maintained until the IEP team makes the determination that an alternate placement is required to implement the IEP. Parents retain their due process rights if they disagree with placement decisions made by the new Strong SAU.

i. Special Education Tuition:

- a. The tuition rate calculations under section 5804 and 5805 of Title 20-A expressly exclude expenditures for special education. In accordance with Chapter 101 of the Rules of the Maine Department of Education, Maine Unified Special Education Regulation (MUSER), Section IV(4)(A) and (B), the new Strong SAU shall be responsible for all costs of special education, whether or not those costs qualify for state subsidy, for special education students residing in Town of Strong attending another SAU school pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The new Strong SAU shall pay the other SAU for the special education costs as follows:
- b. The new Strong SAU, in addition to the tuition for those students as calculated under section 5804 or, as applicable, 5805, of Title 20-A, shall pay the receiving SAU's calculation of the total cost of allowable special education costs from the prior year divided by the average

daily enrollment of students with disabilities consistent with MUSER, Chapter 101, Section XVIII – Special Education Finance, subsection 2 – Public School Tuition Computations.

- c. For a School of Guaranteed Acceptance, the School of Guaranteed Acceptance will provide itemized invoices at least quarterly to the new Strong SAU for special education costs

j. **Dispute Resolution:**

- a. The new Strong SAU, as the resident school SAU and LEA responsible for providing a FAPE, shall retain responsibility for ensuring compliance with all procedural safeguards and dispute resolution requirements under IDEA and MUSER. This responsibility includes responding to state complaints, participating in mediations, resolution sessions, due process hearings, and implementing any resulting agreements or decisions. Because a SAU serves as the School of Guaranteed Acceptance and provides the educational program for Town of Strong students, School of Guaranteed Acceptance shall cooperate fully with the new Strong SAU by providing educational records, staff participation, witness testimony, and other information necessary to resolve any dispute. If the new Strong SAU places a student in an approved private school or other approved educational program pursuant to the student's IEP, the approved private school or program may, in accordance with MUSER, participate as a party in mediation, due process hearings, and expedited due process hearings involving the student's educational placement or the provision of FAPE. In such cases, the private school shall have the rights and responsibilities afforded under MUSER for matters related to the student's placement and services. Notwithstanding the participation of a School of Guaranteed Acceptance or an approved private school, new Strong SAU shall remain the responsible LEA and retain ultimate responsibility for ensuring compliance with IDEA, MUSER, and all final orders, agreements, and decisions relating to its obligation to provide FAPE to its resident students.
- b. Disputes involving Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are under the purview of the Office of Civil Rights, and complaints or grievances should be filed directly with that agency.

Career and Technical Education:

Secondary Students attending and tuitioned to an SAU will receive Career and Technical Education under the same terms as the resident student of that SAU. In two of the three tuition agreements, students will receive services at Foster Career and Technical Center, and the fourth tuition agreement will have the students receive services at Somerset Career and Technical Center. Students attending private school approved for public tuition funds will be provided those services through RSU 9 or RSU 54, whichever provides the desired CTE programming.

The Strong SAU will maintain student data using an application that is compatible with the State of Maine system and all data will be uploaded to the State system as required by

MDOE rules. All schools receiving Strong resident students will be expected to take part in the MDOE State testing and reporting.

The Strong SAU will contract with the Franklin County Adult Education to provide any Adult Education needed for resident enrollees.

Impact of withdrawal on other schools in the district: There are currently 59 Strong secondary students attending Mt Abram High School. It is not known where parents will choose to send their student (s) to with a choice of multiple systems. The withdrawal agreement will require MSAD 58 to move their grades 5-8 non- Strong resident students to another school within the district following the first year after the effective date. This will increase that school's enrollment, but all the MSAD 58 schools will still be under capacity. With this change to Strong Elementary School (pre-K-8) model, the exchange of Strong students currently housed in other schools would have a minimal impact.

State Subsidy Allocation:

Under 20-A MRS Chapter 606-B, the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, the new Strong SAU will receive the State education subsidy allocations for Strong resident students tuitioned to another SAU school.

Tuition Invoices and Payment- All SAU's who receive Strong Resident students will provide itemized invoices, due and payable within 30 days of receipt, to the new Strong SAU for regular and special education costs as follows: the first invoice will be issued after the other SAU receives tuition data from the Department of Education on the current year's costing. Tuition will be billed from the first school day through the last day of the month preceding the other SAU's receipt of tuition data from the Maine Department of Education. For the purposes of clarity, if the other SAU receives tuition data in December, they will bill the new Strong SAU for costs from September through December. After that, tuition will be invoiced two more times, once in March and once in June.

5. Need for School Construction. Withdrawal of Strong from MSAD 58 will not create the need for state subsidized school construction within five years from the effective date of withdrawal. The school located within the Town of Strong, formerly the Day Mountain Regional Middle School, will be transferred to the Town of Strong, who originally owned the school when the current district was formed and serve resident students from the Town of Strong as determined by the new Strong SAU

6. Transportation. The new Strong SAU shall have full responsibility for transporting its students to and from schools located within Strong. All field trips, athletic trips, and other student transportation needs will be provided for pre-K-8. Provided that secondary programming is available at each location and parent(s) wish to have their student attend the SAU's secondary school choices, transportation is as follows:

- The new Strong SAU will provide transportation to the MSAD 58 secondary school daily for 10 years.
- The new Strong SAU will provide transportation for secondary students to RSU 9 daily for 10 years.

