

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The 9TH Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain School District Board of Directors
For 2016-17 will be held

Thursday, January 12, 2017 6:00 pm Cedar Street Conference Room

~MINUTES~

Present: Doug DiPasquale, Tammy Frost, Jackie Knight, Michael Morrell, Joel Pike, Cea Jay Pitcher, Denise Rodzen, Laurie Sanborn and Cindy Young.

Absent: Darcie Calden, Holly Richards, Amy McDaniel, Shari Ouellette

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

9 Present

4 (Darcie Calden, Holly Richards, Amy McDaniel, Shari Ouellette)

Absent

1 Student Representative Present (Trevor Doiron)

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Approval of the Minutes – December 8, 2016

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Cindy Young to approve with corrections the minutes of December 8, 2016 regular Board meeting as amended.

Vote: 9 Yes 0 No 1 (Jackie Knight) Abstain

6. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Lego League team presentation

Lego League Advisor Rob Taylor said the Lego League team had a great season with 5 teams. At the qualifier on November 19th 3 of the teams qualified to go onto the state championship in Augusta on December 10th where one of the teams won. All 3 teams that competed won some type of award. The project theme was Animal Allies. The team's robot was the top scoring robot in the state of Maine. The team will be doing a presentation tonight on Nuisance bears that destroy beehives. The students said that their original solution to prevent bears from getting into beehives was an electric cage around the hive but they

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discovered that the electromagnetic radiation from the cage would adversely affect the bees' navigation. The students then built a portable metal cage inside the fence to prevent the electromagnetic radiation from affecting the bees. Rob Taylor thanked the parent and student mentors who have helped the teams all year, they have been a tremendous help.

- 6.2 Request for Board permission for The Lego League Team to be able to travel to the First Lego League World Festival in St. Louis, April 26th – 30th.
Motion by Jackie Knight and seconded by Doug DiPasquale to travel to the First Lego League World Festival in St. Louis, April 26-30th.

Vote: 10 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

- 6.3 Retirement of Terry Leclerc, Spruce Mountain Primary School Grade 1 Teacher as of the end of the 2016/2017 school year.
Motion by Jackie Knight and seconded by Cindy Young to accept with regret the retirement of Terry Leclerc, Spruce Mountain Primary School Grade 1 Teacher as of the end of the 2016/2017 school year.

Vote: 10 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

- 6.4 Retirement of Rhonda Bean, Spruce Mountain Primary School Grade 1 Teacher as of the end of the 2016/2017 school year.
Motion by Cindy Young and seconded by Doug DiPasquale to accept with regret the retirement of Rhonda Bean, Spruce Mountain Primary School Grade 1 Teacher as of the end of the 2016/2017 school year.

Vote: 10 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

8. BOARD COMMENTS - None

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT –

As of January 6, 2017 our student population is 1447 PK – 12, SMPS 453, SMES 291, SMMS 289, and SMHS 414. (+1 from last report - 42 from the beginning of the year)

I would like to acknowledge and thank both of the two teachers who have submitted their retirement letters to us this evening. Terry Leclerc and Rhonda Bean have been teaching for about eighty combined years. They have impacted many generations of students in RSU 73 and both will be missed for their teaching contribution and their

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caring and kind approach to children. I wish them well as they start the next chapter of their lives.

We conducted district wide lockdown drills on January 9th and 10th in order to practice this very important emergency procedure. Each building administrator will report on how the drills went in each of their individual buildings.

I would like to thank Scott Albert for filling in for me while I was away on vacation.

Today I was at Spruce Mountain Primary School as Principal for the day, thank you Mr. Harrington and staff for a great day!

10. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT –

I introduced the book "How not to be a terrible school board member" by Richard Mayer to Michael Morrell. At the next board meeting I will be handing out a scenario and then at the following board meeting I will ask the board members to come up with options for that scenario. If the board feels like it is an informative book, we will get the books for the group.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

12.1 Amanda Hersey – Curriculum Coordinator

The curriculum meetings are going well. One of my favorite things about these meetings is that the teachers get to see each other. Recently the science committee met and they were able to share resources.

As a side note, the Maine Department of Education is offering a training in preparation for this year's state testing.

12.2 TJ Plourde – SMHS

I will say all things NEASC is going on right now. Our first approval night for standard 1 and standard 7 happened this evening and it seems to be going well, we are having very good conversations.

The Gear-up Grant is well on its way. Teachers can apply for a mini grant anytime, please make sure that it matches what the grant is offering. We have had 12 so far that have been approved.

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We had two lockdowns this week, they went really well. We found a couple of things that need to be fixed like door knobs. We will have those door knobs fixed in the next week. It was a good exercise.

Chair Rodzen asked when you are going to start to get into more detail about accreditation stuff. Principal Plourde replied that we have 7 standards that need to be passed then sent to NEASC for review. Chair Rodzen said that they will expect the school board to be a part of the process. Principal Plourde replied that we have the school board member's part built in and we will be going over that over the summer.

