

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2020 Budget Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:00 pm Spruce Mountain High School Cafe

~MINUTES~

Present: Doug DiPasquale, Tammy Frost, Sara Hughes, Steven Langlin, Shannon McDaniel, Michael Morrell, Shari Ouellette, Joel Pike arrived at 6:09 pm, Phoebe Pike, Ann Schwab and Robert Staples

Absent: Denise Rodzen, Dale Leblanc

2 Student Representatives: Scott Jackson, Orion Schwab Present

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Morrell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of allegiance was recited by all present.

3. ATTENDANCE

11 Present

1 (Denise Rodzen, Dale Leblanc) Absent

2 Student Representatives present

4. BUDGET OVERVIEW

4.1 Spruce Mountain Middle School/Co-curricular

Scott Albert reported that there are no real changes except on page 7, a regular education technician is moving with a student to the high school from middle school.

4.2 Transportation

Ken Vining reviewed the transportation budget presentation. Contracted transportation increased by \$16,000 due to special services transportation. Diesel fuel price has been locked in at \$2.41 gallon which is \$.13 per gallon less than last year. Auto insurance increase of 12% and property insurance for all district properties increase of 12%. The lease principal increase of \$9,196 which included 2 new busses. If we did go with a pick up and 1 bus we could reduce the lease principal by \$6,000. It is looking like Castonguay will be increasing the cost of plowing for next year from \$95,000 to \$100,000, maybe if we got a vehicle that could do some plowing, maybe central office we could try and get some of the pricing reduced down.

Shari Ouellette asked if we are adding bus monitors.

Ken Vining replied yes.

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020 Budget Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:00 pm Spruce Mountain High School Cafe

Ken Vining reported on the bus accident last week where one of our busses was pulled over to the side of the road stopped. The sand truck was coming down the hill and slid into the bus causing \$3,000 damage. The town will pay for it since it was their fault. EMT's checked out everyone and there were no injuries.

4.3 Facilities

Ken Vining said that contracted professionals for all buildings have all gone up. Contracted professionals includes new contract with Siemens for heating system, elevator inspection and service, sprinkler inspection and service, panic buttons were installed in each of the buildings.

We asked the principals what they would like to add to the repairs/maintenance line for grounds and buildings. Principal Harrington's list totaled \$110,000 but we brought it down to \$5,500 for a 4-foot chain link fence. The increase in the building line of \$4,000 for floors and painting but we will have to hold off on that as we have just found out that the antifreeze for the heating system is not at an optimum level and to correct this will cost approximately \$11,000 for antifreeze for heating system. There is always something unexpected each year. There was an increase in electricity at the primary school of between \$3,000 and \$5,000 because I noticed last year some of the primary school teachers are allowed to bring in their own air conditioners. If this is something we are going to allow we will see an increase in our electric bill.

Elementary school the water and sewer went up by \$13,014.00. Last year we had a major leak underground and the water ran for a long time before we found it. To calculate your water and sewer bill for next year they go by the current year. The extra water that went into the system was just water, not sewage. I have talked to the town, we have tried to get the cost reduced but we were unsuccessful. After this year the price will go down.

Propane is taking the place of #2 oil and we are hoping that it will be less but I don't want to get jammed up like we did this year and go over-budget. It certainly could go down.

High school the repairs increase of \$6500 is to replace our 2008 Toro mower with a zero turn Kubota. Also it covers painting, striping, loam, all sports fields come out of this budget.

We need to keep some oil at the high school for the old boiler but next year it should be all propane.

System Wide I don't ever see the cost of plowing going down. I am looking for your guidance and your help. When we put it out to bid we only get one bid.

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020 Budget Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:00 pm Spruce Mountain High School Cafe

Not just anyone can do this plowing, a large amount of equipment is needed to do the job.

4.4 Spruce Mountain High School/Co-curricular

TJ Plourde said the increase in the supply line of \$3,755.59 has to do with teacher supplies that the teachers requested. Our staff goes through each line to see what they will need for next year.

The Guidance Department increase of \$90,214.71 is three fold, we currently have a registrar at the high school that we share with the middle school. The middle school is charged 1/5 for the registrar and the high school 4/5 time. The Naviance Program we are currently in the middle of trying to implement this by the end of the year and that increase is \$3,000. We also have a number of students taking college level courses. Currently we have 26 courses being taken and these students can take the courses online or go to the university. It is a very low amount per course - \$92-\$94 for a college course for 4 credits. Mark Holt gave me permission to tell you that his daughter saved \$42,000 in college level courses by taking those courses while at the high school. She is also the youngest student to enroll in University of Maine Law School. Marc Keller, the AD, has done a really good job working with the budget for co-curricular and athletics. The major reason this line went up \$333.00 was because of contracted stipends.

4.5 Curriculum

Amanda Hersey reported that we are able to sustain everything we currently have. The K-2 textbook line has been increased by \$6,419 for guided reading text and non-fiction readers. The high school textbook line has been increased by \$3,200 for math texts for CP Algebra 1 and Geometry. Dues and Fees for WMEC district membership has been shifted to this line where it belongs. Currently those dues are coming out of workshop lines.

We also shifted the cost of iObservation to the correct line, it was taken out of the superintendent's office previously.

4.6 Technology

We had a resignation of one of our technology staff. Due to the management system of the Chrome Book vs the MacBook's, this position will not be replaced. We shifted the laptop insurance to instructional technology repairs/maintenance line with an increase of \$7,500.

