

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 11th Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain School District Board of Directors
For 2015-16 will be held

Thursday, February 11, 2016 6:00 pm Cedar Street Conference Room
Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 pm

~MINUTES~

Present: Doug DiPasquale , Tammy Frost, Mark Holt, Amy McDaniel, Michael Morrell, Shari Ouellette, Holly Richards, Denise Rodzen, Laurie Sanborn, Michael Schaedler arrived at 6:25pm before first vote. and Cindy Young.

Absent: Jackie Knight and Joel Pike.

Present: Trevor Doiron, Student Representative.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Denise Rodzen, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

11 Present

2 (Jackie Knight and Joel Pike) Absent

1 Trevor Doiron Student Representative Present

4. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Drummond Woodsum Funding Formula Workshop

Bill Stockmeyer from Drummond Woodsum presented funding formula options for the district.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

January 28, 2016 – Board Meeting minutes

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Holly Richards to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2016 regular Board Meeting minutes with changes.

Vote: 9 Yes No 2 Abstain (Mark Holt and Doug DiPasquale)

1 Student Representative Yes

6. **COMMUNCIATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 Retirement of Janet Benedetto, Adult Education Coordinator, effective at the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette to accept with regret the retirement of Janet Benedetto, Adult Education Coordinator, effective at the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Vote: 11 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

1 Student Representative Yes

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7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Adam and Kelly Lake asked if there were going to be special needs programs at both elementary schools next year. Mr. Healey replied that “yes” there would be. Tina Collins, Special Services Director confirmed.**
8. **BOARD COMMENTS - None**
9. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – As of February 5 we have a total of 1501 children in grades Pre-K through 12; LES 423, JES 342, SMMS 327 and SMHS 409. I have accepted the resignation of Kim Cook, school bus monitor. I have passed out the proposed 16/17 district calendar for your consideration. I did meet with the association and made some adjustments, the Pre-K start date has been added and the association asked that September 2 be a school day and the last day student day will be June 8, one day later than previous calendar. You will be receiving initial budget books after tonight’s meeting. The overview will be on February 25. Some of the things that we are looking at is the reconfiguration of the elementary schools. Grade Pre-k – 2 students will be in Livermore and Grade 3-5 will be in Jay. We are looking at what is best for the kids. We will not be filling 5 vacant positons district wide. We have covered the \$430,000 projected salary and benefit increase based on contract negotiations and a \$246,000 loss in subsidy while maintaining our current education programs. The revenue pages will come out next week. We are projecting a \$279,000 combined reduction in the budget. Before the presentation on the 25th please study and look at the budget. I will be here next week for any questions. I would ask that you listen to the administrator’s presentations on the 25th and then you can ask questions.**
10. **BOARD CHAIR’S REPORT – We recently asked community members to let us know of any ways that they thought we could reduce the budget. I have passed out a letter from one community member and I would like to discuss the suggestions. The suggestions from the letter were discussed point by point. Those points are:**
 - **Utilize Jay Maintenance Staff – RSU 73 is not a department of the town of Jay, therefore cannot utilize Jay Maintenance Staff.**
 - **Privatize transportation; consolidate custodians, food service, special education and the administration of the entire district with Mt. Blue. There would have to be a vote to dissolve RSU 73 in order to consolidate with Mt. Blue.**
 - **Transfer the high school to Mt. Blue – Mt. Blue is at capacity.**
 - **Evaluate pay to play sports – we are currently sending home food to students for the February and April vacations, those are the children who would not be able to play sports and for those children sports may be the reason they stay in school and succeed.**
 - **Close the two elementary schools and Superintendents office in Livermore Falls in order to fully utilize the Middle school and High school as the primary buildings.**

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Mt. Blue is at capacity and the middle school and high school buildings are for adults not children.

- **Reduce the \$2.28M balance about the state's funding formula for essential programs and services, of which \$1.7M is attributable to Jay. There would be just basic education left.**
- **Open all contracts at the town and school to renegotiate health benefits and place a moratorium on wage increases in lieu of closing schools. We do not have any contracts with the town, we are not part of the town. It is unlikely that the collective bargaining units would open up negotiations.**

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

12.1 Technology – Craig Suttie

On January 21 we had a technology committee meeting to evaluate the technology lease purchase line in the budget and how that line needs to arrive at a sustainable amount. The minutes of that meeting are posted online.

On February 9th we had our first Google training for staff, we are migrating from First Class to Google Apps for Education. This was the first of 6 trainings.

Kyle Richards one of our technicians completed the Apple certification giving us a person in house to do repairs.

The LES card swipe system will be installed next week.