12.3 Scott Albert – SMMS

Congratulations to our spelling bee winners who competed this past Tuesday at our school spelling bee.

1st Place 8th grader Elise Spencer

2nd Place 8th grader Ryan York

3rd Place 7th grader Kaila Godbey

4th Place 6th Grader Savannah Duggan

They will compete in the Franklin County Spelling Bee on February 7th at Strong Elementary School.

Congratulations to our December Student of the Month winners.

Grade 6 Emma Towers Brian Daigle

Grade 7 Abigail Sweetser Kaila Godbey

Grade 8 Elise Spencer Savannah Corliss

We have been chosen to take the National Assessment of Educational Progress test this year. 62 of our 8th graders were randomly chosen to take either the Math or reading test on February 8th.

We also had two lockdown drills this week. The students and staff performed admirably on both days.

Congratulations to the very impressive Clan of Mordu for qualifying for the World Championships in St. Louis. Those members are Evany Black, Jenna Badeau, Hannah Coates, Drew Delaney, Quin Fournier, Jack Gilbert, Maddie Labonte, Chandler Pike, Isaac Pinard and Owen Williams.

12.4 Chris Hollingsworth – SMES

We also had lockdowns this week. The timing of the lockdowns was perfect as we had a staff meeting today and we were able to talk about it. We did have a couple of doors that were not locked and that was addressed. We sent a letter home with the students stating that we are going to practice lockdown drills and

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that it would be coming in the future. Some teachers didn't actually check to make sure their doors were locked. We had two doors each day that were not locked. At our staff meeting today we talked about taking those extra few seconds to make sure that classroom doors was actually locked. It was silent walking down the hallways after the lockdown began, I was very proud of the kids, they really took the exercise seriously. Mr. Healey was there both days. It was very impressive.

Our 4th grade class had the privilege of going to the State House and Maine State Museum in Augusta. They had Representative Tina Riley show them around, it was a very good experience for the children.

I have handed out paper by Andrew Dolloff titled "Maine's Public Schools: Worth the Investment". It is an interesting paper which talks about Maine and our educational system vs the nation. We are way above par as compared to the nation.

12.5 Kevin Harrington – SMPS

Chair Rodzen directed a question towards Principal Albert and Principal Plourde. How do you control the kid's texting information out of the building during a lockdown? Principal Plourde said we are working with Punch Alert and the Safety committee. Superintendent Healey replied that we are taking the safety committees lead on this. We are being very proactive. There will be additional training for the teachers. You are looking at supervision in that location to control texting to what every degree they can.

Principal Harrington said that the Tooth Angels are in our school for the next two weeks. Susan LaValle, Public Health Dental Hygienist and Director of Maine Dental Health Out-Reach provides dental cleanings, temporary fillings and dental care. They were presented with a grant from Kennebec Savings Bank. Susanne and her hygienists, Sherry and Laura, are currently seeing students and providing care at Spruce Mountain Primary School. They will be proceeding to Spruce Mountain Elementary School after leaving the Primary school and other schools in the district to follow.

There was an article in the Maine Apprise about Spruce Mountain Primary School.

We also had two lockdown days. You could hear a pin drop in the corridors. The doors in the hallways were locked but some of the doors between rooms were not, we are looking at putting keyed dead bolts on those doors. One teacher had just left the room and door was not locked. One issue we did find that parents could be in between the two front doors if a lockdown happens and they would not know what was happening. We need to be able to let the

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parents know. In the cafeteria the double doors are magnetized, they need to be demagnetized so they can close.

The food pantry for the elementary school and primary school will be at the primary school. Over the holidays a lot of things went home with children; food, clothing, toys, gift card and hockey skates.

Also over the holiday I took a few days and went to Massachusetts and got to meet Thomas the Train!

The Pantry received an anonymous gift of \$5,000.

Cindy Young asked when you do a lock down do you call the police? Principal Harrington replied that all local law enforcement are part of the Safety Committee. Also, Karen Barnes is notified.

13. POLICY - None

14. OLD BUSINESS - None

15. NEW BUSINESS- None

16. APPOINTMENTS

16.1 Executive Session to discuss personnel appointments in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Jackie Knight to enter into Executive Session at 6:59pm to discuss personnel appointments in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).

Vote: 10 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Return from Executive Session at 7:03 pm.

Student Representative Trevor Doiron left the meeting.

16.2 Superintendent nominates Sikwani Dana to the position of SMHS 9th and 10th Science Teacher for the 2016/2017 school year, contingent on proper certification and MDOE fingerprint status.

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Jackie Knight to approve the nomination of Sikwani Dana to the position of SMHS 9th and 10th Science Teacher for the 2016/2017 school year, contingent on proper certification and MDOE fingerprinting status.

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Vote: 9 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

17. OTHER BUSINESS

18. CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Board Meeting on:
January 26, 2017 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Doug DiPasquale to adjourn at 7:04pm.

Vote: 9 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Respectfully submitted:



Kenneth Healey
Superintendent of Schools