- The new Strong SAU will provide transportation for secondary students to RSU 74 daily for 10 years.

Secondary Students will be transported from Strong to Foster Career and Technical Center in Farmington similarly to other students attending a choice school. For Students attending RSU 74, they will be transported via RSU 74 buses to Somerset Career and Technical Center.

7. Personnel:

The new Strong SAU recognizes its responsibility to contribute to the existing MSAD 58 staff contracts entered into by MSAD 58 prior to the referendum vote by Strong residents to withdraw.

There are four collective bargaining agreement (CBAs) that currently pertain to MSAD 58 employees that may be employed by the new Strong SAU following Strong's withdrawal as follows:

Employee Unit	Term	Applies to
Mount Abram Teachers Association	2024-2027	Teachers in SAD 58
MSAD 58's Council 93, AFSCME, AFL-CIO-	2024-2027	- Bus Drivers, Custodian/Bus Drivers, Mechanics, and Maintenance Personnel
MSAD #58 Educational Support Personnel Association MEA/NEA	2023-2026	Educational Technicians
MSAD 58's Council 93, AFSCME, AFL-CIO- Administrative Assistants	2024-2027	Administrative Assistants

- Collective bargaining agreements listed above that are in effect on the Effective Date and that expire after the Effective Date shall, to the extent they cover current employees' positions that will be included in the new Strong SAU, be assumed by the new Strong SAU as of the Effective date. If withdrawal is approved by the voters of Strong, MSAD 58 shall have no further authority to bargain with respect to employment positions in the new Strong SAU for any period following the Effective Date.
- If any collective bargaining agreement that will expire prior to the Effective Date, MSAD 58 is required to bargain in good faith with respect to successor

agreements to those agreements subject to negotiations prior to July 1, 2027. Following Strong's withdrawal as of July 1, 2027, the new Strong SAU shall assume the MSAD 58's existing bargaining agreements to the extent that they cover employees of MSAD 58 assumed by the new Strong SAU at the end of the 2026-27 school year who have a right to continued employment as of July 1, 2027. Following Strong's withdrawal, the new Strong SAU School Board will extend representational rights to the bargaining units listed above for the purpose of negotiating future bargaining agreements. If on the Effective Date, MSAD 58 is engaged in negotiations with the above bargaining unit(s), the new Strong SAU School Board will assume responsibility for those negotiations insofar as they pertain to the employees of the new Strong SAU. If no new collective bargaining agreements have been reached between MSAD 58 and the bargaining units above as of the date of the withdrawal, the new Strong SAU School Board will honor the terms of any existing agreement that remains in effect past their termination date and will honor the status quo in accordance with the requirements of the Maine Labor Relations Board with respect to employees assumed to the new Strong SAU.

- c. Employees occupying employment positions that are included in existing bargaining units and are to be included in the new Strong SAU shall continue to be represented by the bargaining agents representing them before the Effective Date. The School Board of the new Strong SAU will extend negotiating future collective bargaining contracts.
- d. Prior to the Effective Date, MSAD 58 shall not make decisions affecting employees who have been offered employment or hired for positions that will be included in the new Strong SAU for the sole purpose of interfering with the new Strong SAU's efforts to retain employees in such positions. The parties acknowledge, however, that MSAD 58 has a statutory obligation to bargain in good faith with its employees, some of whom may become employees in the new Strong SAU in the future, and further that MSAD 58 reserves its rights to manage its school system and make pedagogical and program decisions in good faith and with the best interests of MSAD 58 students and taxpayers in mind.

Continuing Contract Rights under Section 13201.

The withdrawal of Strong will not affect the continuation of continuing contract rights under 20-A M.R.S. § 13201. On June 30, 2027, the effective date of withdrawal, all continuing contract teachers assumed by the Strong schools in 2027-28 who have not been non-renewed shall become continuing contract teachers of the new Strong SAU. Prior to the effective date of this agreement, the Superintendent of MSAD 58 will compile a list of continuing contract and probationary teachers who will be transferring to the new Strong SAU. The new Strong SAU shall credit probationary teachers assumed by the new Strong SAU, who become employees of the new Strong SAU with prior consecutive years of probationary service, if any, that they accumulated as employees of MSAD 58. A list of continuing contract teachers and probationary teachers with their number of years of service toward continuing contract status, assumed by the Strong school shall be attached as **Exhibit 5**. This list shall be updated to June 30, 2027, by MSAD 58 and the updated list shall be attached to this Agreement as **Replacement Exhibit 5**.

8. Financial Obligation/Commitments

MSAD 58 is currently indebted on bonds issued for the Revolving Renovations at Mt Abram High School and Phillips Elementary School. These include bonds for State-approved debt service. Under 20-A M.R.S. § 1466(16) when a municipality withdraws from a regional school unit having outstanding indebtedness, the MSAD remains intact for the purpose of retiring and securing that debt.

