

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 13th Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain Board of Directors
For 2017-18 will be held

Thursday, April 12, 2018 6:00 pm Cedar Street Conference Center

~MINUTES~

Present: Alphonso Barker, Doug DiPasquale, Tammy Frost, Sara Hughes, Dale Leblanc, Shannon McDaniel, Michael Morrell, Shari Ouellette, Joel Pike, Holly Richards, Denise Rodzen, and Robert Staples.

Absent: Ann Schwab

2 (Scott Jackson) (Orion Schwab) Student Representative Absent

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

1 (Ann Schwab) Absent

2 Student Representatives Absent

4. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

13.2 Change from Scott Albert to Ken Vining

15.6 Cancelled

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

5.1 March 20, 2018 – Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Shari Ouellette to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018 regular board meeting.

Vote: 8 Yes 0 No 4 (Shannon McDaniel, Holly Richards, Robert Staples, and Alphonso Barker) Abstain

6. **COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 Resignation of Brian Fielding, SMHS Social Studies Teacher

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Tammy Frost to accept the resignation of Brian Fielding, SMHS Social Studies Teacher.

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Vote: 12 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Audience member Terry Norris spoke of concerns about one of the proposed calendars. Audience member Linda Flagg expressed concerns about proposed 19 half days of schools.

Audience member Amanda Ricci reiterated concerns about calendar and students going to Foster Tech.

Board Chair Rodzen spoke about calendars.

8. BUDGET

9. BOARD COMMENTS

Dale Leblanc said thank you to those who contacted me through email and phone calls. Joel Pike gave a shout out to the Smart Robotics team at Boston University for the district championships. They are part of 16 teams competing. Shannon McDaniel welcomed new Board member Alphonso Barker.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As of April 6, 2018 our student population is 1452 PK – 12, SMPS 421, SMES 333, SMMS 302, and SMHS 396. (-1 from the last report)

We have a Building and Grounds committee meeting on April 23, 2018 @ 4:30 PM in the Central Office to discuss the RFP funding bids and contract for energy audit improvements.

I would like to thank all the community members who came out last Thursday, April 5, 2018 @ the Middle School to vote on the proposed 2018-2019 School Budget. I look forward to the budget being finalized on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 when the three towns will vote on the School Budget Referendum. I strongly encourage everyone to come out and vote and have a say.

I will be taking some vacation time next week from April 17-19, 2018. I will be available through text, email or phone call if an emergency arises.

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11. BOARD CHAIR'S

Chair Rodzen said there seems to be conflicting ideas about what the board does and does not vote on, we pulled out an old policy that was presented to the Policy Committee in September of 2017. The committee chair needs to have a policy committee meeting.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

13. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

13.1 TJ Plourde – SMHS

We have had SAT testing this past week and we had ASVAB testing today and we had a lot of students who came in. The kids at the end of the testing get to see and understand where their aspirations and interest levels lie. The Smart Robotics team are out at Boston University. You will be getting invitations for the honors banquet, scholarship night and other events in the coming days. Tammy Frost asked if the Board will be getting a NEASC report. Principal Plourde said they will get to see the report when he gets it.

13.2 Ken Vining – Transportation and Facilities Maintenance –

We are extremely busy preparing for all the end of year activities and graduation. Along with other items (lockdown devices and stop the bleed kits) that I mentioned we had received from a Homeland Security grant, I was notified last week that we were approved for a base radio, that will be installed at the high school next Tuesday. Next week our main focus will be on preparing our baseball and softball fields, racking and sweeping our grounds but most importantly painting the six rooms at the middle school that were damaged from a water leak

Transportation –

As always we have become extremely busy with transporting our high school/middle school spring sports teams. One thing that certainly adds to this is the fact that all of our tennis and track meets have to be held away since we don't have a useable tennis court or track in our district.

Chair Rodzen said the track is not regulation. Principal Plourde said a number of years ago a study was done to fix the track which had a hefty cost. Chair Rodzen asked that Principal Plourde send her that information.

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Doug DiPasquale asked if any local contractors want to bid on the Siemens project how do they do that?

Superintendent Healey said they need to contact Siemens directly.

Dale Leblanc asked how many track meets would be held at home.

Principal Plourde said 2 or 3 a year.

Joel Pike said that to be a regulation tennis court you do not need 5 courts.

Principal Plourde said you only need 3, you can do it with 2.

Ken Vining continued that along with sports schools are trying to fit in their end of the year field trips. Our bus drivers will be going to Mt. Blue next Friday for a day of bus training and a chance to compete in the driving skills if they choose.

