

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
The 4th Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain School District Board of Directors  
For 2017-18 will be held

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

~MINUTES~

Present: Doug DiPasquale, Tammy Frost, Sara Hughes, Shannon McDaniel, Michael Morrell, Joel Pike, Holly Richards, Denise Rodzen, Ann Schwab, Bob Staples.  
Absent: Laurie Sanborn, Dale Leblanc, Shari Ouellette,

**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**

**10 Present**

**3 (Laurie Sanborn, Dale Leblanc, Shari Ouellette) Absent**

**4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA - None**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

5.1 September 28, 2017 – Board Meeting minutes

**Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Tammy Frost to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2017 regular board meeting.**

**Vote: 9 Yes 0 No 1 (Bob Staples) Abstain**

**6. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE - None**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**

**8. BOARD COMMENTS - None**

**9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**As of October 6, 2017 our student population is 1454 PK – 12, SMPS 413, SMES 334, SMMS 296, and SMHS 411. (-9 from the last report)**

**You have a list of newly hired positions as well as a retirement in front of you. Stella Breton has been in the district for a long time and she will truly be missed.**

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**I met with our Legislative Representative last Friday to discuss concerns about the State Regionalization through the use of Regional Service Centers. Our contribution to help pay for this state initiative will be \$46 per student from the system wide account to the tune of about \$67K next year and an additional \$50 per student the year after for about \$73K. Leaving \$39 per student or \$57K to operate System-wide administration, which later could be reduced at the Commissioner's discretion. Basic concerns are: this will deplete the subsidy; shift the burden to local taxpayers, the loss of local control when regional service center takes on the some responsibilities, impossible to get out of the RSC and the ability to get the RSC approved by local communities. We now have ability for local control, currently if the school district is not satisfied with its superintendent, the board could remove them, it would be more difficult under this arrangement. I have had very lengthy discussions with two groups of superintendents and we are all very frustrated in the timeframe that they want this to happen. The deadline is November 30. People are interested in some regionalization and you already did that in 2011, but now that does not count. I am reaching out to our representatives at the state level. I believe we will be forced to regionalize something. The other big concern is about local control with the regionalization, if we took all our special education and regionalized it would be very difficult, you would be responsible for the funding but would not have the same control you have now.**

**Bob Staples stated that this needs to be tabled at this time**

**Tammy Frost said we have seen what has happened with standards based learning being changed again. I see a lot of school districts have the same struggles as us.**

**Superintendent Healey said the law has not changed, they will be rewriting the rules. Standards based learning is what we are going to do.**

**Chair Rodzen said that by getting rid of the superintendent layer, like New York or Florida, you have actually created a new layer with assistant superintendents. There are some things that can be regionalized, there are some that make sense and some that make no sense at all.**

**Superintendent Healey said at the upcoming conference the superintendents and school boards will be making very strong public statements against regionalization. We need to be reaching out to our local officials to give them input. They may not know what the impact is.**

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**Ann Schwab asked are they taking into consideration the rural nature of our state.**

**Superintendent Healey replied I don't think...we are giving up \$67,000 next year and \$73,000 the following, we are going to further impact the haves and have nots, in more affluent communities they may just still have a superintendent as the contribution will not affect them as much.**

**Chair Rodzen said I'm not sure that they have looked at what this will actually look like. Governor LePage sees the savings of reducing superintendents but we will need assistant superintendents. The whole program needs to be looked at.**

**Bob Staples said I have actually handful of teaching friends and an administrator friend in Florida and they are not happy with how it works.**

**Chair Rodzen said if you are the superintendent for Aroostook County, Monday you might be doing paperwork, Tuesday driving bus, Wednesday plowing. In a lot of these areas you have multiple hats are worn by the Superintendent.**

**Doug DiPasquale said I think we should still look at opportunities to regionalize other elements.**

**Superintendent Healey said ultimately, we need more time to do this right.**

**I will be attending the Annual Superintendent and School Board Conference in Augusta from October 25-27, 2017. I need to know tonight who else from the board plans on attending other than Mike and Denise. The names have to be registered NLT tomorrow.**

