

**SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
The 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain Board of Directors  
For 2018-19 was held

**Thursday, January 31, 2019 6:00 pm Spruce Mountain Middle School Cafe**  
**Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 pm**

~MINUTES~

Present: Doug DiPasquale, Tammy Frost, Sara Hughes (arrived at 6:09 pm), Steven Langlin, Dale Leblanc, Shannon McDaniel, Michael Morrell, Shari Ouellette, Joel Pike, Phoebe Pike (arrived at 6:07 pm), Ann Schwab and Robert Staples  
Absent: Denise Rodzen,  
2 Student Representatives: Scott Jackson (arrived late)), Orion Schwab Present

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Morrell called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

**3. ATTENDANCE**

**12 (Phoebe Pike arrived at 6:07 pm and Sara Hughes arrived at 6:09 pm)**

**Present**

**1 (Denise Rodzen) Absent**

**2 Student Representatives present (Scott Jackson arrived late)**

**4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

**Add 17.1 and 17.2**

**Postpone 16.2**

**Add 6.1 Resignation letter of the Board Chair**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

5.1 January 7, 2019 – Special Board Meeting Minutes

**Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Robert Staples to approve the minutes of January 7, 2019 regular board meeting.**

**Vote:           10 (Sara Hughes and Phoebe Pike late) Yes           0 No**  
**0 Abstain**  
**2 Student Representatives Abstain**

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5.2 January 10, 2019 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**Motion by Shari Ouellete and seconded by Tammy Frost to approve the minutes of January 10, 2019 regular board meet.**

**Vote:            10 Yes                    0 No                    0 Abstain**  
**1 (Orion Schwab) Student Representatives Abstain**

## **6. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 **Motion by Doug DiPasquale and seconded by Shannon McDaniel to accept the resignation of the Board Chair effective February 8, 2019. Board Chair Rodzen will remain on board until June 2019. A vote for Board Chair will happen at our next regularly scheduled Board Meeting on February 14, 2019.**

**Vote:            11 (Phoebe Pike arrived at 6:07 pm)    1 (Shari Ouellette) No**  
**0 Abstain**

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS -**

Sara Hughes arrived at 6:09 PM.

Linda Flagg asked if there is another government shut-down will our food programs be effected. The Food Service Director replied that the program is not effected by the shutdown. Linda Flagg also asked if there had been a change in policy regarding interim superintendent not being allowed to apply for the superintendent opening. Michael Morrell said that it was not so much a policy but a past practice. Linda Flagg also suggested that a probationary clause be a part of any future superintendent contracts.

Bobbi-Jo Blodgett spoke to the School Board about the economics class that her son had taken at the high school. Bobbi-Jo Blodgett continued that an economics class is very important to have at the high school; it should be a part of our curriculum. Our kids would really benefit from this class.

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**8. STUDENT PRESENTATION - None**

**9. BOARD COMMENTS**

Doug DiPasquale attended the town meeting in Jay regarding the requested resource officer for RSU 73.

Principal Plourde said that with a resource officer in our district we would be able to be proactive rather than reactive. The officer would become a part of the school, things tend to get better in kid's lives at home and school and socially when there is a resource officer in the school. One of the major things a resource officer can do is deal with truancy in school, they would be able to help parents get their children to school. It would be a great opportunity. The resource officer would work in the school department during the school year for 39 weeks and work 13 weeks for the town of Jay when school is not in session.

**10. ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Acting Superintendent Albert said he wanted to take this time to thank the central office and administrative team for helping him along the way and he wanted to say thank you to my staff at the middle school, I have an excellent staff. I attended the recent WMEC meeting and they are busy working on the details around a regional service center. Later in this meeting I will be speaking on our options for snow day make-up. I have also attended 2 Building and Grounds committee meetings with Siemens. I have also had a couple of meetings with the Adult Ed Director and you will be hearing about some positive things coming up from her.

**11. VICE CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Vice Chair Morrell said that at the February 14 board meeting the board will be voting for a new board chair. Some of our board meetings on the approved calendar fell on the wrong Thursday in February and March. We will discuss this later in the meeting.

**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Doug DiPasquale said the work is continuing on getting the furnace up and running in the high school. All of the work around the construction project should be completed during April vacation.**

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**Vice Chair Morrell passed out updated committee assignments for school board members. The Chair Rodzen decided who would be on some of the committees.**

**13. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS - None**

**14. POLICY - None**

**15. OLD BUSINESS**

- 15.1 Executive Session to discuss personnel issue in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).

**Motion by Phoebe Pike and seconded by Sara Hughes to enter into Executive Session at 8:38 pm to discuss personnel issue in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).**

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

**Returned from Executive Session at 9:49 pm.**

Vice Chair Morrell announced that a search committee was being formed to search for an interim superintendent. Any board member interested in serving on the committee please contact by email either Chair Rodzen, myself or Robert Staples.

- 15.2 Discussion and/or approval of up-coming school board meeting dates. Keep March 21<sup>st</sup> as warrant meeting.

