

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The 8th Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain School District Board of Directors
For 2017-18 will be held

Thursday, January 11, 2018 6:00 pm Cedar Street Conference Room

Present: Doug DiPasquale, Tammy Frost, Sara Hughes arrived at 6:11 pm, Dale Leblanc, Shannon McDaniel, Michael Morrell, Shari Ouellette, Joel Pike, Denise Rodzen, Holly Richards, Ann Schwab and Robert Staples.

Absent: Laurie Sanborn (resigned)

Present Student Representatives: Scott Jackson and Orion Schwab

~MINUTES~

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rodzen called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

3. ATTENDANCE

12 (Sara Hughes arrived at 6:11 pm) Present
1 (Laurie Sanborn – resigned) Absent
2 Student Representatives Present

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA - None

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5.1 December 14, 2017 – Board Meeting minutes

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 regular board meeting with changes.

Vote: 9 Yes 0 No 2 (Joel Pike and Shannon McDaniel) Abstain
2 Student Representatives Yes

6. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE - None

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

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8. BOARD COMMENTS

Tammy Frost thanked the Bjorn Family for the \$450,000 donation to Foster Tech. Even though Foster Tech is not in our district, it will affect our children. This donation is to fund a pre-engineering program.

Chair Rodzen read a letter to the editor from Dana Cummings that was in the January 11, 2018 Sun Journal advising Livermore and Livermore Falls residents to consider leaving the district. The letter further stated that as Jay's value continues to drop like a rock, Livermore and Livermore Falls will have to pick up the slack to keep the RSU going. Chair Rodzen said the letter was not accurate and self-serving. Chair Rodzen stated that Dana Cummings happens to own two school buildings in Livermore Falls. She continued stating that if the valuation in Jay decreases, they would start receiving more money from the state.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As of January 5, 2018 our student population is 1450 PK – 12, SMPS 417, SMES 330, SMMS 302, and SMHS 401. (-2 from the last report)

You have a list of newly hired positions and retirement in front of you.

Did receive notice that the Ed Tech and Secretaries have approved the tentative contract. I will bring that tentative contract forward to the board for your consideration during our next school board meeting January 25, 2018.

Teacher Negotiations will begin on Monday, January 22, 2018.

(Sara Hughes arrived at 6: 11 pm)

Later in tonight's agenda you will consider including the Business Manager under the RSU 73 Maine PERS PLD retirement program. I would recommend that you authorize this action as we need board approval. We recently hired our Business Manager who was under the Maine PERS PLD and it seems fair that we open up the PLD to add this position. This also stems from the fact that we have said many times that the Business Manager and Technology Director positions are confidential positions and should not be a part of the bargaining unit. You all authorized me to pursue having those positions legally withdrawn from the bargaining unit and that cannot happen until April. I do not

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want to disadvantage in any way our Business Manager or any other future Business Manager. I encourage you to vote affirmatively.

I will be at the annual winter superintendent's conference next Thursday and Friday January 18 & 19, 2018.

10. BOARD CHAIR'S

Chair Rodzen reported that she and Superintendent Healey had received a letter from Laurie Sanborn resigning her position on the School Board due to her work schedule.

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette to accept with regret Laurie Sanborn's letter of resignation.

Vote: 12 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
2 Student Representatives Yes

Tomorrow Superintendent Healey will contact the Livermore Falls town officials to let them know we are looking for someone to fill that seat.

Also, I wanted to let you know we had talked about regionalization Saturday at the Maine Department of Education State School Board Meeting. There were 25 applications for regionalization and 19 were approved. They are progressing forward but at the same time they realize they have not thought the whole process through. The other thing we talked about was providing services for children age 3- 5 needing special education services because of disabilities and developmental delays. We currently provide services for children 4 and older.

Shannon McDaniel asked what is happening with CDS.

Chair Rodzen replied that CDS will be working with children birth to age 2 and school districts will work with children beginning at age 3

Shannon McDaniel ask how does the funding work for that.

Chair Rodzen replied that they don't know yet.

Tammy Frost asked if for the 3 year olds program would it be just the ones that need services.

Chair Rodzen replied that just children with disabilities.

Tammy Frost added that I don't think there is enough staff for this.