On February 3 I had a webinar with the Federal Communication Commission and SchoolMessenger (our parent notification system) to discuss the Telephone Communication protection Act of 1991. The focus of the meeting was on using the notification system judiciously and to avoid caller fatigue. Emergencies and critical messages are necessary notifications but using the system to call about a bake sale would be better communicated through other means like emails, flyers in school, push notifications, etc. They also discussed that parents and students in the system should have an easy way to opt out of getting phone calls or text messages. So I immediately put some SchoolMessenger info on the website about opting out. To provide another means of communicating a bake sale or band concert, I am having SM build us an app so that we can do push notifications.

On February 17th regional schools, police, sheriff's departments will meet at Mt. Blue to review Punch Alert, our crisis emergency notification system. The Chief Operations Officer of Punch Alert will also meet here with me to assess our set up of the system.

Michael Morrell asked Craig if he would be polling the teachers about software and Craig replied yes. He also asked if we had a list of banned social media accounts.

12.2 Adult Education – Robyn Raymond

Our brochures have gone out, they are a district wide brochure which contains Adult and Community Education offerings, a newsletter from Spruce Mountain High School, a page from Franklin Community Health Network and a page from Special Services. Since the brochure has gone out our phones have been ringing off the hook! 100% of our fall cohort are enrolled in college. We are offering college classes through CMMC this summer. I

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recently attended a chamber meeting and pitched the work ready program, two additional business have come on board. Tonight we had a Family Literacy Night and we plan on doing them once a month as part of the "Read to Me" project

12.3 Facilities/Transportation – Ken Vining

Things are going pretty well with facilities, there are a lot of people on vacation next week but we will be doing painting in JES kitchen and cafeteria, all cafeterias will be stripped down and waxed. There will be a day of training on Tuesday at 7am at the Middle School for staff. The training is around students with seizures on the bus and also children with autism. There will also be a video from Mark Merrill Champion about drugs, bullying and alcohol. We did lock in for #2 heating fuel for next year at \$1.35 per gallon and Diesel at \$1.58 gallon. We have not locked in for propane yet, we use approximately 20,000 gallons of propane each year.

12.4 Special Services – Tina Collins

Last month I attended a special education training in Farmington with 5 staff members put on by the Department of Education. I have to say it was an awesome training! Doug DiPasquale asked how the new IEP process was working. Tina replied that it is going great, the coordinators hit the ground running. Susan Wiles was in the audience and said that they are all very happy with in it in Livermore.

13. POLICY

13.1 Final Reading Policy – JLCDA – Medical Marijuana in Schools

13.2 Final Reading Policy – JLCDA-E – Parent/Medical Provider Request to Administer Medical Marijuana at School

13.3 Final Reading Policy – JIH – Questioning and Searches of Students

13.4 Final Reading Policy – KLG - Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette to approve the final reading of policies JLCDA – Medical Marijuana in Schools, JLCDA-E – Parent/Medical Provider Request to Administer Medical Marijuana at School, JIH – Questioning and Searches of Students, KLG - Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities.

Vote: 11 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
1 Student Representative Yes

13.5 First Reading Policy – AC-R – Harassment and Complaint Procedures

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Amy McDaniel to approve the first reading of policy AC-R –Harassment and Complaint Procedures.

Vote: 11 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
1 Student Representative Yes

14. OLD BUSINESS

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14.1 District Calendar –

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Amy McDaniel to approve the Spruce Mountain School District Calendar for 2016/2017 as presented.

Vote: 11 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
1 Student Representative Yes

15. NEW BUSINESS

15.1 Executive Session to discuss contract/negotiations in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).

Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Michael Morrell to enter into Executive Session at 8:24 pm to discuss contract/negotiations in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).

Vote: 11Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
1 Student Representative Yes

Return from Executive Session at 8:47 pm.

Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Amy McDaniel to ratify the contract between RSU 73 Board of Directors and RSU 73 Administrators Association effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018 with one more spell check.

Vote: 10 Yes 0 No 1 (Mark Holt) Abstain
1 Student Representative Yes

16. APPOINTMENTS - None

17. OTHER BUSINESS - None

18. CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting will be on:

February 25, 2016 – Regular Board Meeting – 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

School Funding Formula Sub-Committee Meeting – February 17, 2016 at 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cindy Young and seconded by Amy McDaniel to adjourn at 8:48 pm.

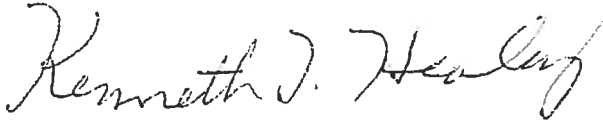
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Respectfully submitted:



Kenneth J. Healey
Superintendent of Schools