

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The 8TH Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain School District Board of Directors
For 2016-17 will be held

Thursday, December 8, 2016 6:00 pm Cedar Street Conference Room
Policy Committee Meeting 5:00 PM
Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 PM

~MINUTES~

Present: Darcie Calden, Doug DiPasquale, Tammy Frost, Amy McDaniel, Michael Morrell, Shari Ouellette, Joel Pike, Cea Jay Pitcher, Denise Rodzen, Laurie Sanborn and Cindy Young.

Absent: Jackie Knight, Holly Richards

Present: Trevor Doiron, Student Representative

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Rodzen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.
3. **ATTENDANCE**
11 Present
2 (Jackie Knight, Holly Richards) Absent
1 Student Representative Present (Trevor Doiron)
4. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - 5.1 November 10, 2016 – Board Meeting minutes
Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Cindy Young to approve with corrections the minutes of November 10, 2016 regular Board meeting as amended.

Vote: 8 Yes 0 No 3 (Darcie Calden, Doug DiPasquale and Tammy Frost) Abstain
6. **COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**
 - 6.1 Presentation by auditors, Macpage LLC.

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Macpage, LLC presented results from the recent audit of the RSU 73 business office. They thanked Superintendent Healey, Michele Coates, Business Manager and staff for all the work that had been done, there is a tremendous effort that goes into this audit. The highlights of the audit were presented. Macpage, LLC issued a clean opinion, which is the highest level that can be awarded.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

8. BOARD COMMENTS –

Joel Pike invited anyone who has a chance to go to the Augusta Civic Center on the 10th where the Lego Leagues will be competing. There will be 17 or 18 students from the middle school with the competition beginning around 9:30 am. Shari Ouellette wanted to express her condolences to Lynne Lesuer's family. Lynne had been a teacher in our district for 31 years. Also I want to express my condolences to Joel Pike on the loss of his mother in law.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As of December 8, 2016 our student population is 1446 PK – 12, SMPS 451, SMES 292, SMMS 290, and SMHS 413. (-8 from the last report and -41 from the beginning of the year)

We have hired or accepted the resignation of the following non-teaching and non-administrative positions: See Attached List.

I'd like to express my condolences to the family and friends of Lynne Lesuer and Eleanor Jackson for their recent passing. These two wonderfully gifted ladies were long standing employees that had a very positive impact on several generations of RSU 73 children in their own special way.

Teacher negotiations will start on December 13, 2016. This should be the first of three contracts that will need to be negotiated this school year. The other two

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are the Teamsters and the Cafeteria Staff. I have not received a notice to start negotiation from either of these groups yet.

Recently I had contact with MDOE concerning our Alternative Education Teachers. Those teachers have been conditionally certified in content areas.

We are in the process of developing a comprehensive budget for RSU 73's coming school year. I was requested to provide you a reminder of the amount we are above EPS for this year. Last year the total budget was \$18.8. The estimated above EPS was \$1.7 M. Please understand that the EPS needs to be viewed as an absolute minimum the state recommends to run a bare bones educational operation. I'm estimating a \$233K loss of subsidy based on last year's declining enrollment (approximately -35). Additionally we will have to meet our contractual obligations (\$450K). These two figures equate to \$683K or 3.6% overall increase to the budget. This does not consider increase in fuel, operations or any other unanticipated expenses. EPS should not be viewed as all we need, it is bare minimum, if we ever get to EPS we would not have a very robust educational system.

So as you can see that even keeping the budget flat will be at least a 3.6% increase from the current budget. So I'm asking for the board to provide me official direction. I'm looking for a target amount or percentage for the A-Team and I to work toward, an amount you feel the communities can endure in these difficult and unpredictable economic times. We are currently reevaluating all of our education programs to determine what works and what is working as well and see if we can reduce overall program costs, are there any specific cost saving measures you would like me and the A-Team to explore as you consider providing us a target to reach? If you give me a target to go for we will go ahead and show you what that would look like. It is my role and that of the A-team to provide you with a budget. If after presenting a budget to you it does not look like what you want, then we will look at it again and come up with a consensus to reduce or increase and then work towards that.

Chair Rodzen asked the Board if they had any numbers in mind. It was asked how much we are over EPS, Superintendent Healey replied that we are \$1.7 million over EPS. Superintendent said that in the handout he gave there is a list of what is not covered over EPS.

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Darcie Calden asked why we lost students and Superintendent Healey replied that they transferred away. Cindy Young asked if we have a number for lost students. Superintendent Healey said that the number is 35 students lost Pre-K – 12, this is based upon the previous year. That is how the state rates us. Chair Rodzen said that we did lose tuition money from Fayette as those students moved into our district. Chair Rodzen said that she is going to ask the board members to write down on a piece of paper the dollar amount that they would like to increase/reduce the budget by. Darcie Calden asked what last year's budget was, Superintendent Healey replied that it was \$18.8 million.

I would like to remind everyone that I will be on vacation from December 19, 2016 through January 9, 2017 and will return to work on January 10, 2017. In my absence Scott Albert will be acting Superintendent of RSU 73. Scott is a very capable administrator and have a very good supporting cast to get him through any issue during my absence.

I would like to wish everyone in the RSU 73 educational family a fun filled holiday season.