Doug DiPasquale asked where the closest regionalization plan that was approved was.

Chair Rodzen replied that 25 applied and 19 were approved but we do not know who was approved.

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11. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

12.1 Dora York – Food Service

Everything is cruising along with the kitchen. As the superintendent mentioned I have a retirement in food service. Linda Beaulieu will be retiring at the end of the year, she has been working here for 35 years!

I will be attending the Maine school nutrition conference on 24 and 25 of the month.

12.2 Tina Collins – Special Services – Excused

12.3 Robyn Raymond – Adult Education – Excused

12.4 Ken Vining – Facilities/Transportation

Facilities – All has gone as well as can be expected, this time of year is tough on our floors with constant tracking in of snow, salt and sand. The crew has spent plenty of time shoveling, snow-blowing, sanding and salting walkways and entrances. As well as cleaning off busses. One good thing is, most of the snow has been light and fluffy.

On December 28th we had a hands on training with a trainer from Clean-O-Rama on locker rooms and floors with tile and grout. We did both the boys and girls rooms at the high school. I think Mr. Plourde would agree they are much cleaner and how much better the smells were in both locker rooms.

We had several of our new employees learn while they performed a scrub and re-coat on Jamie Robinson's room at the high school.

My intent with all this training is to create a cleaning chart that lays out from beginning to end of how to perform the task and what chemicals to use and during each vacation assign teams certain areas to be cleaned thoroughly, generally bathrooms or lockers.

From our safety committee meetings we were told that there was a chance to obtain some money through a Homeland Security grant. Tim Hardy, head of EMA for Franklin County has said we've been approved for a base radio at the high school, (other schools have it already) Night Lock is a lockdown device for the elementary school and hemorrhage kits. These kits continue bandages with ointment on them that helps clot wounds, we will get at least 4 kits.

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Transportation – Overall things have gone well, the cold weather over the past couple weeks has certainly caused some problems. January 2 several busses stopped due to frozen fuel lines. Our newer busses appear to have given us the biggest headaches overall. We started the buses on Friday, added additive, started up well but froze up down the road.

Next week we have a 30 hr. driver going out for an extended period due to surgery.

Our 20 hr. driver has turned in her resignation as of March 30, 2018 and moving to Florida. So we will be moving some personnel around and hopefully be able to find a 20 hr. bus driver by March 30th.

Holly Richards said we are very lucky to have Shawn Keene in the transportation department, she has helped me with getting things that are left behind on the busses.

13. POLICY - None

14. OLD BUSINESS - None

15. NEW BUSINESS

15.1 Auditor MacPage presentation.

Jeff Hubert, principal at MacPage and Danielle Tibbetts as the lead auditor made a presentation to the school board. The overall result was a clean report, the highest level of experience. We did not report any weakness. The letter that we write covers accounting policies, estimates, disclosures nothing of significance to report out there. Mr. Hubert reported that the District is in a better spot today as you start to move forward to FY 19 than last year. You need to see where you are today and project where you are going to end the year. This will help you move forward. Overall the district is in good shape with revenues ahead of budget by \$213,000 and expenses under budget by \$693,000 for this budget year.

Chair Rodzen said that we did a good job with the budget freeze last year, because of actions early on, that was a key factor for \$693,000. This would not have happened if we did not have a budget freeze.

Mr. Hubert said that we are in a much more comfortable position to be in for coming into the budget season.

15.2 Consideration of including Business Manager under RSU 73 Maine PERS PLD.

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Superintendent Healey said that imperative that we support this.

**Motion by Robert Staples and seconded by Ann Schwab to include
Business Manager under RSU 73 Maine PERS PLD.**

Vote: 12 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
2 Student Representatives Yes

16. APPOINTMENTS - None

17. OTHER BUSINESS - None

18. CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Building and Grounds will be meeting on January 16th at 4:30 pm and 24th at 4:00 pm
Teacher Negotiations will be on January 22 at 5:30 pm
January 25, 2018 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

19. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Holly Richards to adjourn at 7:07
pm.**

Vote: 12 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
2 Student Representatives Yes

Respectfully submitted:



Kenneth J. Healey
Superintendent of Schools