Debt Service on the Revolving Renovations Bond dated 2017, MSAD 58 issued a bond for the funding of a State Approved Revolving Renovation Bond. As of the Effective Date of this agreement, MSAD 58 will owe the final payment of principal. As means of retiring the Town of Strong's share of this indebtedness, MSAD 58 will make the final principal installment on this indebtedness prior to July 1, 2027.

Financial debt from loans

There is financial outstanding debt associated with buses purchased prior to the operational date and tractors purchased in FY25, the new Strong SAU shall assume responsibility for its the proportional share (24.6%) of all outstanding indebtedness as of June 30, 2027 indebtedness.

For any bus transferred to the new Strong SAU that has associated outstanding debt, the new Strong SAU shall assume responsibility for that debt, provided that the corresponding state bus purchase allocation is also added to the new Strong SAU Essential Programs and Services (EPS) allocation.

The Parties acknowledge that MSAD 58 may be liable for future legal claims based on incidents arising prior to July 1, 2027, when Strong was a member of MSAD 58. The new Strong SAU shall be responsible for and agrees to pay our proportional share of MSAD 58's costs, expenses, damages, and other losses arising from such claims, including costs to defend such claims, to the extent that MSAD 58's costs, expenses, damages, and other losses are not covered by insurance or other sources. MSAD 58 shall give written notice of such claims to the new Strong SAU within 30 days after MSAD 58 receives notice of a claim. MSAD 58 shall regularly update the new Strong SAU regarding the status of such claims and shall consult with the Superintendent of the new Strong SAU before entering a settlement of such claims.

During FY 2026-2027 MSAD 58 may issue notes or enter additional lease purchase financing arrangements to upgrade bussing for MSAD's school system or for other purposes voted on by the citizens of the district. Such improvements are not currently contemplated, however may be necessary in case of a failure of a structure or building system or other need. If Strong votes to withdraw from MSAD 58 as of the November 2026 statewide voting date, under 20-A M.R.S. § 1466(16), MSAD 58 will remain intact for purposes of retiring and securing that indebtedness.

To the extent that such indebtedness is related to real or personal property located at or serving only school facilities in Strong and is a general obligation, the MSAD 58 school board shall provide for the debt to be approved at an MSAD 58 referendum vote conducted in accordance with the general laws but only in Strong and not in the other MSAD 58

member towns. Prior to the Effective Date, the obligations will be authorized to be issued by the MSAD 58 school board in the name of MSAD 58, but these obligations shall be obligations only of the new Strong SAU, and to the extent the obligations are general obligations they shall be secured by ad valorem taxation in Strong but not the other member towns of MSAD 58. On or after the Effective Date, the obligations will be authorized to be issued by the selectmen or other school or municipal officers, as applicable to the new Strong SAU under the general laws, except that, as provided herein, any voter approval requirement applicable to the issuance of such indebtedness shall be deemed to have been satisfied by the referendum approval in Strong as described under these procedures. Whether issued before or after the Effective Date, in either case, the new Strong SAU hereby agrees to assume, and at its own expense to pay, such indebtedness entirely from funds of the new Strong SAU with no contribution or participation by MSAD 58.

Superintendent's Contract: MSAD 58 signed a 2-year contract with Superintendent Laura Columbia in 2024, for a term that was extended by one year and continues through June 30, 2027 (the "Superintendent's Contract"). This contract was again extended on January 2026 for 3 additional years expiring on June 30, 2030. Within sixty (60) days of a finalized audit, Strong will contribute a 2-year proportional share toward the superintendent's salary to fulfill two-year's worth of contractual obligation for the contract ending on June 30, 2030. The new Strong SAU will hire a part-time Superintendent to develop an operational budget and hire or contract for support staff for other administrative duties and have full contractual responsibility to these employee(s), therefore will not continue the proportional share more than two years after the effective date of withdrawal.

9. Division of Property.

- a. **Real Property and Fixtures.** MSAD 58 will convey all rights, title and interest in and to the real property upon which the Day Mountain Regional Middle School, formerly the Strong Elementary School is located is currently vested in MSAD 58 by virtue of 2 deeds recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 394, Page 371 and Book 397, Page 514 (see attached **Exhibit 3**). Subject to approval of this Agreement by the voters of the Town of Strong, following the date of Strong's withdrawal, MSAD 58 shall convey all its rights to the real property described in these deeds to the new Strong SAU by quick claim deed prepared by MSAD 58, with the new Strong SAU reimbursing MSAD 58 for the cost of that preparation, including attorney fees.

Personal Property. In addition to the school buses listed in Exhibit 1, any and all personal property located at the Day Mountain Regional Middle School, formerly the Strong Elementary School properties proportional based on 5-8 enrollment used exclusively for Strong's school programs as of the date of withdrawal, including movable equipment, furnishings, textbooks and other curriculum materials, supplies and inventories shall become property of the new Strong SAU on the date of withdrawal. Additionally, proportionally (34.5%) based on pre-K-4 enrollment, movable equipment, furnishings, textbooks and other curriculum materials, supplies and inventories used exclusively for Strong's school programs as of the date of withdrawal, including movable equipment, furnishings, textbooks and other

curriculum materials, supplies and inventories shall become property of the new Strong SAU on the date of withdrawal. Following the Effective Date, MSAD 58 shall provide the new Strong SAU with a bill of sale or other instrument of transfer as reasonably necessary to establish the new Strong SAU's right, title and interest in such personal property.

