

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
The 16<sup>TH</sup> Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain School District Board of Directors  
For 2016-17 will be held

**Thursday, May 11, 2017 6:00 pm Cedar Street Conference Room**

~MINUTES~

Present: Doug DiPasquale, Tammy Frost, Dale Leblanc, Michael Morrell, Shari Ouellette, Joel Pike (arrived at 6:45) Cea Jay Pitcher, Denise Rodzen, Laurie Sanborn, Ann Schwab, Robert Staples and Cindy Young.

Absent: Holly Richards

Trevor Doiron, Student Representative Present

**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**

**12 Present (Joel Pike arrived at 6:45 pm)**

**1 (Holly Richards) Absent**

**1 Student Representative Present (Trevor Doiron)**

**4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

5.1 April 27, 2017 – Board Meeting minutes

**Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Doug DiPasquale to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2017 regular board meeting.**

**Vote:           9 Yes           0 No           3 Abstain (Michael Morrell, Ann Schwab, Robert Staples)**

**6. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 Retirement of Maggie Davis, Title 1 Literacy Teacher at Spruce Mountain Primary School at the end of the 2016/2017 school year.

**Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Cindy Young to accept with regret the retirement of Maggie Davis, Title 1 Literacy Teacher at Spruce Mountain Primary School at the end of the 2016/2017 school year.**

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**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nathan Harden, teacher and president of RSU 73 Education Association said he was here on behalf of Rob Taylor, middle school teacher, to present to the board budget information that Rob Taylor had gathered from various sources. Nathan Harnden said that Rob Taylor wanted to make sure that the facts are known and understood. The 2017/2018 school budget is \$745,078 less than last year's budget. The per student cost for RSU 73 are \$11,865 which is the lowest per student cost when compared to local districts. Local area schools range from \$13,000 to over \$15,000 per student. He further stated that we are trying to communicate with everyone. The association has put this information out so that everyone will come out to the district budget meeting with an informed mind. We are hoping to get the word out and support the budget.

**8. BOARD COMMENTS**

Doug DiPasquale mentioned that Joel Pike wanted him to mention that Mt. Blue has removed their late arrival Wednesday's and wondered how that would affect our students. Superintendent Healey replied that it will not affect our students.

Dale Leblanc said that Rob Taylor should be applauded for his effort compiling all the data presented to the Board.

**9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Unfortunately, we lost a very important member of our Spruce Mountain family. Darcy Bernier passed away recently and I would like to have a moment of silence.

As of May 5, 2017 our student population is 1451 PK – 12, SMPS 452, SMES 296, SMMS 285, and SMHS 418. (-4 from last report - 38 from the beginning of the year)

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

**Hires**

Katie Dube

SMMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Softball Coach

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Sherri Couture

SMES Drama Director

**Resignations**

Brittney Smith

SMPS Ed Tech II

I would like to thank Mary (Maggie) Davis for her many years of service to the combined school districts of SAD 36 and RSU 73. She has been steadfast and competent teacher. (Denise - Grant at 36 for 900K was in large part to Maggie.) She will be deeply missed for her caring approach to teaching.

As you recall Siemens Industry was the only organization to respond to our RFQ to perform and energy audit of our school district. They presented to the Board on April 13, 2017 outlining how they would accomplish the energy audit. With your permission I will be sending Siemens Industry a letter of Intent to conduct a performance based efficiency evaluation for all five RSU #73 school buildings (this includes Central Office). No objection was noted to the request to send a letter of intent to Siemens Industry. We are going to have a meeting on Monday to which I have invited the Board Chair.

Our District Budget Meeting will be held next Thursday May 18, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Spruce Mountain Middle School. I encourage everyone to come out and attend.

I will be attending the annual free Drummond and Woodsum School Law conference tomorrow in Freeport.

I'm on vacation from May 25, 2017 to May 31, 2017 visiting my daughter in Chicago. Kevin Harrington will sit in for me during the May 25, 2017 School Board Meeting.

**10. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT - None**

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

**12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS**

12.1 Curriculum – Amanda Hersey

The curriculum teams are concluding their meetings for the school year. We have completed vertical alignment for each content area. I will continue to work

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on feedback from the committees to complete horizontal alignment by grade level. We have begun to share the curriculum documents through google docs to allow for collaboration as that work continues throughout the remainder of the school year. These content standards will be critically important as we move toward Proficiency Based Education.

I recently met with the new teachers that participated in the new teacher training at the beginning of the year. They provided some helpful feedback on additional information that would be helpful to new teachers. Many of their ideas will be added to the new teacher training that is scheduled for this year. I have been working with the tech team as the administrator overseeing the technicians. Scott Ladd is here tonight and is the tech lead. I want to thank him and the other members of the team for all their hard work during this transition. I have a handout for you to provide information regarding repair of laptops. I wanted to inform you of two different options that we have for next year in regards to repairs. Because Kyle Richards has been Apple certified, we are able to repair devices here in the district instead of sending them out to be repaired. This options may save the district money. As the end of the year nears and we have final numbers on laptop repairs we will revisit this to make a plan for next year.

Doug DiPasquale asked how everything was going since the Technology Director left.

Amanda Hersey replied that she has taken over the administrative duties and the technicians have taken over the other duties.

## 12.2 SMHS – TJ Plourde

It is exam time! AP exams are going on now. This is a big study and prep time for our kids. We separated them from the rest of the school to be away from the noise. We have 100% participation. SAT scores are looking great!!! So far it looks like a jump of 200-300 points from the PSAT!

Two days ago had Camp Kiev come to our school and they worked with our freshman thanks to Gear Up who paid for them to come. They worked with the freshman on participation, engagement and leadership skills that will be able to stay with students well into the future.