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020 Budget Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:00 pm Spruce Mountain High School Cafe

The lease/purchase line has decreased significantly by \$135,000. This savings is from switching from lease of MacBook's to purchasing Chrome books. This decrease included still having graduating seniors take their Chrome Books with them. The professional development line has increased due to attendance at Power School University this summer. This is a great bang for the buck. It is a train the trainer model. General supplies increase to replace/upgrade servers with the addition of Chrome Books. Computer software line is increasing. Software that is being used throughout the district, such as Odyssey ware and Discovery Ed moved to this line. The equipment line increase is because we are purchasing replacement Chrome Books for 9-12 grade, and implement the 6th grade Chrome Books. Next year when it is time to buy out the 7-8 lease we will be replacing them with Chrome Books.

4.7 Food Service – Postponed

4.8 Adult Ed

Robyn Raymond said that to open tonight's budget discussion for adult education, I'd like to start by dissecting a few spreadsheets developed by the Maine DOE. These spreadsheets document our significant growth over the past 3 years, and I'll expand upon our year-end projected enrollment numbers. I'd like to call attention to the document that captures all 82 adult education programs in the state. We are in column 32, this document shows 2 years worth of enrollment data – the number of learners currently working at or below a 12th grade level, and 3 metrics the state uses to monitor our effectiveness: post-testing; are we retaining students long-term in our program? Measurable skills gains; when students come to us with basic skills deficiencies, are they achieving their academic goals with us; and academic intensity – what is the average amount of time students spend with us before moving on from our program for whatever reason' graduation, job offer, loss of transportation, childcare issues. IN FY 17 we served 61 students functioning at or below a 12th grade level – just to be clear, this capture of students does not include workforce training, college transitions, or community education courses. These are students working toward a diploma, HI SET or maintain/working toward basic skills. We were above average in 2 out of 3 measurable areas in FY 17 – post-testing and MSG's. We moved up a classification from an XS program to a Small program, which you can see in the second document that shows just SM data for FY 16 now. As we look at FY 18 data, we served 101 students and exceeded all benchmarks set by the State. We are now the 16th largest Adult Education in the State, and 13th in the state for most amount of graduates. We are the same size program as

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020 Budget Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:00 pm Spruce Mountain High School Cafe

Auburn Adult Education and when you think about that in relation to population and "service area" we are serving a large number of community members to meet their educational attainment goals on 1/3 the amount of raised local share for their district. We submitted our mid-year progress to the State last month. We are currently serving 68 and anticipating an influx with displaced workers in the area. At this rate, we'll be well over 100 learners again by June. I'm giving all this extensive data to show the need for an additional instructor for our program. With our community connections all over greater Franklin county, we have built a well known pipeline for people to refer prospective students to us. As much as this is a benefit to our area, we are struggling to meet the needs of our learners, and slowly taking time off of instruction to hold orientation sessions, testing, dedicated data collection, advising etc. We have 2 instructors serving all of these students, plus facilitating the CT program. With student population projected to triple from FY 16 to FY 19, I am advocating for a full time instructor in the FY 20 budget. This will add \$21,000 and benefits to our budget to accommodate our increased student population as we are the fastest growing Adult Education program in the State of Maine. You will see that outlined on the budget item #5.

Shari Ouellette asked for a cost analysis.

On the adult education presentation #1 is an increase in professional credits for graduate school for 2 employees, one teacher is in graduate school and myself. # 2 – Marketing/Advertising – both printing/bindery and postage costs have gone up. We are also looking to create radio ads and market three websites like the Daily Bulldog.

#3 – Workforce training – we've made great strides in changing the face of Adult Education these last few years by developing our HVAC program, CMA, culinary and local businesses take notice. I am proposing 2 shifts in space within the district – first, with the discussion of the Cedar Street board room being too small to accommodate public meetings, an addition to our culinary program would be a community café. The space could turn into a money-generating, student run business open to the public while our learners train under an executive chef to be line cooks. The second shift in space would be to look at the auto-body shop at the high school for evening Work-force Training programs with the long-range goal of facilitating Foster Tech satellite programs for high school students during the day and having the facilities open to adults in the evening for business – specific for training classes. This total cost would be for instructor costs and renovations to the boardroom.

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020 Budget Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:00 pm Spruce Mountain High School Cafe

#4 and #6– HSC – this is pretty straight forward – increase in student’s local literacy increased supply needs as well as a 2% increase for staff. Our instructors after 8 years of being here, they have only see a cost of living increase.

4.9 Debt Service and other commitments

Scott Albert reported that because of the Siemens project debt service has gone up by \$136,000 in principal and we also paid \$183,000 in interest.

5. BOARD QUESTIONS

Tammy Frost said that something for the board and administration to look at is possibly taking the resource officer out of the warrant and put it as a separate warrant article just like the town of Jay.

Scott Albert said that is already being discussed.

Doug DiPasquale asked about TJ Plourde attending the Jay planning board meeting. TJ said he spoke to them about how the school resource officer will be used in the schools. I think after the meeting they understood it a lot better. They were concerned about the funding and I think they got their answers.

Acting Superintendent Albert asked if the Board had any directive for the next meeting. The 279 should be coming out soon.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS - None

7. Calendar/Announcements

February 14, 2019 – Regular School Board Meeting

6:00 PM Spruce Mountain Elementary School

February 28, 2019 – Regular School Board Meeting and Budget Meeting

6:00 PM Spruce Mountain Primary School

March 14, 2019 – Regular School Board Meeting and Budget Meeting

6:00 PM Spruce Mountain Elementary School

March 21, 2019 – Budget Meeting – Board Vote on Warrant

6:00 PM Spruce Mountain High School

April 4, 2019 – District Budget Meeting

6:00 PM Spruce Mountain Middle School

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2020 Budget Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:00 pm Spruce Mountain High School Cafe

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Robert Staples and seconded by Shari Ouellette to adjourn at 7:32 pm.

Vote: 11 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
 2 student representatives Yes

Respectfully submitted:



Scott Albert
Acting Superintendent of Schools