Buses and Tractor:

To facilitate the new Strong SAU's transportation of students, MSAD 58 shall transfer to the new Strong SAU without charge, 4 buses listed on **Exhibit 1** to this Agreement.

Fuel: At the time of the effective date of this agreement, MSAD 58 will transfer any and all unused fuel located at the Strong School in the form of propane, fuel oil, and pellets to the new Strong SAU.

10. Division of Monetary Assets.

- a) Undesignated Funds as of June 30, 2027: Within sixty (60) days of a finalized audit MSAD 58 shall pay the new Strong SAU the percentage (15%) as its share of the fund balances.
- b) The parties agree that MSAD 58 will pay in full to the new Strong SAU, any amount from scholarship funds, grant moneys, trusts, gifts, and donations that are specifically dedicated to the Strong School Facilities or Strong students that have not been expended as of the Effective Date if they exist.
- c) Any investments, uncollected insurance proceeds, and locally established retirement program funds that are available at the Effective Date, will be paid in full to the new Strong SAU. None are anticipated currently.
- d) Scholarship Funds. Scholarship funds intended for Strong students will be turned over to the new Strong SAU. These scholarship accounts are listed on **Exhibit 4**.

11. Miscellaneous

Procedural elements

If this withdrawal agreement is approved by the Commissioner of Education and the withdrawal of Strong as of June 30, 2027, is approved by the voters of Strong, the voters of Strong shall not participate in the approval of the MSAD 58 budget for the fiscal year 2027- 2028 at either the budget meeting or the budget validation referendum and shall not vote on whether or not to continue the budget validation referendum process in MSAD 58.

- a. **Dispute Resolution.** Any dispute between Strong, the new Strong SAU and MSAD 58 (hereinafter individually a "Party" or collectively, the "Parties") arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be resolved in accordance with this paragraph. Any Party may give written notice of a dispute arising out of or related to this Agreement to another Party or Parties in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested. The Parties to the dispute (hereinafter the "Affected Parties") shall attempt to resolve the matter through informal

communication or negotiation for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of notice by the last Party to receive notice. If the dispute has not been resolved within thirty (30) days, any Party may serve written notice on the other Affected Parties of a request for mediation. The mediation shall be conducted in Maine by a mediator mutually agreeable to the Affected Parties, shall not exceed one full day or two half days in length, and shall be completed within ninety (90) days from the date of receipt of notice of a request for mediation by the last Affected Party to receive notice. If the Affected Parties are unable to agree on a mediator within thirty (30) days, or to resolve the dispute through mediation within 90 days, then each retains all rights and legal and equitable remedies provided by law. Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, the substantially prevailing party in any dispute involving a claim that either party has breached its financial obligations under this agreement shall be entitled to recover its costs and legal expenses, including attorney's fees.

b. State and Local Approval

This agreement is subject to approval by the Maine Commissioner of Education as required by 20-A M.R.S. § 1466(4)(B) and approval by a majority of the voters of the Town of Strong at a referendum conducted in Strong as required by 20-A M.R.S. § 1466(9).

- c. **Applicability to Successor School Administrative Units.** Upon approval by the Maine Commissioner of Education, approval by a majority vote of the Town of Strong pursuant to 20-A M.R.S. § 1466(9) with the total number of votes cast equaling or exceeding 50% of the total number of votes cast in the last gubernatorial election, this Agreement shall be binding upon the Town of Strong, the new Strong SAU, and any successor school administrative units that Strong may join, merge with or otherwise be included in as a member during the term of this agreement, and on MSAD 58 and its successor school administrative units. Accordingly, the terms of this Agreement shall be incorporated by reference into any Reorganization Plan to which Strong, the new Strong SAU, or MSAD 58, or their respective successor school administrative units, is or becomes a party.
- d. **Superintendents' Agreements.** Nothing in this Withdrawal Agreement shall limit the availability or use of Superintendents' Agreements with respect to any student under this Agreement.
- e. **Amendment.** This Agreement may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties or the governing bodies of MSAD 58 and the new Strong SAU with the written approval of the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education.
- f. **Termination.** This Agreement shall remain in effect until such time as it may be terminated by mutual written agreement of the governing bodies of MSAD 58 and the new Strong SAU with the prior written approval of the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education.

Other Miscellaneous

- a. This agreement may not be assigned and shall be interpreted, governed, or construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine, without regard to any of its conflict of law principles.
- b. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties in relation to withdrawal and there are no other agreements or understandings, oral or otherwise between the parties at the time of its execution.
- c. Each party represents that its signatory to this agreement is duly authorized by the party to execute the agreement and in doing so binds the party to its terms.
- d. The headings and subheadings of the sections and paragraphs of this agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not control or affect the meaning or construction of any of the agreement, terms, covenants, and conditions of the agreement in any manner.
- e. If any provision(s) of this agreement is determined to be invalid, or unenforceable in whole or in part for any reason, the remaining provisions of this agreement shall be unaffected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect to the extent it is permitted by law.
- f. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall be considered one and the same agreement.