**I will be chairing a NEASC visit to Charlestown High School in Boston from November 5-8, 2017. Scott Albert will be acting Superintendent in my absence.**

**I will be on vacation from November 15, 2017 to November 24, 2017. Scott Albert will be acting Superintendent in my absence.**

**10. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Chair Rodzen said that for those Board Members going to the conference we are in District 6.**

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

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**12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS**

**12.1 Dora York – Food Service**

Everything is going great in Kitchen land. We have served approximately 1350 more breakfasts this year than last year. I have been busy sending out reminders to parents about getting their free/reduced forms turned in. Right now district wide we are at 55% overall with the Primary at 58%, Elementary at 55%, Middle at 56% and High at 51%. Tomorrow I am going to my first Capital Area Bid meeting. We have 22 or 23 districts in our group. We will start the process of putting together market baskets to go out to bid on groceries, milk and bread.

Holly Richards asked about the fruit and veggie grant.

Dora York replied that it is separate from breakfast and lunch program and is for all students. The fruit and veggies are put out in the hallway for all the kids.

**12.2 Tina Collins – Special Services**

I have updates on Professional Development workshop day offerings. For CPI training 12 participants (16 total this year to date); Safety Care 12 participants (11 total this year to date); Lively Letters for Pre K, K and special education 17 participants and Mandated Reporter with Doug Saunders.

4 resource teachers are piloting a research based reading intervention program this year: Corrective Reading. The teachers had training over the summer and purchased materials. They are obtaining baseline data now to assess growth as the year progresses.

Superintendent Healey forwarded a letter from me October 5. We have had significant expenditures this year because of change in local conditions. One of the reasons is the unexpected costs for students that have moved into the area, and have very expensive programs. Every year this happens but the sheer number of new students was a surprise, the numbers are shocking. We are doing our best to reallocate staff and we are looking at our budget to see where we might be able to defer. We have an obligation to our students and you are going to see that reflected in our budget at the end of the year.

Chair Rodzen asked if when a new student transfers in do you have to do another evaluation.

Tina Collins asked if the Chair was talking about an assessment for actual evaluation. We do an assessment and look at the IEP of each new student coming in and we take a look at what we can do and what we can't do. We meet with the parents. If a student moves from out of state we do have to a full evaluation.

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Tammy Frost said a lot of special education students get subsidy from state level, is there anything we can do, like pleading to the state.

Chair Rodzen said if the kids transfer into this school the money follows the student.

Tina Collins said we have explored a number of avenues.

Superintendent Healey said we have subs helping but that is a temporary fix until we can make certain that we can shift personnel. It may cause us to come to you and ask to add another person.

Bob Staples asked if there is any federal money or Medicaid money

Tina Collins replied yes and yes. If the students are Maine care eligible and if the parents agree we can bill Maine care but the payment is a tiny fraction of the expense but it helps.

Joel Pike said that I see every town going through these types of troubles when you talk about reallocation do you see anything that will be impacting other parts of the budget.

Tina Collins replied that every year the DOE comes up with a number, here is your allocation, they give us guidelines of what we can and can't use that money for, we can use it to supplement but not supplant. The majority of that grant is eaten up by staff, we chose to use it for direct staff support. We had no carryover funds in federal budget this year.

SWIM Team viewing reminder will be on October 19<sup>th</sup> at UMF.

**12.3 Robyn Raymond – Adult Education**

We held our orientation for the Certified Medical Assisting course on September 25. We had 37 attend orientation and 56 people reached out with the intent to participate. We have accepted 16 in our first cohort. Classes will begin October 19 here at Cedar Street from 5:30-8:30 PM every Tuesday and Thursday until February. In addition to this, we started a class that specifically focuses on applied math so people aspiring to work in the medical field will be able to practice real world problems they may need to solve in a clinical setting. We started tonight from 4:15 – 5:30 PM every Thursday.

