

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 18th Regular Meeting of the Spruce Mountain Board of Directors

For 2018-19 will be held

Thursday, June 13, 2019 6:00 pm

Spruce Mountain High School

APPROVED

Policy Committee Meeting 5:00 PM

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The June 13th , 2019 School Board Meeting was called to order by Interim Superintendent, Robert Webster at 6:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all those present.

3. ATTENDANCE

1. Lena Coates, elected 6/11/19		<i>Newly elected</i>
2. Doug DiPasquale, re-elected 4/23/19	<i>Excused</i>	
3. Taylor Guay, Student Representative 6/13/19	<i>Present</i>	
4. Sara Hughes	<i>Present</i>	
5. Scott Jackson, Student Representative	<i>Present</i>	
6. Steven Langlin, re-elected 6/2019	<i>Present</i>	
7. Dale LeBlanc	<i>Present</i>	
8.		
9. Michael Morrell, Board Vice Chair	<i>Present</i>	
10. Lynn Ouellette, elected 4/23/19	<i>Present</i>	
11. Joel Pike	<i>Present</i>	
12. Phoebe Pike	<i>Present</i>	
13. Ann Schwab	<i>Present</i>	
14. Debra Timberlake, elected 6/11/19		<i>Newly elected</i>
15. Robert Staples, Board Chair	<i>Present</i>	

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4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

4.1 Election of Board Officials -

Ann Schwab nominated **Bob Staples** to serve as Board Chair for the 2019-2020 school year.

Seconded by **Mike Morrell**.

Bob Staples accepted the nomination.

Yes (8) Sara Hughes Steven Langlin Dale LeBlanc Mike Morrell Lynn Ouellette Joel Pike Phoebe Pike Ann Schwab	No (0)	Abstain (1) Bob Staples	Students Reps (2) Taylor Guay – yes Scott Jackson – yes
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Phoebe Pike nominates **Mike Morrell** to serve as Board Vice Chair for the 2019-2020 school year. Seconded by **Sara Hughes**.

Mike Morrell accepted the nomination.

Yes (8) Sara Hughes Steven Langlin Dale LeBlanc Lynn Ouellette Joel Pike Phoebe Pike Ann Schwab Bob Staples	No (0)	Abstain (1) Mike Morrell	Students Reps (2) Taylor Guay – yes Scott Jackson – yes
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5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5.1 May 23rd, 2019 – Board Meeting Minutes

*Motion made by **Mike Morrell**, seconded by **Phoebe Pike** to accept the meeting minutes for School Board Meetings held on May 23rd, 2019.*

Discussion: None

Vote to accept the meeting minutes for May 23rd, 2019

Yes (6) Sara Hughes Dale LeBlanc Mike Morrell Phoebe Pike Ann Schwab Bob Staples	No (0)	Abstain (3) Steven Langlin Lynn Ouellette Joel Pike	Students Reps (2) Taylor Guay – abstain Scott Jackson – yes
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6. STUDENT PRESENTATION

6.1 Spruce Mountain High School Envirothon presentation and request to attend National Conservation Foundation Envirothon at North Carolina State University July 28th through August 3rd, 2019.

Students presenting were Orion Schwab, Gabby Beaudoin, and Natalie Luce. (all graduated seniors) John Brenner and Hunter Quirrion were unable to attend.

Rob Taylor began the presentation with a brief synopsis of the team request and accomplishments. The Team placed 1st at the State Championships which leads them to the National Championships at North Carolina University. The team is requesting permission to attend this championship at NCU, estimated costs with bus, plane tickets, hotels, van rental, etc. is \$5,000 which will be raised by the students. Only cost to the district will be for the bus transportation to the bus terminal in Portland.

Students had to create a 7-minute presentation on one of the four subjects, Forestry, Aquatics, Soils and / or Wildlife. The students decided to tackle a current agriculture concern, feeding the ever-growing population of the world using technology.

The students presented their self-sufficient farm, which was based on a local farm in Wilton. They adapted this farm to their needs using various technologies. These students did a wonderful job with their presentation, including various information including the fields of their farm, the technologies incorporated, and their three-year budget figures.

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Joel Pike questioned the liabilities for the district since all the students attending were now graduated seniors, and what the district cost would be. Rob Taylor and other board members answered that the liability would be the same as any other trip and the only cost again was the bus trip to the bussing terminal in Portland.

Vote to give permission for the Envirothon Team to attend the National Championships in North Carolina:

<i>Yes (7)</i>	<i>No (0)</i>	<i>Abstain (1)</i>	<i>Students Reps (2)</i>
<i>Sara Hughes Steven Langlin Dale LeBlanc Mike Morrell Lynn Ouellette Joel Pike Phoebe Pike</i>		<i>Ann Schwab – recused</i>	<i>Taylor Guay – yes Scott Jackson – yes</i>

7. COMMUNICATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE

Retirement of Mary Leighton, SMES Special Education Teacher

Resignation of Amanda Hersey – District Curriculum Coordinator

Resignation of Dora York – Food Service Director

Mr. Webster stated he had received two letters over the past few weeks from the Maine Department of Education:

One was a notice that the Summer Food Program would undergo a compliance review in July, much like the regular school year food service program underwent earlier this year. Dora and Scott are working on ensuring everything is ready for this compliance review.

