

# SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 14th Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain School District Board of Directors  
For 2015-16 will be held

**Thursday, March 24, 2016 6:00 pm Spruce Mountain High School Cafeteria**  
**5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting**

## ~MINUTES~

Present: Doug DiPasquale, Tammy Frost, Mark Holt, Jackie Knight arrived at 6:12 pm, Amy McDaniel, Michael Morrell, Joel Pike, Shari Ouellette, Holly Richards, Denise Rodzen, Laurie Sanborn, and Cindy Young.  
absent: Michael Schaedler

Present: Trevor Doiron, Student Representative.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Denise Rodzen, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

**3. ATTENDANCE**  
**11 (Jackie Knight arrived at 6:12) Members Present**  
**1 (Michale Schaedler) Absent**  
**Trevor Doiron, Student Representative**

**4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA :** 15.1 will be 10.1

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
March 10, 2016 – Board Meeting minutes  
**Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Michael Morrell to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2016 regular Board Meeting minutes.**  
**Vote: 10 Yes 0 No 1 (Laurie Sanborn) Abstain**  
**1 Yes Student Representative Trevor Doiron**

**6. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**  
6.1 Retirement of Mary Stevens for the position of Kindergarten teacher at LES at the end of the 2015/2016 school year.  
**Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Cindy Young with to accept with regret the retirement of Mary Stevens from the position of Kindergarten teacher at LES at the end of the 2015/2016 school year. Denise Rodzen spoke of Mary's dedicated service to the district.**

**Vote: 11 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain**  
**1 Yes Student Representative Trevor Doiron**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**

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**8. BOARD COMMENTS - Trevor Doiron announced that last week he was elected president of the National Honor Society for the State of Maine.**

**9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -**

The following coaches have been recently hired:

Brian Dube, SMHS Baseball

Clint Brooks, SMHS Softball

Mark Stofan, SMHS Girls Varsity Tennis

Bill Acitelli, SMHS Boys Varsity Tennis

Bill Biliouris, SMHS Track Coach

Jay Lindsay, SMMS Track Coach

Amanda Gage-Cross, SMMS Track Coach

Chris Sagner, SMMS 8th Grade Baseball Coach

Melissa Dube, SMMS 8th Grade Softball

Kayla Coulombe, SMMS 7th Grade Softball

Robert Washington, SMMS 7 Grade Baseball

**10. BOARD CHAIR'S -**

10.1 Smart Robotics team is requesting permission to attend the First World's in St Louis, MO.

SMART Robotics is requesting permission to attend the FIRST World Championships in St. Louis, MO, April 27 - May 1, 2016. The team has been invited each of the last two years, but due to cost and logistics they only plan to attend every four years. Twenty six students and fifteen parents/mentors plan to attend.

Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Doug DiPasquale to allow Smart Robotics to go the the World's in St. Louis Mo.

**Vote:            11 Yes                    0 No                    0 Abstain**  
**1 Yes Student Representative Trevor Doiron**

Jackie Knight arrived at 6:12 pm.

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

**12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS**

12.1 Technology – Craig Suttie

I have handed out two pieces of paper regarding lap top insurance. One is from the Worth Ave Group and laptop insurance information from Oxford Hills School District. The Worth Ave. Group plan has a zero deductible with an annual premium of \$34,500, we would self insure. With this plan there would

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not be any fee to students. The Oxford Hills plan costs \$80 per student per year with a zero deductible.

Denise Rodzen stated that we can't afford to self insure. Denise Rodzen requested that Craig obtain the cost per student for a plan like Oxford Hills, we have fewer students so the cost may be less. Craig Suttie said that Mt. Blue and RSU 10 are self insured. Denise Rodzen said that Oxford Hills is not self insured.

Tammy Frost asked if the plan was \$34,500 annual fee with a zero deductible? It would be less if there was a deductible. We need to push parents to get insurance.

Doug DiPasquale asked about the equipment line in the budget of \$32,000 and asked if that line covered other equipment such as servers, etc. Craig Suttie replied Yes.

## 12.2 Adult Education – Robyn Raymond

We have just received final word from the CMCC that we will be offering business math starting May 25 and we still have slots available. We have administered 14 Hi Sets so far in March, 100% pass rate for Hi SET exams and 1 perfect score. 5 of our learners scored "College Ready". I could not be more pleased with program and with our Hi SET learners. We are looking at progressive measures for our Hi SET testing. We hope to pilot computer-based Hi SET testing in the Fall. Thanks to Craig and his crew for looking at all that entails. I will be attending a workshop in Maine at DOE helping align, Workforce opportunities and initiatives with adult basic curriculum. I hope to take that information and design curriculum with local businesses. 30 people have signed up for paint night at LaFleurs on April 29 from 5-9 pm, there are 10 spots left.

## 12.3 Facilities/Transportation – Ken Vining

Hope to begin spring cleanup next week. Hopefully we can begin getting the sport fields ready earlier than last year. One of our employees has had a bad accident, things are looking up, it is going to be a long haul for him, please pray for him. We have plenty of boxes.