Signed at Kingfield, this 9th day of July 2026.

For the Withdrawal Committee of the Town of Strong:

Name: Susan Pratt
Member from the MSAD No. 58 Board of Directors

Name: Andrew Bracy
Member and representative from Municipal Officers (Member of the Board of Selectmen)

Name: Rebecca Lane, Member at large

Name: Phillip Richards, Member of Petitioning Group

For Regional School Unit No. 58 / Dba Maine School Administrative District
#58 Signed at Salem Township, this 9th day of July 2026.

Name: Jessica Cain
Chair, MSAD No. 58 Board of Directors

Signed at Augusta, this _____ day _____, 2026

Approved as a Final Withdrawal Agreement under Title 20-A M.R.S. §
1466(5)

Pender Makin
Maine Commissioner of Education

Exhibit 1- Strong Withdrawal Agreement

Bus Number	Year	Mileage
#24	2014	DMMS 164637
#4	2020	DMMS 50375
#7	2022	DMMS 24355
#10	2025	BUS GAR 10354

Exhibit 2- Interlocal Agreements-

Minutes: RSU 9, RSU 74

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
of
RSU #74 Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
5:30 p.m.
At
Carrabec Community School**

Troy Dunphy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Directors Present: Troy Dunphy, Judi Dunphy, Kevin Sousa, Dallas Landry, Brenda Stevens, Georgiana Manzer, Grace Carreiro, Pam Mitchell, Keith Plourd, Robert Lightbody, Eric Ewing, Nicole Richardson, and Laura Layman.

Directors absent with notification: Robert Lindblom

Directors Absent without notification: None

Staff Members Present: 11

Students Present: 0

Citizens Present: 4

Presentations – Auditor

Agenda Item #1. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

4.A.1 Appointment – Jordan Enos – Admin. Asst. to Special Ed Director/DOO
Margaret Brown – Secretary – CCS

Moving Agenda Item #6 to #1a.

1.a. TO SEE IF THE RSU #74 BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW STRONG SAU TO ACCEPT THE DESIGNATED SCHOOL OF GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE FOR THE SAU.

Upon motion by Kevin Sousa and seconded by Eric Ewing the board voted 11-2 to enter into an agreement with the new Strong SAU to accept the designated school of guaranteed acceptance for the SAU. Robert Lightbody and Grace Carreiro voted no. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #2. TO SEE IF THE RSU #74 BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2026.

Upon motion by Kevin Sousa and seconded by Brenda Stevens the board voted 9-4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 4, 2026. Eric Ewing, Keith Plourd, Robert Lightbody, and Nicole Richardson abstained. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #4. REPORTS:

A.) Superintendent's Report – Mr. Campbell spoke about the appointments, moving the April meeting to CCS with Somerset Health presentation, removing GSS from the lighting project, the letter to Embden to withdraw the request to use the community center for Special Education, the budget, and creating a 10-year plan that looks at student population and projected costs.

1. Appointments:

Jordan Enos – Admin. Asst. to Special Ed Director/DOO

Margaret Brown – Secretary - CCS

2. Resignations:

Gabrielle Lord – PreK Ed Tech I – GSS

Jenah Leeman – Admin. Asst. - CCS

3. Nominations:

Chandra Holt – Title I Ed Tech III – GSS – per contract

Upon motion by Kevin Sousa and seconded by Brenda Stevens the board voted by unanimous consent to approve Chandra Holt – Title I Ed Tech III – GSS – per contract. Motion passed.

A.) Administrators: Written Reports were mailed to Board members and are available online at www.carrabec.org.

B.) Committees: Building & Grounds met on February 11th

Policy met on February 11th

Negotiation met on February 9th and 11th

Finance met on February 25th

Agenda Item #5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

On behalf of the RSU #74 Board of Directors, I want to make it clear that we encourage public comment during the Public Comment portion of this meeting. There are restrictions, however, on what is allowed to be discussed publicly. Those comments are limited to policy and procedures in general terms.

Comments or complaints that may pertain to personnel and/or personnel issues should be raised through RSU #74 School Board Policy JII/KI/GBK. This policy outlines the procedures to be followed.

Each individual choosing to speak tonight will be provided with 3 minutes so that we can hear from as many members of the public as possible.

The RSU #74 Board of Directors will follow RSU #74 School Board Policy BEDH/KD in that public participation will be limited to no more than 30 minutes in total length and that all comments at a regular meeting may deal with any topic related to the Board of Directors' conduct of the schools. The Board of Directors shall give due attention to comments and contributions from the audience but shall not respond or take any immediate action."