The second was a letter stating our 2019-2020 school calendar had been approved by the DOE.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

9. BOARD COMMENTS

Phoebe Pike mentioned that this past Monday was “Fun Day” at the Elementary School. She attended the event and heard kids and parents alike praising the event. It was a wonderful day enjoyed by everyone.

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Dale LeBlanc stated that on behalf of the board they would accept the resignations of Dora York and Amanda Hersey, but do so regrettably. He wishes them all the best in their future endeavors. He also wished Mary Leighton the best in her retirement.

10. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Webster reviewed a letter that he had received from one of our most "loyal" substitute teachers, Susan Mancine. She and Mrs. Myrtle Taylor came in and met with Mr. Webster regarding the letter, their hope was to shed some light on the "issues" of finding substitute teachers. The two offered many suggestions, which were reviewed with the Admin Team and all are in hopes to use some of their suggestions to entice subs to work for our district. Mr. Webster thanked Mrs. Mancine and Mrs. Taylor for taking the time to write the letter and meet with him personally.

The Siemens project close out is approaching. Siemens will be doing a presentation at the June 27th School Board Meeting.

The district has received another \$63,709.66 refund from Efficiency Maine for this Siemens Project, this is all of the money expected in refunds.

11. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

11.1 TJ Plourde – SMHS Principal

TJ has been excused from the meeting.

11.2 Scott Albert – SMMS Principal

Mr. Albert stated that 97 eighth grade students were promoted to grade 9 this week. Unfortunately, 12 students were retained, eight of them are eligible for summer school. 3.6% retain rate

Scholar Leaders were recognized on Wednesday evening, the award winners were Chance Brooks and Nora Castonguay.

Also recognized was Ava Coates who is the recipient of the Maine Secretary of State Citizenship Award.

Principal Awards were awarded to Emma and Lucas Towers.

The Middle School also held grade level award assemblies on Tuesday and Wednesday, each of these assemblies lasted for over an hour, and this assembly recognized students for the 3rd trimester awards.

May Students of the Month were awarded this week as well – the recipients were:

Grade 6 Aaylah Herrera and Devynn Gagnon

Grade 7 Taryn Jordan and Kathryn Dorey

Grade 8 Chance Brooks and Madyson Nichols

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Mr. Albert finished his report with an update on the search for a new Middle School Principal: the hiring committee has been set up and he is in hopes to conduct interviews next week, and have a nomination to the board for the June 27th school board meeting.

11.3 Chris Hollingsworth – SMES Principal

Mr. Hollingsworth spoke about the students raised bed project, including presenting a picture board of the project. The parent of a staff member helped construct the raised bed garden, the students and teachers then planted items in the garden, and several classes have taken part in testing and caring for the garden, this project has been a success. A couple of the custodians have agreed to care for the garden over the summer. The staff is in hopes to continue the garden, and even have a greenhouse grant in the works. Chris has also been working with Rob Taylor on getting some hydroponic activities going for next year.

The Elementary School is going to continue taking a different direction in their curriculum which will include more hands on experiences including being outside and active in the natural setting. Chris spoke of students partaking in outside activities including tree measuring, rock collection, birdhouse building, etc. These students were outside every Friday afternoon doing different activities and incorporating all aspects of curriculum in their activities. Several of the teachers will partake in a course this summer which will highlight activities for learning outdoors, the course is called “Nature of Teaching.”

Chris also spoke of the Ticks in Maine poster contest that the CDC has each year. Tammy Lindsey incorporates this contest into her curriculum each year, and this year the contest winner was our own Alaina Kachnovich. Two other students, Natasha McDonald and Patrick Libby’s posters were also recognized. All students who participate receive a “tick kit” and the winners receive state park passes. Alaina’s poster will be displayed throughout the state, as the winner 😊 Congrats Alaina.

11.4 Kevin Harrington – SMPS Principal

Kevin has been excused by Mr. Webster.

12. BOARD CHAIR’S REPORT

Bob Staples reminded board members that in their packets they received committee signup sheets. He asked that board members complete these sheets and return to him as soon as possible.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

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14. POLICY

None

15. OLD BUSINESS

15.1 Action on appointing Student School Board Representative

Taylor Guay is the only eligible student who completed paperwork for the Student School Board Rep seat.

Motion made by Scott Jackson, seconded by Ann Schwab to appoint Taylor Guay to the vacant Student School Board Rep seat.