## 12.4 Food Services – Dora York - absent

## 13. POLICY - None

## 14. OLD BUSINESS

### 14.1 Auditor Report out from Macpage

Jeff Hubert from Macpage thanked the school management and explained that we are external auditors and express opinions. The school management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws and regulations that pertain to School Administrative Units. Only minor adjustments needed to be made. There were no material weakness'. The financial controls of the district are strong. There are not issues with the accounting policies. The audit of federal

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awards expended found no issues or findings. Overall there are pretty positive results. The general fund revenue were ahead of the 3% cap on fund balances carried forward which was recently re-instituted by the state.

- 14.2 Executive Session to discuss contract/negotiations in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D).  
**Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette at 6:40 pm to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract/negotiations in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D).**

**Vote:                                    12 Yes                                    0 No                                    0 Abstain**

**back at 6:46 pm**

- 14.3 Consideration of the reconfiguration of Livermore Elementary School and Jay Elementary School.

**Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Michael Morrell to allow the reconfiguration of Livermore Elementary School and Jay Elementary School to be known as Spruce Mountain Primary School , Pre -K through Grade 2 and Spruce Mountain Elementary School, Grade 3 through Grade 5.**

**Cindy Young asked if we wait another year what would happen, why do you want to do it now?**

**Ken Healey replied that the decision was made based on the advise from teacher groups.**

**Joel Pike said that to do this in the middle of budget season is not the appropriate time. We need to look at whole package. Start times, bus times, sports I am still concerned about that. I really don't see why this is such a hurry after 5 years why there is not a plan. This is a concept, I am not sure if it is not the best for students, SAD 9 and Mt. Vernon have schools like LES and JES. The bottom line is we are here for the budget and we are asking about this side issue. Why would we want to add another variable? This should be separate and outside of the budget. As a board we need to step back and put into sub-committee.**

**Denise Rodzen replied that this is not a matter for a sub-committee of the Board.**

**Joel Pike said that as a reminder I have 10 minutes according to Roberts Rules.**

**Denise Rodzen replied that it is common courtesy**

**Joel Pike stated that he could make a motion**

**Denise Rodzen told Joel Pike that he needed to stay on point, nothing new is being added and you are circling back around. We need to make a decision.**

**Tammy Frost said that I think this goes back to Educational Policy. Mr. Healey has talked to administration and building representatives. This is not new. Joel you were not on the Board, it is the last piece that we need to do to bring all the children**

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together. Mr. Healey feels that this is the right time and I think we need to take this action now. We need to take a vote.

Joel Pike asked what would be put off during the summer in place of the move.

Ken Vining said that some painting may be put off.

Holly Richards asked if we go forward with this what is the time line, what would it look like, we need a plan and need to have the curriculum coordinator involved.

Mark Holt asked how are the teachers going to get this done, some work through the summer.

Ken Healey replied that I didn't say we would work over the summer, I will look to the administration of each building to come up with a plan for their teachers and bring that plan to me and I will bring the plan to you if the calendar needs to be changed.

Ken Vining replied that we have boxes now and staff can begin packing slowly now.

Ken Healey said that as I said at our last meeting, there may be some things like painting that may be put off but the process of cleaning is in the budget anyway and happens over the summer.

Doug DiPasquale asked how much teachers have been involved in this process.

Chris Hollingsworth replied that we have been sharing information with them. As far as a subcommittee to go forward, we need direction from the board. We are ready to go but do not want to move forward without direction.

Doug DiPasquale said so they have had little involvement?

Chris Hollingsworth said that no, this is not a new concept, this has been going on for years, please excuse the biblical reference but we are not building an arc. We are moving two schools. It can be done.

Judy Diaz said I don't understand why you don't get curriculum done before you juggle the kids.

Amanda Hersey said that I am prepared to move ahead, I am not sure what has happened in the last 5 years. I have met with all grade level teams and have a plan to move forward.

Shari Ouellette said that I think it would be easier to align if you have all the teachers in the same room as opposed to different schools.

Michael Morrell said that I would like to speak to sub-committee work, there is nothing worse than pouring hours and hours into a project and have it ripped from you. I can feel why those would be hesitant to do this work before they have a direction.

Jackie Knight said that one of my concerns is having the teachers be ready, I have talked to a couple of teachers and there is one school classroom that is 7 lessons behind.

Denise Rodzen said we are not going to talk about that, what I will say is that at consolidation the curriculum was not the same, when we were talking about putting them together there was kicking and screaming. The reality is that until they came together and started working together that is when things started to come into

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place. We don't expect it to be perfect. We need to start to allow the administration to do what is best, it is time to rip off the band aid. I see teachers who are capable to do this, the reality is it is educational policy and the superintendent could make this decision on his own. I have asked that it be put to a board vote so we can show we have their back. It does not have to be here, we want to be able to back him, the administration and our teachers.

Michael Morrell asked if he could ask a question, does that mean they are 7 days behind? I am currently 14 days behind my counterpart. Do I need to be in lock step with another teacher, I don't believe so. So I question this.

Doug DiPasquale asked if we could have a motion to say we want this for the 2017/2018 school year.