For those who wish to participate, please note that in order to keep things running smoothly, we do have a number of guidelines that people need to follow when making public comment. Those include the following:

- 1. Please address your thoughts to me, the Chair, and the rest of the School Board.***
- 2. We expect all members of the public to remain civil during the public comment period. This includes the speaker, as well as members of the audience. This means you may not share gossip, make defamatory comments, or use abusive or vulgar language.***
- 3. Individuals should not provide thoughts/reactions/commentary unless recognized by the Chair. We request that you do not clap, boo, or provide similar reactions.***
- 4. Comments about specific individuals, including students and school employees, have the potential to violate the rights of those individuals, and will not be tolerated.***

If the Board has specific procedures or policies with respect to the matter on which you are commenting, I may redirect you to those policies rather than allow you to continue. If another commenter discusses the issue you wish you discuss, you may address the Board, but please try to reduce repetition.

Please note that if you violate these rules or exceed the time allotted to you, I may give you a warning or ask you to stop. If you choose to continue, you will be asked to leave and escorted out.

On behalf of the Board, we appreciate your interest and look forward to hearing from you. I will now recognize the first speaker – are there any individuals present that would like to address the Board?

ACTION ITEMS:

Agenda Item #7. TO SEE IF THE RSU #74 BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY BBAA – STUDENT REPRESENTATION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD.

Upon motion by Kevin Sousa and seconded by Brenda Stevens the board voted by unanimous consent to approve the second reading of policy BBAA – Student Representation to the School Board. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #8. TO SEE IF THE RSU #74 BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL REMOVE POLICES BDED – BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE, BDEC – POLICY COMMITTEE, AND BDEB – FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Upon motion by Kevin Sousa and seconded by Brenda Stevens the board voted by unanimous consent to remove policies BDEB – Building and Grounds Committee, BDEC – Policy Committee, and BDEB – Finance Committee. Motion Passed.

Agenda Item #9. TO SEE IF THE RSU #74 BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF POLICY BDE – BOARD STANDING COMMITTEES.

Upon motion by Kevin Sousa and seconded by Brenda Stevens the board voted by unanimous consent to approve the first reading of policy BDE – Board Standing Committees. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #10. TO SEE IF THE RSU #74 BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE CCS SOFTBALL FIELD.

Upon motion by Kevin Sousa and seconded by Brenda Stevens the board voted 12-1 to approve the naming of the CCS softball field. Robert Lightbody voted no. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #11. TO SEE IF THE RSU #74 BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO MRS. TITLE 1, CHAPTER 13, SUBCHAPTER 1, SUBSECTION 405.6D TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS.

Upon motion by Kevin Sousa and seconded by Brenda Stevens the board entered into executive session at 6:40 p.m.

The board was out of executive session at 8:08 p.m.

Upon motion by Kevin Sousa and seconded by Brenda Stevens the board voted by unanimous consent to approve the salary agreements with the terms for administrator contracts discussed in executive session. As well to direct the superintendent to change the job title from Dean of Students/AD to Assistant Principal/AD for the employee at CCS and CHS effective immediately authorizing Mr. Campbell to discuss fair compensation for the additional responsibilities with this employee. Motion passed.

The Board Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Mark L. Campbell

Superintendent

Mt. Blue Regional School District - RSU 9



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Board of Directors Board Meeting Agenda Minutes

DATE: March 10, 2026
PLACE: The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus
TIME: 6:30pm

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole>

Board Members Present: Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner **Board Members Absent:**

Student Reps Present: Brynne Fournier, Julian Reynolds, Reed Cousineau

Student Reps Absent: Rowan Shanti

Staff Present: Christian Elkington, Monique Poulin

Other Staff Present: Mary Redmond-Luce, Cyndi Pratt, Amanda Clark, Stacey Gilbert, Joel Smith

I. Call to Order - Chair Gwen Doak

A. Meeting called to order at 6:30

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. None

IV. Report of the Chairperson - Chair Doak

A. [BCA - Board Member Code of Ethics](#)

1. "I & J"

V. Communications

A. [Superintendent's Newsletter - 3/2/2026](#)

B. [Wilton Meadow Brook Bridge Memo from MDOT](#)

C. [Governor's Commission on School Construction Issues Final Report](#)

D. Staff Members of the Month - February

1. Professional Staff-Jan Rackliff-FCTEC-Career Exploration
Instructor

2. Support Staff-Kirk Libby-MBC-Lead Custodian

VI. Good News Stories from the Board or Administrators

A. WGM-160 8th graders visited the school last week and read together. Such a wonderful experience for all involved!

B. MBHS/MBC-Climate workshop day was held last week with a focus on employment opportunities and challenges facing the future.

Theater-Students performed at the One Act Festival. Rowan Shanti and Margaret Bremner were recognized for their performances.

- C. Our district had two opportunities for colleague classroom visits last week-the Rural THRIVE Foundations Spring 2026 Retreat organized by UMF for new to the field educators and the second session of RSU #9 Instructional Rounds in alignment with our strategic plan.