Discussion: None

Vote to appoint Taylor Guay:

<i>Yes (9)</i>	<i>No (0)</i>	<i>Abstain (1)</i>	<i>Student Reps (2)</i>
<i>Sara Hughes</i>		<i>Taylor Guay</i>	<i>Taylor Guay – abstained</i>
<i>Steven Langlin</i>			<i>Scott Jackson – yes</i>
<i>Dale LeBlanc</i>			
<i>Mike Morrell</i>			
<i>Lynn Ouellette</i>			
<i>Joel Pike</i>			
<i>Phoebe Pike</i>			
<i>Ann Schwab</i>			
<i>Bob Staples</i>			

15.2 Action on Western Maine Regional Service Center

Bob Webster recommends the board take action to join the WMRSC, all other 7 school units have approved to join WMRSC. Bob further stated that legislature sweetened the pot even more increasing the per pupil subsidy rate to \$135. This rate would mean an additional (estimated) \$194k for our district in subsidy from the state. The board would have to approve the warrant for a special district meeting. Mr. Webster is hoping approval of the warrant can happen at the next board meeting on June 27th.

Motion made by Lynn Ouellette, seconded by Mike Morrell to begin the process to formerly join the Western Maine Region Service Center.

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Discussion: Lynn Ouellette asked if these figures were in the budget for this next year? Mr. Webster responded that this was not figured into the budget, and he is in hopes that the extra subsidy would help build the FY 21 revenue line. The estimated \$194k is based on 1,440 pupils at \$135 per pupil.

Vote to join the WMRSC and create a warrant for approval:

<i>Yes (8)</i>	<i>No (0)</i>	<i>Abstain (0)</i>	<i>Student Reps</i>
<i>Sara Hughes Steven Langlin Dale LeBlanc Mike Morrell Lynn Ouellette Joel Pike Phoebe Pike Ann Schwab</i>			<i>Taylor Guay – yes Scott Jackson – yes</i>

16. NEW BUSINESS

16.1 Action to approve Superintendent to hire staff during summer months

*Motion made by **Mike Morrell**, seconded by **Phoebe Pike** to approve Superintendent, Scott Albert, to hire staff during the summer months.*

Discussion: Bob Staples explained to the new board members, that this was done because the board doesn't meet in July, and the Superintendent needs to be able to hire staff during those months.

Vote to approve Superintendent to hire staff during summer months:

<i>Yes (8)</i>	<i>No (0)</i>	<i>Abstain (0)</i>	<i>Student Reps</i>
<i>Sara Hughes Steven Langlin Dale LeBlanc Mike Morrell Lynn Ouellette</i>			<i>Taylor Guay – yes Scott Jackson – yes</i>

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Joel Pike Phoebe Pike Ann Schwab			
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16.2 Enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § (405)(6)(A)

*Motion made by **Mike Morrell**, seconded by **Sara Hughes** to enter executive session to discuss personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A)*

Discussion: None

Vote to enter into executive session:

Yes (8) Sara Hughes Steven Langlin Dale LeBlanc Mike Morrell Lynn Ouellette Joel Pike Phoebe Pike Ann Schwab	No (0)	Abstain (0)	Student Reps (2) Taylor Guay – yes Scott Jackson – yes
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Executive session entered at 6:47 PM

Executive session ended at 7:07 PM

Meeting was called back to order at 7:07 PM by Board Chair, Bob Staples.

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16.3 Executive session to discuss a legal matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § (405)(6)(E)

*Motion made by **Mike Morrell**, seconded by **Phoebe Pike** to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E)*

Discussion: None

Vote to enter into executive session:

<i>Yes (8)</i>	<i>No (0)</i>	<i>Abstain (0)</i>	<i>Student Reps (2)</i>
<i>Sara Hughes Steven Langlin Dale LeBlanc Mike Morrell Lynn Ouellette Joel Pike Phoebe Pike Ann Schwab</i>			<i>Taylor Guay – yes Scott Jackson – yes</i>

Executive session entered at 7:08 PM

Executive session ended at 7:21 PM

Meeting was called back to order at 7:22 PM by Board Chair, Bob Staples.

17. APPOINTMENTS

17.1 Co-Curricular Appointments

Discussion: None

17.2 Other Appointments / Transfers

Discussion: Bob Webster announced that after consultation with the School Board he is happy to report that Chris Hollingsworth will be taking over the Curriculum, Technology, and Title 1 Coordinator position recently vacated by Amanda Hersey.

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18. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion: None

19. CALENDAR / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- June 24th, 2019 – School Board Member Workshop with Drummond & Woodsum. Workshop will take place at the Superintendent’s Office Conference Room at 6:00 PM
- June 27th, 2019 – School Board Meeting at Spruce Mountain Primary School
 - Finance Committee will meet at 5:30 PM

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Scott Jackson, seconded by Sara Hughes to adjourn the June 13th, 2019 School Board Meeting:

Discussion: None

Vote to adjourn June 13th, 2019 School Board Meeting:

<i>Yes (8)</i>	<i>No (0)</i>	<i>Abstain (0)</i>	<i>Student Reps (2)</i>
<i>Sara Hughes Steven Langlin Dale LeBlanc Mike Morrell Lynn Ouellette Joel Pike Phoebe Pike Ann Schwab</i>			<i>Taylor Guay – yes Scott Jackson – yes</i>

Meeting adjourned at: 7:27 PM

Any individual who needs special accommodations to enter the building or assistance to attend this public meeting, must contact the Superintendent’s Office at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting (A.D.A.)

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Webster
Interim Superintendent of Schools