We are getting ready for our Prom and yes I will be there. It is nice to see everyone there. This year it is at Black Mountain Ski Lodge. Next week you are all invited to the Honors Banquet on May 16<sup>th</sup>. 19 students will be honored. New board members please let me know by tomorrow if you would like to attend.

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**12.3 SMES – Chris Hollingsworth**

I would like to say thank you to the Hannaford in Jay. Six classes of 4<sup>th</sup> graders have each visited Hannaford to learn about the different jobs in the store. We have had a great teacher appreciation week, the PTO from the elementary and primary school did some great things for the teachers this week and it was well appreciated by everyone. Social media has finally reached SMES, lately our 5<sup>th</sup> graders are not being nice to each other on social media. We have sent home a letter and asked parents to talk to kids. We do have school educator from Safe Voices out of Farmington coming in to talk to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders about social media and what to do if someone is not being nice to you on social media.

Shari Ouellette asked if Mr. Hollingsworth had heard about a Netflix show called "13 Reasons". Mr. Hollingsworth said he was aware of the show but has not heard anyone talking about it at school. Superintendent Healey said he too had heard about it but did not want to call attention to the show. What children watch at home is the responsibility of the parents.

Robert Staples also mentioned the Blue Whale Challenge.

**12.4 SMPS – Kevin Harrington**

I am handing information out about the plant towers. We applied for and received a grant for \$1250, we did some additional fundraising so that we could have two towers. The plants grow without soil and I recently got to see one in action. We will hopefully supplement our pantry.

On May 24<sup>th</sup> grade 2 will have their Patriotic concert at the middle school, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm will be the 1<sup>st</sup> grade concert and Pre-K graduation will be on June 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a BBQ on June 14<sup>th</sup> and field day on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

NBC and the production crew from Red Nose Day came in last Sunday to set things up and were here all day Monday and Tuesday taping. We will know on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May if we are a part of the program.

Cindy Young asked if permission had been granted from parents and Mr. Harrington replied yes.

Doug DiPasquale asked Amanda Hersey when do we have to act on the laptop insurance. Amanda Hersey replied that she thought it was September but she would confirm.

**13. POLICY - None**

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**14. OLD BUSINESS**

- 14.1 Correction of "Warrant to Call the Regional School Unit No. 73 Budget Meeting".  
**Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette to correct the "Warrant to Call the Regional School Unit No. 73 Budget Meeting" to accurately reflect the location of the meeting.**

**Vote:            11 Yes            0 No            1 (Ann Schwab) Abstain**

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

- 15.1 Alan Chretien Adult Education student presentation.

I began working at Verso in 2000 and in 2015 with the mill lay off I was given the option of retraining through the TAA bill. I ended up at RSU 73 Adult Ed. After taking Casas tests I began working on getting my math scores up. (Joel Pike arrived at 6:45 pm)

Because of Betsey, Michelle and Robyn I will be completing the Lineman Program and graduating in May. The College Transition course through Adult Ed changed my life. Last year I spoke at the graduating class from Adult Ed and then recently I was invited to speak at the Hall of Flags at the statehouse about my experiences with the Adult Education program. MAEA President Nancy Allen asked if I would be willing to tell my story in Washington DC, which I recently did. I applied for and received a scholarship to go to Washington DC for two days where I met with Senator King, Senator Collins and others. It has been 18 years since I was in school. The Adult Education Program and the college transitions classes knocked the rust off of me and made a big difference in my life. I owe a great deal to Robyn, Michele and Betsey. After this experience I have totally different expectations for my kids, it trickles down. Adult Education was an awesome experience.

- 15.2 Snow Plow bid for 2017/2018 school year.

Superintendent Healey said that we went out to bid for snow plowing with three options. What you have before you is a bid from Castonguay's to plow snow for the district for next year. It was the only bid we received.

Dale Leblanc asked if we paid an extra \$150/hr. to remove snow.

Superintendent Healey replied yes I believe so.

Chair Rodzen said that we have talked to the towns and they do not want any part of it.

Tammy Frost asked how much we had to pay for the extra storms.

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Superintendent Healey said he will get that information.

Doug DiPasquale asked if there was anything in the contract about the price of gas.

Superintendent Healey said he will get that.

Chair Rodzen said that the Board should be prepared to vote at the next regular Board meeting.

Dale LeBlanc asked if we were satisfied with their performance.

Superintendent Healey said yes. We are pleased that they actually submitted a bid. This is for a one year contract. Over the last several years our cost has been \$85,000 for this new one year contract it is \$90,000.

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

**Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette at 6:58 pm to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract/negotiations in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6) (A).**

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

**Trevor Doiron left at 6:58 pm.**

**Return from Executive Session at 7:49 pm.**

**Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette to ratify the Cafeteria Workers contract for 2017 – 2020.**

**Vote:            11 Yes                    0 No                    0 Abstain**

**16. APPOINTMENTS**

**17. OTHER BUSINESS**

**18. CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

May 18, 2017 – District Budget Meeting – 6:00 PM Spruce Mountain Middle School Café  
May 25, 2017 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

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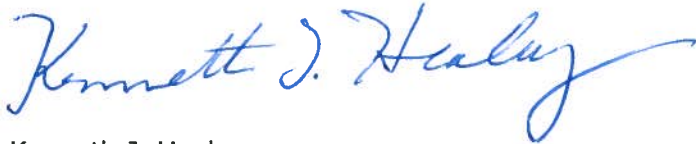
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**19. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Michael Morrell to adjourn at 7:52pm.**

**Vote:            11 Yes                                            0 No                                            0 No**

Respectfully submitted:



Kenneth J. Healey  
Superintendent of Schools