

NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - Draft
THURSDAY, August 20, 2015
AT 6:30 P.M. @ NCSU CENTRAL OFFICE

PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS

Katie Mientka, Brighton	Kelly Paul, Morgan
Jason Brueck, Charleston	Mary Ellen Prairie, Newport City
Frank Carbonneau, Coventry	Cliff Forster, Troy
Bryan Davis, Derby	Peter Moskovites, NCUHS
Lincoln Petell, Holland	Scott Boskind, NCUJHS
Chad Prue, Westfield	Richard Cartee, NCUJHS
Steve Mason, Chair, Lowell	Rose Mary Mayhew, NCUHS

GUESTS

Rebecca Holcombe, VT Secretary of Education

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

John A. Castle, Superintendent of Schools
Kathy Nolan, Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction
Leanne Desjardins, Director of Special Education
John Peters, Director of Technology Support
Diane Nichols-Fleming, Coordinator of Early Childhood Programs
Liz Butterfield, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Kristy Ellis, Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School Principal
Lisa Boskind, NCSAP Principal

PRESS

Robin Smith, Orleans County Record
Ed Barber, Newport Daily Express

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 by Chair Steve Mason, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and called for agenda changes. There were none.

II. Motion to approve the of Minutes of June 25, 2015 – *Attachment A*
CARBONNEAU/MAYHEW APPROVED

III. Secretary of Education: Act 46/153 Implementation - Rebecca Holcombe

The Chair and the Superintendent welcomed Secretary Holcombe and thanked her for attending the meeting. Ms. Holcombe was given the floor. She described the current state of schools in Vermont as being, “A house with four bedrooms, the kids have left, now how do we support that house?”

Ms. Holcombe shared that there are nine samples on the AOE web site of different district structures that can exist under Act 46. Brian Davis stated that this will cost Derby more money. Ms. Holcombe said that efficiency will help the statewide tax rate, and that the law is clear that each town decides their structure. She said the State Board has the power to make changes if equity is not provided. If a school is dying, the state board will merge them with another district. If a school can rigorously demonstrate that they are

providing equity, the state board will take that into consideration. The Secretary stated, “If you are going for tax incentives simply to get the tax incentives, you are out of your mind.”

Ms. Holcombe was asked about representation on a district board: will it be representative? Ms. Holcombe said that is covered in Title 16, and said she will send the link. There may be some at large representation. She will get the answer.

Ms. Holcombe spoke about site visits that she and the state board will be piloting this year. There are five areas that they will be looking at: academic performance, staffing, personalization, school climate, and fiscal. They will use school level and SU data to look at measures of equity, and will look at the spread to see what the trend is.

The Secretary said that the Continuous Improvement Plan needs to be at the SU level, looking at what’s working and what can be done better: how will we meet federal requirements in the least burdensome way. The AOE wants to pay SU’s to participate. Mr. Castle said that he has asked the Deputy Secretary that NCSU be part of the pilot.

Ms. Holcombe stated that, “There are low spending districts in the state that are not spending enough”. John added that with the caps that are being implemented, we can’t spend more. Rebecca said she is confident that she will be hearing more from John about the caps.

State-wide declines are projected over the next 10 or 15 years in VT, according to the Secretary. She said that some smaller schools can become eligible for Title 1 monies if they merge.

Secretary Holcombe suggested that we, “Opportunistically look at the bill and see if there is anything you can find that will give you resources and opportunities, find it and use it.”

IV. Business Operations & Finance Report

Action:

A. July Financial Statement – *Attachment JULY* **Motion to table** until Glenn can attend.

CARTEE/BRUECK **APPROVED**

B. **Motion** to move discussion of SLP Blended Rate Cost Consideration to the Full Board in September – *Attachment B*

John is recommending that the boards do not actually take action at this time, as this will affect 2017 budgets, and “The Cap” will complicate things. He would like to move this item forward to the Full Board for discussion. MOSKOVITES/BRUECK **APPROVED**

V. VSBA Update: Frank Carbonneau. Frank encouraged school board members to go to the VSBA Conference and/or the VSBA’s regional meetings.

VI. New Business

Action:

A. **Motion** to hire Behavior Specialist Elizabeth Torres. CARTEE/CARBONNEAU **APPROVED**

VII. Unfinished Business

Discussion/Action:

A. Board Survey – *Attachment C*

Some Board members suggested extending the survey to SU staff and school Leadership Teams, but to delineate between school board member responses and staff responses.

Motion to go forward with having the school boards, Administrators and school Leadership Teams each complete the survey, in 2 separate groups. BRUECK/CARBONNEAU **APPROVED**

B. NCSU Commitments & Continuous Improvement Plan (*Handout*): John said that he would like the Full Board to adopt the Commitments and Continuous Improvement Plan at the meeting in September. John said these mesh with the VT Education Quality Standards, as required by AOE. They provide a shared vision and a shared sense of direction in the SU. John said it became obvious that we “need to define

things”, so that everyone has the same understanding of terms. The Commitments and CIP are intended to shape practice, and are being implemented already. They serve to articulate a clear direction on how we are going to get there.

VIII. Other Business

Motion to take action on the following policies:

A. * Rescind the following policies:

F.23 Policy on Prevention of Harassment of Students

F.39 Hazing

F.49 Anti-Bullying CARTEE/MAYHEW **APPROVED**

B. *Adopt the VT AOE required:

NCSU F.23 (New) **Policy** on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students

NCSU F.23P **Procedures** on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students CARTEE/CARBONNEAU **APPROVED**

C. Approve Revised Policies:

D.8 Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace (*Attachment D.8*)

D.11 Drug and Alcohol Testing (*Attachment D.11*)

E.26 Tobacco Prohibition (*Attachment E.26*) CARTEE/MAYHEW **APPROVED**

Information/Discussion:

A. Superintendent’s & Central Office Reports – *Attachment SUPT*

John shared with the Executive Committee that there is a VSBA Regional meeting on Sept. 29 at Lyndon Town School, and encouraged board members to attend. He anticipates that much of the discussion will concern Act 46.

Convocation: John reported that Convocation was very well received. The facilitators were home grown – Teacher Leaders (and some Principals) were the highlight of the day, leading Professional Development sessions.

IX. Date of Next Meeting/Future Agenda Items

A. September Full Board Meeting: Sept. 17th will be a Retreat Format. Steve asked the EC members to encourage their fellow Board members to attend. The meeting will be held at the NCCC, Room 380, breakout groups going to other rooms.

B. NCSU Bylaws

X. The Chair moved the meeting into Executive Session at 8:32.

A. Update on Negotiations

B. Personnel Matter

C. Superintendent’s Goal Reflection – *Attachment GR*

The Chair exited Executive Session at 8:44. No action was taken.

XI. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:46.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield
Recording Secretary

Meetings:

NCSU Policy Committee
NCSU Full Board

Day

Thursday
Thursday

Date

Sept. 17
Sept. 17

Time

5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

Location

NCCC 316
NCCC 380

DRAFT