Shari Ouellette asked when they are going to open up the Livermore Falls Middle School for the yard sale. Superintendent Healey replied that we had a community yard sale with the Livermore Falls High School previously.

10. BOARD CHAIR'S

Chair Rodzen wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

12.1 Dora York – Food Service

On November 17 we participated in the first Annual Recognition 5210 Dinner at Franklin Memorial Hospital. We received a bronze for the high school, the elementary and primary schools each won a silver. Everything else is going well,

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we now have one person to substitute when needed and I am very pleased about that.

12.2 Robyn Raymond – Adult Education

At the last meeting I presented a list of 10 retraining programs available for displaced workers in our community. Since then, the Adult Education Director from Farmington and I have reached out to local community colleges to help with continuation programs once folks finish certification with us. CMCC has come to the table and we created an all-encompassing list of options and presented them to Verso HR; Everett O’Neil, the mill manager and the Department of Labor – specifically the Rapid Response team. While the RRT is facilitating meetings to cover the TAA money and eligibility at Verso this week and next, my goal is to hold a holiday community event for displaced workers and their families within the next couple of weeks. Principal Plourde and I have been discussing logistics and more information will come next week. Rather than just focusing on workforce development and education, looking at this crisis through a holistic lens, we need to rally as a community and come to the aid of our neighbors in their time of need. I hope to develop a committee to assist with that planning, I am looking for members of the board that are available to meet during the day next week. Please email me if you have any interest. We have our new official logo, it did not print correctly for tonight’s meeting but I’d be happy to email it to you.

12.3 Craig Suttie – Technology

The technology department did a lap top damage inventory, we have 5 with damages and our insurance covered all of it. We will do another inventory in March. We updated the secretaries in the district about Google Calendar on the website. School secretaries are responsible for their individual school calendar on the website and Fiona Baker is in charge of district calendar. On January 11 we will begin Tech meetings in the afternoons either at 3:30 pm or 5:30 pm, we will stagger the times and dates. It is also time to update the Technology Plan which is on the website, that update is due June of 2017. The State gave us a different format to follow this time. There will be a survey going out to staff which we will combine with last year’s data to shape our future needs. Doug DiPasquale asked if the survey could be sent to Board members, Craig said that he will check.

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Chair Rodzen asked Board members if the number they put down was an increase to the budget. All board members responded that the number would be a decrease in the budget.

12.4 Ken Vining – Facilities/Transportation

Things are going pretty well with transportation. There have been a few minor problems with the new buses. An example is that when the bus is going down the road and you turn the wheel the horn blows! All the buses have been fixed. On Wednesday before Thanksgiving Clean-o-rama did a training about bathroom cleaning, it was a good training and we have new equipment to clean. Beginning December 22 we will go around to every bathroom during vacation to do an in-depth cleaning, especially in the elementary school.

Ed Antz came from Maine School Management Association's Workers' Compensation Trust, Loss Prevention Program, and conducted a site visit of the school system's buildings. I believe we will have some minor violations.

On the ball field we have started building another 10x8 building for electrical components. We have the lumber so the only expense is manpower.

Tammy Frost said that even with construction done, the traffic at the hill by the middle school is hazardous due to all the cars and buses turning. Have we looked into getting a light to help the congestion? Ken Vining said he would look into that with the Department of Transportation to see if there is anything that can be done.

Joel Pike asked if we have looked at doing something different with traffic patterns especially at the elementary school.

Doug DiPasquale asked where we stood with the middle school, where is the process. Superintendent Healey replied that we are at a standstill. I don't want to advertise unless we have someone interested. We have not heard back from the interested party

12.5 Tina Collins – Special Services

We received a donation from a staff member, who wishes to remain anonymous, to the SMES life skills program of a refrigerator and stove. We are already using this equipment for some cooking activities in the classroom and the children are loving it!

Cindy Paradis, SMHS special education teacher, has been working collaboratively with Vocational Rehab counselors and UMF to run an after school job club/career

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skills exploration program.

The program connects high school students with disabilities with UMF students in the Rehabilitation Services Program and Vocational Rehab counselors from the Maine Department of Labor. The program provides hands on, professional level vocational counseling experience for the UMF students, while the high school students get to engage in ongoing and meaningful discussions about their future careers and employment aspirations and possible paths towards achieving their goals.

The group meets weekly and students can take the late bus home after the sessions. There are about 8 SMHS students who are regularly participating in the job club activities.

13. POLICY - None

14. OLD BUSINESS – None

15. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Rodzen announced that after calculating the average of the board members suggestions, the targeted budget reduction is \$673,000 for the FY 2018 school budget. This reduction will bring the goal for the FY 2018 budget to \$18.12 million.

16. APPOINTMENTS - None

17. OTHER BUSINESS - None

18. CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Board Meeting on:
January 12, 2017 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

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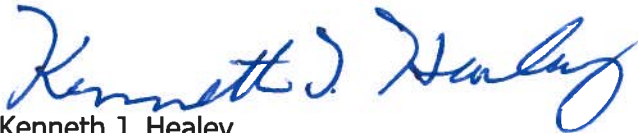
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19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette to adjourn at 7:10 pm.

Vote: 11 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Respectfully submitted:



Kenneth J. Healey
Superintendent of Schools