13.3 Chris Hollingsworth – SMES

Tomorrow we are finishing up state testing, the kids will have a little break before spring testing. We do some end of the month incentives for the children. There are two finalists for Teacher of the Year in our district. Jessica Ellingwood a Math teacher at the high school and Tammy Lindsey who is the Art teacher in my building.

13.4 Kevin Harrington – SMPS

A few good things have happened recently, Wayne of Maine came to the school as was phenomenal, tomorrow is movie day, and the whole school will head up to Farmington.

Kindergarten registration was completed and we have 70 children enrolled so far, that number will grow.

Pre-k registration will be held April 25 and May 2.

The NED show is coming up on May 4th.

Patriotic concert Grade 2 will be on May 23rd at 6 pm at SMMS.

We had a couple of parents who will be building a club house for the students, it is happening as we speak. The building is happening off site. When it is brought over there will be some pieces that they will be built on site for the children to see how that happens.

We have 210 boys 211 girls currently.

NWEA testing will begin after vacation.

13.5 Amanda Hersey – Curriculum Coordinator and Technology

I would like to thank all staff that assisted with EmPower Me State Assessment.

This will end tomorrow. Once returning from vacation, grade 5, 8, and 11 will

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complete the State Science Assessment and we will also begin NWEA assessment.

Also returning from vacation, the science curriculum committee will be meeting. Last, I would like to report a follow up to the evaluations from the regional workshop day that was held March 23. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and plans are underway to offer a similar professional development day next year.

Superintendent Healey said there were 750 educators there, 90 different sessions were offered with 75 presenters. We received over 500 evaluation returns with 95% of those returns rating the workshop incredible. Over 100 people have indicated that they would like to present next year.

13. POLICY - None

14. OLD BUSINESS

14.1 Draft 2018/2019 School Year Calendar

Principal Hollingsworth said he was a big catalyst in bringing forward the Option 2 Calendar. I am the one that came up with this calendar. I would like to talk about why. This calendar actually favors the elementary, primary and middle school and does not necessarily favor the high school. We talked to teachers and the union they came back and said they wanted longer time to work on professional development. As the author of this I did not envision this controversy. If I had known it I probably would not have brought it forward, we have been able to work with the other calendar in the past, and I would be fine if you go with the other calendar.

Discussion continued between the school board and members of the school administration.

Motion by Robert Staples and seconded by Shari Ouellette to accept Option 1 for the 2018/2019 School Year dated 2.1.18.

Vote: 12 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

15. NEW BUSINESS

15.1 Approval of SMHS Senior Prom

Teacher Diane Maurais addressed the board letting them know she forgot to bring forward the request for the 2018 Prom. The Prom will be held at the Governor Hill Mansion in Augusta with a Great Gatsby theme on May 26.

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Motion by Doug DiPasquale and seconded by Robert Staples to approve the Prom at Governor Hill Mansion in Augusta on May 26.

Vote: 11 Yes 1 (Shari Ouellette) No 0 Abstain

- 15.2 Deb Roberts presentation on Hollandstrong Community Foundation
Thank you for allowing me time on your busy agenda tonight. I am here tonight representing the Hollandstrong Community Foundation. This 501c (3) non-profit foundation was created in memory of my son, Michael. If there is one thing positive that I learned after going through this experience, it was how much love and support these communities provide for anyone who is going through a life changing event such as our family did. This foundation was created to provide our family with an avenue to give back to the communities that supported us during and after the El Faro tragedy. The foundation's mission is to provide opportunities that will foster our communities' youth and give them opportunities for growth in the area of academics and sports. On the academics side, we have been awarding scholarship annually for the past two years to graduating senior and are gearing up for year three coming in June.
To the athletics end, sports were an integral part of Michael's high school experience. To honor his memory, I'd love to be able to give back to the community in areas that I know he would be proud of! So over the past couple of years I have been working with a committee made up of folks representing both the community and the school district to develop a conceptual plan to improve all of the High School's athletic facilities. I have provided you with a copy of a concept drawing showing the improvements that the committee recommends. Of course, the School District has the ultimate authority of what improvements are done to your athletic fields and you will have to approve any specific work to be done.
Our ultimate goal is a lofty one so we've broken it down into several phases. Our recommended first phase is to raise funds to replace the tennis courts located near Spruce Mountain Elementary School. The existing tennis courts haven't been used in several years due to their poor condition. Tennis is a life-long sport that not only students, but also community members enjoy participating.
Tonight, I'm looking for your concept approval of this proposed project before moving forward too far into the fund raising and grant writing process. When the funding is secured, the Foundation will work together with the School District

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to develop the next steps of approving the final plans and to follow through with the work. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to take questions.