VII. Public Comment

- A. Policy [BEDH: Public Participation At Board Meetings](#)

- 1. None

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

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- B. Openings as of 3/10/2026
- C. 2025-2026 Maine School Age Immunization Assessment Survey
 - 1. Do we have a large number of students who have plans in place?
 - a. We are happy to share that we only have a few.
- D. Support for UMF Grant Opportunity - Mathematics
- E. Maine Appropriations & Financial Affair- RSU 9 3.2.2026
 - 1. Superintendent Elkington also briefly reviewed some of the details and potential impacts of the suggested adjustments to the state funding formula.
 - a. Changes would not take effect for this funding year.
 - b. There are two MSBA meetings (3/18 and 3/26) for input on the bill.
 - c. It will be a priority to collect economically disadvantaged data due to its impact on the formula. It will be a focus area going forward.
- F. New ADHD Research Findings

IX. Administrator Reports

- A. [Adult Education](#) - Director Mary Redmond-Luce
 - 1. Mary reviewed the highlights of the report.
 - 2. Is Adult Basic Education at capacity? There is always room for one more, and we never turn anyone away. We need to meet them where they are at the moment.
 - 3. Mary reviewed the numbers noted in the report-204 actively

enrolled with 17 at the Franklin County Correctional Facility.

4. Workforce development is a priority.

B. **Athletics** - Director Cyndi Pratt

1. Cyndi reviewed the highlights of the report.

2. Girls Wrestling-state champs!

3. New sportsmanship banners - Were earned by Boys' Alpine, our Cheer Team, and Boys' Nordic.

C. **McKinney Vento/FESS** - Family Engagement Coordinator Amanda Clark

1. Amanda reviewed the highlights of the report and the specific definition of "unaccompanied youth."

2. The CEFAM grant and an associated action plan are being used to increase family engagement and address chronic absenteeism at CBS.

3. Counseling support is currently being expanded by accessing interns.

4. Kristen Wroble from the Farmington Food Pantry continues to be a wonderful partner for the program.

5. The program has established excellent partnerships with CMP and local oil companies to provide direct support to families.

6. Maintaining consistency between schools and support services remains a top priority.

7. Future data will include attendance and absenteeism to track the results of current efforts, although causal data is difficult to isolate.

8. Amanda's outreach to families often succeeds even when school-level efforts have failed.

X. Presentations

A. None

XI. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes - [2/24/2026](#)
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee - [3/3/2026](#)
 - 2. Personnel & Finance - [3/3/2026](#)
 - 3. Educational Policy - [3/3/2026](#)
- Motion/Vote

<i>Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.</i>	<i>Yeas:</i> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <i>Nays:</i> <i>Abstain:</i> <i>Student Yeas:</i> Brynne Fournier, Julian Reynolds, Reed Cousineau <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i> 1001/0/0	<i>Motion: Angie LeClair</i> <i>Second: Scott Erb Motion:</i> <i>Passed</i>
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XII. New Business

- A. [26/27 Draft Academic Calendar](#)
 - 1. EAC suggested changes
 - a. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the suggested adjustments to the calendar. Long weekend for Labor Day and two weeks at the December break. Suggested by and supported by the EAC (and staff survey?)
 - b. Motion to accept as proposed-Scott and Lance; all in favor except Katie Martikke opposed;

<i>Motion to approve Draft #2 of the 26/27 Academic Calendar as proposed.</i>	<i>Yeas:</i> Jeff Barnum, Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Patty Hastings, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Debbie Smith, Dina Spenciner <i>Nays:</i> Katie Martikke <i>Abstain:</i> <i>Student Yeas:</i> Brynne Fournier, Julian Reynolds, Reed Cousineau <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i> 966/35/0	<i>Motion: Scott Erb Second:</i> <i>Lance Harvell Motion:</i> <i>Passed</i>
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B. Strong & Kingfield possible HS Tuition Agreement

1. Sue Pratt, Chair of the Strong Withdrawal Committee, outlined the town's intent to navigate the state-mandated 22-step withdrawal process.
2. Secondary enrollment is projected to decline significantly, moving from the current 59 students to 47 within five years, and eventually down to 21 students.
3. The proposed model involves running a K-8 school while providing school choice at the secondary level. The primary goal is "saving the Strong School" rather than reducing costs.
4. To move forward, the committee requires board minutes containing the specific language of the resolution; the plan cannot be submitted to the state without this documentation.
5. Following state review and potential modifications, the plan must go to a public vote. To pass, the turnout must meet a threshold of 50% of the number of voters who cast ballots in the last gubernatorial election.
6. The committee aims to maintain MSAD #58 as an option for families while adding further choices to meet diverse needs. Currently, 20 of the 59 secondary students attend FCTEC. Families will eventually be asked to formally declare their school of choice.
7. Muffy Witham (Kingfield representative) shared previously that they are considering a similar structure but was not in attendance.
8. Passing a resolution at this stage signifies a commitment to the process but does not finalize the withdrawal; a separate vote would still be required to approve the specific tuition plan.
9. Is the Board willing to sign an agreement to take high school students from the towns of Strong and Kingfield if their towns vote to leave MSAD 58?
 - a. Discussion
 - i. Possible Resolution:
 - (a) ""RSU 9 will accept secondary students, who reside in the communities of Strong or Kingfield as part of a Strong or Kingfield SAU creation from the withdrawal of Strong or Kingfield from MSAD 58. Student acceptance would follow the creation of a 10 Year Tuition Agreement between RSU 9 and the Strong and/or Kingfield SAU".