**Motion by Robert Staples and seconded by Shari Ouellette to move the February 7 school board meeting to February 14, the February 21 meeting to February 28 and the March 7 board meeting to March 14.**

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

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**16. NEW BUSINESS**

- 16.1 Executive Session to consider the request for early graduation of a Spruce Mountain High School student in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F).  
**Motion by Sara Hughes and seconded by Robert Staples to enter into Executive Session at 6:16 pm. to consider the request for early graduation of a Spruce Mountain High School student in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F).**

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

**Returned from Executive Session at 6:38 pm.**

**Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Sara Hughes to approve the early graduation request of Student X when all credits are complete in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F).**

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

- 16.2 Graduation requirement informational presentation (Social Studies) - Postponed

16.3 Snow day make up

Acting Superintendent Albert presented the school board with a proposal for snow day make-up. Acting Superintendent Albert said that he had met with the WMEC and the association about this proposal. Beginning February 13 we will make every Wednesday until June 5<sup>th</sup> a regular school day instead of a late arrival day to make up 15 hours or 3 storm days. Professional development would now take place after school for an hour on these days. This would be the least disruptive for students because the day would run like it already does on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This would be least disruptive for parents because it would make all 5 days of the week the same length with the same start and end times. By starting now there are two benefits, one we are not overwhelming students and staff by having weeks of long days. Two, we will know by the end of April vacation if we will have the need to do additional hours to make up the max of two more days.

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**Motion by Robert Staples and seconded by Doug DiPasquale to approve the plan pending approval from the MDOE.**

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

## 16.4 Budget Overview – Regular Education Accounts

- School Administration

Principal Plourde said under SMHS Administration the increase of \$24,000 under contracted services is for a resource officer.

Principal Albert said the increase in contracted services is also for the resource officer. There are small changes in salaries and benefits. Nothing has been added or taken away from Administration.

Principal Hollingsworth said the elementary schools big bump in Administration was in postage.

Principal Harrington said the increase in the courses line is for his certification. Also, postage has been increased.

- System Administration

Acting Superintendent Albert said under system administration the superintendent's office salary line and benefit line is increased because of the possibility of 1.5 Superintendent's salaries and benefits which is a result of the settlement with Todd LeRoy. Under the superintendent's office secretary salary line and benefit line the ½ secretary under this section was moved to where it belongs under the business office. Under Me Pers PLD that decrease is because the person receiving this benefit retired.

- Spruce Mountain Elementary School

Principal Hollingsworth spoke of the current and anticipated staffing patterns. The changes will result in no monetary impact. Postage has

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increased \$500.00 Under AV Materials I am transferring money out of the library budget to regular instruction budget line. No real monetary impact.

- Spruce Mountain Primary School

Principal Harrington said that there is an increase to the courses line for 3 courses for his certification. The postage line has increase by \$130.00 Instructional supplies increased by \$7937.98 because of Title 1 and Special Education supplies to the SMPS budget, unified arts, added a kindergarten teacher and price increases. Courses for teachers decreased by \$7148.00 because fewer teachers are taking courses. Instructional supplies decreased by \$71.69, contracted services decrease by \$801.00 and field trips decreased by \$765.00.

- Special Services

Tina Collins reported that the major changes are salaries and benefits in the special services budget with aligning educational technician's contracts with length of school day, an increase for 6 hours per day to 6.5 hours per day. Physical therapy services line increase to reflect anticipated costs aligned with current school year with an increase of \$13,000. Under contracted services to support behavioral intervention we are increasing the behavioral consultant on site 1 time per week, currently we are at 2 times per month. This will result in an increase of \$8,500. Added new line to the budget; MaineCare Fees/Seed. These lines were created for more accurate billing coding these lines decreased by \$350.00. My wish for the future is to fund social work services for the behavioral programs 3-4 days per week to reduce the strain on regular education, social worker caseloads and provide weekly presence within the 3 behavioral classrooms with an estimated cost of \$64,000. Joel Pike asked what the dollar amount was for increasing the education technicians hours from 6 to 6.5 per day, Tina Collins replied that is \$79,000. The education technicians contract states that they work 30-35 hours per week.

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Phoebe Pike mentioned the reduction in book lines of the Special Services budget. After Phoebe Pike’s request, Tina Collins said she would speak to teachers and ask if they had a need for additional books.

Vice Chair Morrell asked the board to review the budget before the next meeting, if you have questions please address them to whoever is responsible for that line.

**17. APPOINTMENTS**

17.1 Executive Session to discuss personnel appointments in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).

**Motion by Shari Ouellette and seconded by Phoebe Pike to enter into Executive Session at 8:16 pm to discuss personnel appointments in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).**

**Vote:            12 Yes                    0 No                    0 Abstain**  
**2 student representatives Yes**

**Returned from Executive Session at 8:35 pm.**

**Motion by Robert Staples and seconded by Doug DiPasquale to approve Kristy Labonte to the position of SMHS Social Worker for the 2018/2019 school year, contingent on proper certification and MDOE fingerprinting status.**

**Vote:            11 Yes                    0 No                    1 (Shari Ouellette)**  
**2 Student representatives Yes                    Abstain**

**18. OTHER BUSINESS - None**

**19. CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

February 12, 2019 – Budget Meeting at 6 pm at Spruce Mountain High School Caf   
February 14, 2019 – Regular Board Meeting at 6 pm at Spruce Mountain Elementary School.



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**20. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Orion Schwab and seconded by Scott Jackson to adjourn at 9:58 pm.**

**Vote:            12 Yes                    0 No                    0 Abstain**  
**2 student representative Yes**

Respectfully submitted:



Scott Albert  
Acting Superintendent of Schools