Maine's Adult Education programs are facing a major funding issue because Governor LePage is withholding \$8,000,000 for workforce innovation and opportunity. I have written to the Governor, met with Representative Tina Riley. This has a huge impact on our program. With everything that is happening at Verso this is devastating. I was asked to present at the state level on October 20 in Belfast to share our student-centered approach to college transitions and how our data reshaped state-led decisions regarding college access. Also, Maine

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Public Radio reached out to me yesterday to do a story on us. Finally, I am going on a tour of Origins in Farmington tomorrow and will be working to offer an industrial stitching class.

12.4 Ken Vining – Facilities/Transportation

In Transportation we have had a couple of major repairs, Bus #16 lost its transmission Monday, we will have it repaired ASAP. Bus #32, our major special needs bus issues with turbo and particulate filter, these are both very costly. We finished up on Bus Training at the elementary this week 3-5. We seem to have more behavior problems early on. With the older kids we have stressed the 7 basic rules and we have also passed out the actually policy to have children take home to parents. Hopefully it will be an eye opener for some of them. My biggest problem is keeping your hands to yourself.

In Facilities new signs went up for Spruce Mountain Primary School and paving out back of the high school on the culvert that was replaced and on corner of Tiger Drive and Community Drive. The estimated cost to have poles and new light fixtures (not LED do not recommend for us) installed at the football field is \$60,479.00. If you decided to do we could do half and half over two years, or do not do evening games. One pole really needs to be replaced.

Thomas Seekins and group from Siemens toured all buildings last Friday with several contractors along to get firm pricing. Yesterday Elmer Arbogast the project manager went through all boiler rooms again. Mr. Seekins believes within 2-3 weeks they will have some figures/proposals for you to decide where we go from here.

Tammy Frost asked if that quote was for 4 poles and if we just did one pole would the price be 25% of the bid.

Ken Vining replied that we would put it out to bid.

Doug DiPasquale asked if Siemens was contacted.

Ken Vining replied that it is something we can do

Doug DiPasquale said to go back to Siemens to see if they can look at it.

Chair Rodzen asked what we need to do to change the name of Tiger Drive in Jay.

Ken Healey replied that we would have to petition the town that, if that is the will of the board I would look into it.

Joel Pike asked if Ken Vining had any plans for that wooden structure outside the high school.

Ken Vining replied that he did not.

Joel Pike commented that it is looking pretty bad.

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Doug DiPasquale asked if he was still having problems about speeding.  
Ken Vining said that Jim Shink sent out an email, it is not as bad as it was. If we see speeding we let the principal know if we know who was driving

**13. POLICY - None**

**14. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

15.1 Presentation by Karen Barnes – Ph.D. dissertation.

Karen Barnes  
PhD in Social Work- Criminal Justice Specialization  
Walden University

**Dissertation Title:** Help-Seeking Preferences of Adolescents in a Rural Area

**Sample Population:** Male and female students in grades 9-12 at Spruce Mountain High School.

**Purpose of Study:** The purpose of this quantitative study will be to examine help-seeking preferences of adolescent males and females 14 to 18 years of age who live in a rural area. Specifically, this study will determine whether members of this group prefer to seek psychological support through formal or informal avenues, online or in person, or not at all after taking into account their gender, appraisal of their well-being, and their ability to cope. In order to reach this vulnerable group, it is essential to understand how they prefer to seek help.

**Survey Design**

- Quantitative
- 3 surveys merged into one document (help-seeking, coping, and appraisal of well-being)
- Students will take survey online
- Takes approximately 30-40 minutes to complete

**Anticipated time frame:** After completion of proposal and receipt of Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Estimating beginning to mid-January 2018.

**Potential benefits of study:** This study will provide information about how adolescents in a rural area prefer to seek help for emotional problems. This will help improve interventions.

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Ken Healey said that once Karen Barnes has the actual survey she will be seeking approval from me and the board.

**16. APPOINTMENTS - None**

**17. OTHER BUSINESS - None**

**18. CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

October 18, 2017 – Special Board Meeting – 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

October 26, 2017 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Sara Hughes to adjourn at 7:35 PM.**

**Vote:                      13 Yes                      0 No                      0 Abstain**

Respectfully submitted:



Kenneth J. Healey  
Superintendent of Schools