Denise Rodzen replied that you cannot encumber the next school board.

A teacher in the audience said that I agree the schools went kicking and screaming but there are some unique things about us. There are some things that need to be observed one of which was when the middle school came together it was in one building, maybe it was easier for them. I don't know how it was, I can tell you that in our jobs we teach 8 subjects. It is a huge umbrella. We need to be all together, how are we going to deliver this, do we use the same assessments, actually have classroom set up equally. We lost our GT program so we have taken it upon ourselves to go above and beyond.

Denise Rodzen said that the curriculum has not be aligned that is why we brought in a curriculum coordinator. Since it is the teachers curriculum why have meetings not occurred to put it together.

Teacher replied that we did not have time.

Denise Rodzen said that at this point it needs to have a board vote.

A teacher said that if the schools stay separate her class would have 16 students, if they come together there will be 21 students in her class.

Donna Labbe said that this is a very difficult time for elementary teachers, we really need some time, we have just had little pieces. This should happen, it can happen, we have had one meeting with administration it should be ongoing. I am not sure how it will go forward.

Rhonda Bean said that in all the discussion with teachers I don't ever remember anyone saying they are not behind reconfiguration but in this timeline. I think we are asking for time, give people a year to make a plan, we can make things work.

**Vote: Yes 7 (Laurie Sanborn, Holly Richards, Mark Holt, Shari Ouellette, Tammy Frost, Michael Morrell and Denise Rodzen)**

**No 5 (Doug DiPasquale, Cindy Young, Joel Pike, Jackie Knight and Amy McDaniel)**

**Yes Student Representative Trevor Doiron**

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- 14.4 Action on FY 17 Budget  
Motion that the Vote entitled, "Vote to call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Validation Referendum and to Authorized the notice of Amounts Adopted", be approved in the form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.
- 14.5 Signing of Warrant and Notice of Election that a referendum election to be held on April 26, 2016.
- 14.6 Signing of Notice of Public Hearing on the FY 17 Budget to be held on April 7, 2016 at Spruce Mountain Middle School at 23 Community Drive, Jay, ME.  
**Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Tammy Frost to move that the Vote entitled, "Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted," be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.**

## **VOTE TO CALL AND APPROVE THE WARRANTS FOR THE BUDGET MEETING AND THE VALIDATION REFERENDUM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE NOTICE OF AMOUNTS ADOPTED**

**VOTED: That the warrant for the Regional School Unit No. 73 (the "RSU") Budget Meeting presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved and that a RSU budget meeting be and is hereby called for Tuesday, April 7, 2016 for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the RSU for the 2016-2017 fiscal year;**

**That the Warrant and Notice of Election for the RSU Budget Validation Referendum presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved, and that a RSU budget validation referendum be and is hereby called for Tuesday, April 28, 2016 for the purpose of approving the budget adopted at the RSU budget meeting for the 2016-2017 fiscal year; and**

**That the form of Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting presented to this meeting be and is hereby approved, and that the Superintendent of Schools of the RSU is hereby authorized and directed to complete said Notice by adding the amounts approved by the voters of each expenditure category and the total school budget summary expenditure amount, all in accordance with the RSU budget meeting on April 7, 2016, and to cause copies of said notice, as completed, to be delivered to the municipal clerks of each municipality of the RSU for posting at the polling places for the 2016-2017 RSU budget validation referendum.**

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**Shari Ouellette asked if we vote yes are we saying yes to this budget?  
Denise Rodzen replied Yes. With this budget there would be a reduction in the town's contribution to the school budget of 4.8% for Jay, 3.37% for Livermore and .1% for Livermore Falls.**

**Vote:                    10 Yes                    2 (Shari Ouellette and Michael Morrell) No  
                             0 Abstain  
                             Yes Student Representative Trevor Doiron**

## **15. NEW BUSINESS**

15.1 Smart Robotics requesting to go to the Worlds. Moved to 10.1

## **16. APPOINTMENTS - None**

## **17. OTHER BUSINESS - None**

## **18. CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Special Board Meeting on:

April 7, 2016 – District Budget Meeting – 6:00 PM Spruce Mountain Middle School Cafeteria

Regular Board Meeting on:

April 14, 2016 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

**Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette to allow the Superintendent to pursue all necessary proceedings to have the confidential employees removed from the Managers/Directors Association.**

**Vote:                    12 Yes                    0 No                    0 Abstain  
                             Yes Student Representative Trevor Doiron**

## **19. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Michale Morrell and seconded by Amy McDaniel to adjourn at 7:41 pm.**

**Vote:                    12 Yes                    0 No                    0 Abstain  
                             Yes Student Representative Trevor Doiron**

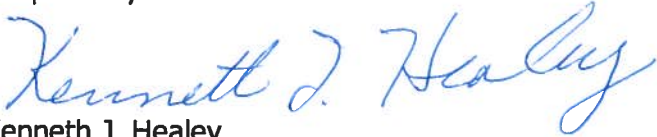


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Respectfully submitted:



Kenneth J. Healey

Superintendent of Schools