Chair Rodzen said that the Board has a rule that if we are presented with something that needs a vote on one evening we will vote on it at the next meeting. Our next meeting is April 26.

15.3 Snow Day Make-Up Proposal

Superintendent Healey said presently the district has a total of 9 snow days where the school district was closed because of bad weather. Chapter 125 Section 6.02s, subsection C, allows school administrative units to extend the school day by one hour for up to 25 days in a school year. Five one-hour extensions may be counted as one school day under this provision. The RSU 73 School Board first needs to approve the plan and revise the calendar and then the Commissioner of Education needs to be informed of the approved plan. I met and consulted with teachers and education tech/secretary association on March 21, 2018 and March 28, 2018 and the following is proposed for the Board of Director's consideration.

That RSU 73 be authorized to make up 4-5 school days by extending the school day by one hour each day over a 4-5 week period. The extended school days will start after April Vacation on Monday, April 23, 2018 and can go no later than Friday, May 25, 2018.

My goal is if we do not have another snow day to make up 4 snow days which will bring the last student day to June 14 and the teacher last day to June 15. If we added the days to the end of the calendar, the last student day would be June 20 and the teacher last day would be June 21. The majority of the teachers would prefer to add the days to the calendar, I felt it was important to make up as many days, as it can be very hot in June and we do not have any air conditioning in the buildings.

Discussion between the Board of Directors and the Superintendent.

Superintendent Healey; Board Chair Rodzen; Assistant Board Chair Michael Morrell; Nathan Harnden, President of RSU 73 Education Association and Julie Taylor, Vice President of RSU 73 Education Association met to work out a plan to make up the snow days.

Motion by Michael Morrell and seconded by Robert Staples that starting May 1 to extend school days on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday by one hour ending on May 31. On the Wednesday's that extension will

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happen at the beginning of the school day. Teacher professional development time would be added at the end of the day on Wednesday.

Vote: 12 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

- 15.4 Consideration of substitute pay adjustment based upon minimum wage increase
Superintendent Healey reported that we discovered as a result of minimum wage change we were not in compliance. We did bring forward to the Board the substitute pay scale last year and substitute teacher and educational technician pay was increase. This proposed scale will keep pace with the minimum wage changes through 2020.

The substitute pay for bus drivers and monitors is an increase and we are hoping to attract more drivers and monitors with this increase. We have not had any success in drawing substitute drivers into the district. I met with the Director of Transportation and he made suggestions. Hopefully this increase will attract a pool of drivers to keep our students safe. For this year we project an increase of \$16,000 for teaching and educational technicians and we project \$12,000 increase for future years. The projected increase for bus monitors would be \$2,300, custodians \$1,981.

Shari Ouellette said are we really paying secretarial subs only minimum wage, why are we paying bus monitors more than secretaries.

Superintendent Healey said we don't need secretarial substitutes as often. We don't have bus monitors, personally I would not be opposed to increasing the secretarial substitute pay.

Motion by Doug DiPasquale and seconded by Michael Morrell to accept the Substitute/Bus Monitor Pay Rates as presented.

Vote: 11 Yes 0 No 1 (Shari Ouellette) Abstain

- 15.5 EMBRACE Grant Award review
Amanda Hersey, Curriculum Coordinator presented the review.
The Maine Department of Ed offered a grant opportunity for Funds for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services (FEDES). This grant was intended to assist districts interested in collaborating on a local initiative to improve student achievement through an efficient delivery of education programs and services.

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From our work with the WMEC, there was a collective interest from 7 other districts to collecting and analyzing school districts graduation standards.

- This work would help our transient students who move in and out of schools.
- Enhanced communication focused on student proficiency levels
- Improved parent communication
- Decreased transition time for students moving among districts
- Shared resources among regional school districts
- Regional planning and professional development around similar standards.

We completed the grant and did receive approval for this money to be awarded and for RSU 73 to serve as the fiscal agent for this grant. We will be posting for this stipend position within the next few weeks and the goal is to have the work completed within six months for the 8 schools to review. This is another example of the benefits of the WMEC working in the best interest of students.

EMBRACE – Enabling Maine Students to Benefit from Regional and Coordinated approaches to education.

16. APPOINTMENTS - None

17. OTHER BUSINESS - None

18. CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 26, 2018 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 PM Cedar Street Conference Room

The Board Chair reminded everyone about School Board etiquette.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Holly Richards to adjourn at 8:39pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Kenneth J. Healey
Superintendent of Schools