

**NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015**  
**AT 6:30 P.M. -- NCSU CENTRAL OFFICE**

**Present:**

**Board Members**

Sally Rivard, Jay  
Lincoln Petell, Holland  
Richard Cartee, NCUJHS  
Peter Moskovites, NCUHS  
Jason Brueck, Charleston  
Cliff Forster, Troy  
Mary Ellen Prairie, Newport City  
Frank Carbonneau, Coventry

**Administration and Staff**

John A. Castle, Superintendent  
Leanne Desjardins, Director of Special Education  
Richard Smith, Coordinator of Special Education  
Diane Nichols-Fleming, Coordinator of Early Childhood Prog.  
John Peters, Director of Technology Support  
Glenn Hankinson, Director of Business and Finance  
Liz Butterfield, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

**Press**

Robin Smith, Orleans County Record

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 by Chair Steve Mason, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and called for Agenda Changes: John Castle reported that Kathy Nolan will not be able to attend the meeting, so there will not be an SBAC overview at this time.

II. Approve the Minutes—Deferred until the December Full Board Meeting

III. Superintendent & Central Office Reports – *Attachment A*

John Peters shared that he met with the “tech folks” from all of the schools yesterday, and he shared with them a list of items that he thinks should be considered in next year’s budget.

Glenn Hankinson reported that he attended the VSBIT meeting today, and that Worker’s Comp rates will be going up 8%.

John Castle reported that some boards have recently held Community Forums to discuss Act 46, building capacities, enrollment, etc. Holland had a great turnout, with a lot of good feedback. Lincoln Petell said 57 people attended the forum, and almost all want to see the Holland school stay open. Troy held a community forum on Tuesday. Cliff reported that there was good dialogue, that these events keep the community connected to the school, and he felt it was a successful meeting. John reported that Newport Town had a light turnout, but good conversation. John told the Board members that whenever they want to hold a community forum he is happy to facilitate and provide information.

IV. Financial Report

**Action:**

A. **Motion** to approve the September Financial Statement – *Attachment B*

Glenn reported that the General funds will be close to on-budget. **CARTEE/BRUECK APPROVED**

**Information:**

A. FY2017 Budget Information & Considerations

Central Office: John reported that he does not anticipate any big changes coming this year. HR: John and Glenn explained Amy Brasseur’s situation: she had originally been hired to work in the Business Office, was eventually moved to HR, bringing some Business Office tasks with her, then moved back to the Business Office. At that point we hired a .5 position in HR, but we may need more. John said it will probably go back to 100%. Amy has taken on coordination of food service, which has experienced creep and is being pushed on us. Glenn shared that the AOE Office of Child Nutrition has reduced its capacity, the federal government has increased its requirements, and we have to pick it all up. Amy is allocating 40% of her time to food service. The SU is now considered the food service authority for all of our schools, and

more and more trainings are required. Glenn anticipates that in the near future we will be required to hire a Nutrition Program Director. John shared that, in light of the situation, the Admin Council had a hearty discussion on roles and responsibilities. We will try to manage with the existing staff in FY17, but may need to hire in the future. This is one of the things that concerns John about centralization. Frank commented that this is yet another unfunded mandate, asking, "Do we just take it? Should we draft a resolution?"

John shared that prior to the October Leadership Team meeting he distributed focus questions concerning budgeting, and will continue to discuss these with the LT in November. Mr. Castle distributed a copy of the questions at this meeting, explaining that the same questions apply to the boards in their budget planning.

#### Special Education:

John stated that we are experiencing a shift in paradigm, a massive sea change. We have to comply or there are tax penalties. How we do it is at our discretion. The sub-committee has met, and will come back at the November EC meeting with a recommendation, followed by a vote in December at the NCSU Full Board meeting. There is a lot of information to share tonight. Right now, in our current structure, there are winners and losers, but we don't recognize it because that's what we have been seeing as the norm...

Leanne reported that the sub-committee came together, and talked about equity and the fact that all of the children are our children. There are four ways to assess: actual cost, enrollment, equalized pupils or child count (IEPS). Glenn distributed illustrations of the four methods, showing each without reimbursement, with reimbursement, or phasing in over 3 years. John and Leanne said that they do not anticipate adding staff at the Central Office to accomplish this. There was a hearty discussion around the proposals and many questions for John, Leanne and Glenn.

#### VI. VSBA Update – Frank Carbonneau

Frank mentioned that the VSBA Annual Meeting is next week, and a Regional Meeting was recently held at Lyndon. Frank feels that our SU should look more closely at different options for consolidation. John said that he has been advocating for giving weight to high poverty areas for equalized pupil counts. Frank said that our SU is not usually well represented at annual and regional meetings, but we could have more of a voice if that were to change: board members must attend, write emails, and join resolutions.

#### VII. New & Unfinished Business

##### Information:

A. SBAC Overview - None

B. Policy Update: John and Steve spoke of the work that the Policy Committee is engaged in, working to bring equity to the various Support Staff Terms and Conditions throughout the SU.

#### VIII. Date of Next Meeting/Future Agenda Items:

November 19, 2015

IX. Motion to enter Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

CARTEE/BRUECK **APPROVED**

X. Motion to exit Executive Session and adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

CARTEE/FORSTER **APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield,  
Recording Secretary

#### Meetings:

NCSU Policy Committee  
NCSU Executive Committee

Day  
Thursday  
Thursday

Date  
November 19  
November 19

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

Location  
NCSU A219  
NCSU A209