10. Vote

<i>Motion to approve resolution as read.</i>	<i>Yeas:</i> Jeff Barnum, Gwen Doak, Scott Erb, Lance Harvell, Greg Kimber, Wayne Kinney, Angie LeClair, Gloria McGraw, Katie Martikke, Gerald Provencher, Josh Robbins, Rich Ruhlin, Dina Spenciner <i>Nays:</i> <i>Abstain:</i> <i>Student Yeas:</i> <i>Student Nays:</i> <i>Student Abstain:</i> 1001/0/0	<i>Motion:</i> Scott Erb Second: Lance Harvell <i>Motion:</i> Passed
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C. FY 27 Budget Committee Updates

1. Review

- a. Draft #s & Articles
- b. [3-6-2026 Staff Budget Memo](#)
- c. Draft Town #s

2. Discussion/Questions?

a. [3-12-2026 Budget Committee Agenda](#)

- i. The Budget Committee produced a fair proposal by balancing a declining student population and retiree attrition to remain fiscally responsible to member towns.
- ii. The development process was transparent and disciplined; while not every request could be funded, the result is a passable budget that sits below the CPI and supports the RSU 9 strategic plan.
- iii. Operations will prioritize immediate repair and maintenance to avoid the long-term costs of deferred upkeep.
- iv. The fund balance will be applied strategically to prevent a future "funding cliff" while maintaining current stability.
- v. Staff reductions were limited to mostly retiree positions while working to not overwhelm the remaining workforce.
- vi. Elementary class sizes remain consistent with last year and stay below state mandates, consistent with Maine and Vermont having the lowest student to teacher ratios in the nation.
- vii. Public outreach is needed to clarify that property

valuations are not set by RSU 9, helping to correct common misconceptions about the tax base.

3. Next Steps

- a. Need to set up a 1hr Board Budget Workshop meeting next week
 - i. A Doodle will be set up to schedule a board workshop next week to go through the budget and to answer board member questions.

D. Policy Work -

1. Brand New (first of two readings)

- a. [JJAB draft public charter school students participation in activities](#)
- b. [JJAB-E1 Public Charter-School-Student-Application-for-Participation](#)
- c. [JJAB-E2 Public Charter-School-Student-Application-to-Participate-in](#)
- d. [JJAB-E3-Public Charter-School-Verification-of-Eligibility-to-Part](#)
- e. [JJAB-E4-Public Charter-School-Student-Verification-of-Eligibility](#)
- f. These follow the same expectations as our private school applications
- g. Discussion/Questions
 - i. Only language change to RSU 9/

2. Replacement (first of two readings)

- a. [IHBK DNR Draft replacement](#)
 - i. There were concerns around clarity of the old policy.
 - ii. The MSMA provided new language.
 - iii. This is the policy that Nurses and our school physician are recommending.
- b. Discussion/Questions
 - i. Please feel free to reach out to Gwen, Chris or Wayne.

XIII. Adjourned without objection at 7:45.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - Special Services, Technology, Transportation*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*

- *Proposed FY27 Budget*

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - AHS, GDCS, CCHS*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus

- *Board Reports - WGMS, CBS, MBMS*
- *Tentative Presentation Schedule*
 - *TBD*

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS -

Operations - April 7, 2026 - 5:00pm - The Holman House, District Office Personnel
& Finance - April 7, 2026, - 6:00pm - The Holman House, District Office Educational
Policy - April 7, - 7:00pm - 8:15pm - The Holman House, District Office

Budget Meetings & Other Important Budget Dates

~~Monday, March 9, 2026 - 6:00pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus~~ **MOVED** Budget
Committee - Thursday, March 12, 2026 - 6:00pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus Community
Forum - Tuesday, March 31, 2026 - 6:30pm - The Forum - Mt. Blue Campus
Annual Budget Hearing - Tuesday, May 26, 2026 - 7:00pm - Bjorn Auditorium - Mt. Blue Campus Budget
Referendum - Tuesday, June 9, 2026 - Individual Polling Hours and Locat

Exhibit 3- Property





Exhibit 4- Scholarships-

Ralph and Anna Knowlton	\$100	Strong	
Robert L Gage	\$250	Strong	*Or would have gone to Strong High School
Strong High School Alumni	2 @ \$1,000	Strong	*Or would have gone to Strong High School
Winston Beal	\$100	Strong	
Dorothy Norton & Helen Scammon	2@\$400	Strong	
Strong Historical Society Vance and Dorothy Hammond Scholarship	\$500	Strong	
American Legion Johnson Cox	\$200	Attended School in Strong at one time	

Exhibit 5- Employee information- to be updated following agreement.

Attachment 6

Budget Estimate

Total Regular Instruction		\$	1,744,220
Total Special Education Instruction		\$	621,558
Total Career and Technical Education Instruction		\$	-
Total Other Instruction		\$	65,256
Total Student and Staff Support		\$	281,163
Total System Administration		\$	209,171
Total School Administration		\$	178,286
Total Transportation and Buses		\$	355,924
Total Facilities Maintenance		\$	453,025
Total Debt Service		\$	100,000
Total All Other Expenditures		\$	100,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$	4,108,603

June 30, 2026