

**BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL
Community Relations Committee
Wells River Wellness Hall
February 4, 2019**

Present:

Committee Members: Judy Murry, Julie Oliver, Paul Hazel, Kelsey Root-Winchester

Public: Brent Abare (Board member)

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:43 PM by Paul Hazel
- II. Discussion of quorum being present at a subcommittee meeting. This makes it an official BMU Board meeting, which was not legally warned. Need clarification on how to proceed from the full Board. Paul will contact Angeline (Chair) for guidance and request this be added to the Feb 6th full Board meeting agenda.
- III. Motion to adjourn (Paul) seconded by Julie.
- IV. Meeting adjourned 5:48pm

FY 2019-2020

- BMU is now officially a member district of Orange East Supervisory Union (OESU). The final report from the Agency of Education states. “The district previously operated as a supervisory district, its own single-district SU, but was too small to be exempt from the Board’s final statewide plan as a preferred structure with a minimum ADM of 900 students. At its May 2018 meeting, the Board adjusted SU boundaries pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 261, making the Blue Mountain USD a member district of the Orange East SU.... The Board (i) disapproves the Secretary’s Proposed Plan for the Blue Mountain Union School District [merger with Newbury, Bradford and Oxbow] and (ii) finds that the proposal does not satisfy or meet the requirements of Act 46, as amended, our Rules and other applicable law.”
- What does this mean for BMU:
 - BMU is currently sharing supervisory services with five other school districts (Newbury, Bradford, Thetford, Waites River, and Oxbow). The costs of these services are equalized (distributed) among the school districts based on their Average Daily Membership (ADM) or student populations.
 - The percentage of costs each district pays is dependent upon the number of students receiving services (i.e.
 - The services that BMU is receiving from the Supervisory Union (SU) are:
 - The Superintendent office that oversee roughly 900 staff members and 1,700 students.
 - This includes the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Manager, 5 Staff Accountants, Human Resources Director, Curriculum Coordinator and Consolidated Federal Grant Programs office, Technology Coordination and Data Management office, Special Education Director and all Special Education teachers from all districts including Medicaid claims processing, Early Childhood Coordinator and all Early Childhood teachers from all districts, an English language teacher, an Arts and Ropes Course Program and 2 Administrative Assistants
 - BMU does not receive transportation or arts programming through the SU
 - BMU’s Food Service remains In-House.
 - BMU’s school budget is our own, determined by the BMU Board and voted on by the BMU community.
 - BMU’s school buildings and property remain within the BMU community’s ownership.
 - BMU’s Administration runs the school.
- FY2020 Budget
 - Budgeted expenses and revenues are both down from last year because both the expenses and revenues associated with the services we are receiving from the SU, majority of which are related to Special Education services, are now part of the OESU budget.
 - While expenses have decreased, the amount of revenue we expect has decreased at a higher rate. The effect of this is that there is a 3.97% increase in overall education spending for FY2020.