

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 9th Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain School District Board of Directors
For 2015-16 will be held

Thursday, January 14, 2016 6:00 pm Cedar Street Conference Room

Policy Committee Meeting 5:00 pm

Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 pm

~MINUTES~

Present: Doug DiPasquale, Tammy Frost, Mark Holt, Jackie Knight, Amy McDaniel, Michael Morrell, Shari Ouellette, Joel Pike, Denise Rodzen, Laurie Sanborn, Michael Schaedler arrived at 6:25pm and Cindy Young.

Absent: Holly Richards

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

1 (Holly Richards) Absent

1 (Michael Schaedler) late arrival at 6:25 pm

1 Student Representative present

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

6.2 and 6.3

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

December 17, 2015 – Board Meeting minutes

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2015 regular Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Vote: 12 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

January 6, 2016 – Special Board Meeting minutes

Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded Cindy Young to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2016 Special Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Vote: 10 Yes 0 No 2 (Jackie Knight and Trevor Doiron) Abstain

6. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Letter from Julia Parker, SMHS All Sports Booster Treasurer.

6.2 Retirement of Suzanne Cole, K-12 Library Media Specialist, effective at the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Jackie Knight to accept the retirement of Suzanne Cole, K-12 Library Media Specialist, effective at the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Vote: 12 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

6.3 Retirement of Michael Henry, SMHS Social Studies Teacher, effective at the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Amy McDaniel to accept the retirement of Michael Henry, SMHS Social Studies Teacher, effective at the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Vote: 12 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Shari Ouellette thanked Mike for his long service to the district.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

8. BOARD COMMENTS

Joel Pike wanted to bring to the attention of the Board that the High School Robotic Team has gotten a plug in the Daily Bulldog for helping the Mt. Blue Robotic Team. Our team is very excited about the challenge this year.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

RSU 73 Funding Formula

We are closing in on turning over Livermore Falls High School over to AYS. We are waiting for the transfer tax document to be completed before the transfer. The closing will happen either tomorrow afternoon or early next week.

I will be attending the 22nd Annual Superintendent Meeting tomorrow.

As of January 8 our student population is 1507 with 426 students at LES, 342 students at JES, 327 students at SMMS and 412 students at SMHS.

I participated in a joint meeting of Livermore Selectmen and Livermore School Board members on January 5, 2016. A number of things were talked about, among them was potential to reduce the budget.

I held a Community School Budget Input Forum on January 7, 2016 at 6:00 pm at SMMS Cafeteria to allow the community to provide us input for the coming school year budget. I am grateful for those who showed up.

I attended the kindness skit at JES on December 22, 2015. It was great and Santa looked very familiar!!

I attended two separate holiday concerts at LES, there is nothing better than seeing children singing!

I received the resignation of Alison Littlefield, Ed Tech II in Crossroads effective December 22, 2015.

Four teachers were chosen to serve as the IEP Coordinators, they are; Cindy Paradis (SMHS), Sonia Pelletier (SMMS), Susan Wiles (LES) and Lynne Ferrari.

As I told you at the last board meeting the school board will need to consider the suitability of the current RSU 73 funding formula. I mailed you an information package last month for your review and consideration prior to our meeting tonight. Because this is the sixth budget year after consolidation we need to consider if the current cost sharing formula is equitable. Currently we base cost sharing on total state valuation of all the member towns. You are required to review the funding formula. I have talked to my colleagues about alternatives. There really aren't a lot of options. I have been told that Dick Spencer of Drummond Woodsum is an expert on cost sharing, but he is not available until next week. I will be able to provide additional information once I speak to Mr. Spencer. If the majority of the board and at least one member from each town feel we should formally look at an alternative beyond what we already have I would suggest a subcommittee be formed to explore a new cost sharing formula. This would require a formal vote from the board. Denise Rodzen spoke of looking at

the funding formula and later this evening taking a vote on whether to investigate other funding formulas. As recently as last Friday the Jay town manager still does not have valuation hearing date set, until that happens we are at a standstill. Joel Pike asked what date would be used and Denise Rodzen said that if there was a new funding formula that it would be would proposed at referendum, April 26 for consideration by the voters. Mark Holt asked that since we don't know where Jay will end up can we do it for one year. If no action is taken then the current formula stays put. There is a process however to look at the formula in the future if need be. Shari Ouellette said that we do not know Jay's evaluation for 2013/14 because of paper machines that were closed.

10. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT - None

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS – The Policy and Finance Committees met tonight.

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

12.1 Technology – Craig Suttie

Craig handed out email addresses and passwords to board members for their RSU73.com Gmail access. He asked that it be tried out sooner rather than later. First Class will be going away in June. On February 9 we will have a google trainer here at the high school from 3-4pm and then again on March 8th at the high school from 3 – 4pm. These trainings will be around Gmail and google calendar. Other trainings are being offered geared towards the teaching staff. The trainer is Richard Burns, he is a great guy and very positive. I will send you all a link to his blog.

In mid-February Livermore Elementary is going to be having a key card system installed, much like the rest of the district.

Channel 7 has moved to the central office, we are waiting for fiber connection to be run so we can hook it up. Denise Rodzen asked if we had thought about offering students the opportunity to work with Channel 7, it would be a wonderful learning experience. Student talents could be used for quiz shows and other opportunities. Craig said that he is hoping that the new software will be simpler and more seamless, the system we have now is a little older and the equipment is outdated, Randy Easter is working on a system that is cloud based and should make it easier to operate.

There will be a technology committee meeting on January 21st here at central office at 6pm to discuss future technology purchasing.

12.2 Adult Education – Robyn Raymond

A handout was provided to all board members. ITV enrollment has increased 35% since last fall. We are Work Ready certified and have 11 business partners working with us. Thank you Shari Ouellette for suggesting Carbonite. I have also handed out a list of our enrichments classes, we have some dance classes and 4 cooking classes. We are also sending out a district wide brochure. Our enrichment program has grown by 100%. We also have received a technology grant. Our Advisory Board is looking for two more community members. We held a holiday party in December here and had 42 families participate. This is part of our family literacy program. We will be starting to do these parties every other month to promote family literacy.

12.3 Facilities/Transportation – Ken Vining

A handout was given to Board members showing fuel prices since 2013/2014 along with what the rates would be if we locked in today for next year. We have had great weather so far, most cancelled trips have been ski trips. Busses have had some minor repairs, no freeze ups so far. Sometime within the next week or so we should find out if we are accepted for any bus purchases this year. As far as maintenance items, we have had several leaks at JES. Hopefully

the elevator will be up and running tomorrow. Just waiting for hookup from Otis. We use approximately 100,000 gallons of heating oil and 38,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

12.4 Special Services – Tina Collins

Ken Healey mentioned that we have started the ground running with the IEP coordinators. We are transitioning into those roles. Last week Cindy Paradis and I attended a Department of Education meeting in RSU 10 whose focus was transition plans. We will be implementing this plan with our staff on Tuesday. The regional directors have been working on the Marzano Evaluation to capture what special services teacher do. We will be doing a presentation to the Department of Education on January 26.

13. POLICY

13.1 Second Reading Policy – GCF – Professional/Instructional Staff Hiring

Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Jackie Knight to approve the second reading of policy GCF – Professional/Instructional Staff Hiring.

Vote: 13 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

13.2 Second Reading Policy – GCFA – Employee Social Media Privacy

Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Jackie Knight to approve the first reading of policy GCFA – Employee Social Media Privacy.

Vote: 13 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

14. OLD BUSINESS - None

15. NEW BUSINESS

15.1 Request for permission to conduct the 21st Annual Humanities Trip to New York City, Anne Weatherbee.

Motion by Jackie Knight and seconded by Mark Holt to give permission to conduct the 21st Annual Humanities Trip to New York City.

Vote: 13 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

16. APPOINTMENTS

17. OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 **Motion Mark Holt and seconded Shari Ouellette to investigate the school funding formula.**

Vote: 13 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Denise Rodzen asked for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to investigate the school funding formula.

Mark Holt, Cindy Young, Denise Rodzen, Tammy Frost, Amy McDaniel and Michael Morrell volunteered. Laurie Sanborn and Shari Ouellette volunteered to be back-ups if need be.

18. CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting will be on:

January 28, 2016 – Regular Board Meeting – 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jackie Knight and seconded by Cindy Young to adjourn at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth J. Healey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Kenneth J. Healey
Superintendent of Schools