

NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015
AT 6:30 P.M. - NCSU CENTRAL OFFICE

PRESENT

Board Members:

Chair Steve Mason, Lowell
Mary Ellen Prairie, Newport City
Viola Poirier, Coventry
Richard Cartee, NCUJHS
Lincoln Petell, Holland
Katie Mientka, Brighton
Scott Boskind, NCUJHS
Rose Mary Mayhew, NCUHS
Peter Moskovites, NCUHS
Jason Brueck, Charleston
Carol Currier, Troy
Sally Rivard, Jay
GiGi Judd, Derby

Administrators and Staff:

John A. Castle, Superintendent
Glenn Hankinson, Director of Finance
Leanne Desjardins, Director of Special Education
John Peters, Director of Technology
Kathy Nolan, Director of Curriculum, Assess., & Instruction
Diane Nichols-Fleming, Coord. of Early Childhood Programs
Richard Smith, Coordinator of Special Education

I. The meeting was called to order 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 minutes of Oct. 15, 2015. (*Attachment A*) **BRUECK/MAYHEW APPROVED**

III. Superintendent & Central Office Reports (*Attachment B*)

John Castle informed the Board that the Integrated Field Review (IFR) training has begun, and that the next training is scheduled for December 1st and 2nd at Jay Peak. The AOE will eventually use this process as part of their accountability system, which may allow for more discretion, in the future, in terms of assessment. NCSU has a team of students, teachers, support staff and administrators participating.

A. **SBAC Overview:** Kathy Nolan distributed a report and shared that the results were promised to us for Last spring, but came in August. The State as a whole did not do as badly as predicted, nor did NCSU. Our 8th grade results are a high point. We topped the state in “proficient or better” in ELA and Math. In NECAP Science GLEs, our grades 8 and 11 showed a nice jump, while the 4th grade results stayed the same.

B. **Kathy Nolan announced that she is retiring** at the end of June. She has been in public education for 40 years, and 37 or 38 have been in the NCSU. Kathy was thanked for her service by the Executive Committee. John said that Kathy is greatly respected and appreciated and will be immensely missed. The position will be posted in December, with the hope of bringing a recommendation to the board in February. John said we will need a couple of board members on the committee.

IV. Financial Report

Action:

A. October Financial Statement: the report was not available this month.

Information:

B. FY17 School Budget Development & Common Considerations: Glenn reported that the budget manual has gone out. John Castle and Glenn have been meeting with principals, which has been very helpful and collaborative. Many boards have begun earnest budget conversations.

Some items for boards to consider:

1. **Encourage commonality:** professional work outside of the contract day has been paid at \$24.00 /hour for many years. John recommends raising it to \$26.00 for 16-17, \$28.00 for 17-18, and \$30.00 in the third year. He suggested that boards take this into consider when building their budgets.
2. **Administrator salaries:** John recommends paralleling the teacher agreement, and said a flat percentage may not be best. Vacation time is very variable between administrators, and John will provide some comps to the boards.
3. **Support Staff negotiations:** Troy, Derby, NCUHS and NCUJHS negotiations are ongoing. The NCSU Policy Committee has been meeting for several months, looking at equity between the various schools Support Staff Terms and Conditions. There are some very wide differentials from school to school.
4. **Sub Pay:** John pointed out that this is also an area where there are some large differentials between districts.

VI. VSBA Update – Frank Carbonneau: Frank was not present and had asked Viola to report for him. He requested that Act 46 be put on an agenda soon, so we know what each district is doing. John commented that we are compelled to put forward a proposal by December of 2017, and there does not seem to be interest in the NCSU in a centralized governance model.

VII. New Business

Presentation & Discussion:

A. FY2017 Budgets: Central Office, Special Education & Early Essential Education Assessments

John said that the Executive Committee may need an additional meeting before the Full Board meeting in December

1. Central Office Assessment

Director of Finance Glenn Hankinson shared a preliminary budget, including Technology and CFP Proposals. Glenn and John recommend that the Director of Technology position be moved completely to the assessment, as Medicaid funds will no longer be available for that position.

Glenn and John discussed the need for a Food Service Coordinator, which would add a .5 FTE position. This position would not include a nutritionist/food service manager, which Glenn anticipates will be needed in the future. The preliminary budget includes a reduction of \$8,000.00 in Personnel costs.

Motion to recommend fully funding the Director of Technology position from the Central Office Assessment, and not to fund the Food Service Coordinator position at this time.

BRUECK/BOSKIND APPROVED

2. Special Education Assessment

Director of Special Education Leanne Desjardin explained that the SU is trying to make changes to optimize Medicaid reimbursements. 56.24% of the EEE budget is not reimbursable. By moving items from IDEA, we will see a net savings of \$155,000.00. Relative to Act 46: We are not able to show any economy of scale by centralizing.

John pointed out that this is the first year that the Executive Committee/Full Board will vote on the Special Education budget. John and Leanne explained the two assessment models that the committee is recommending, saying that their final recommendation is

Motion to recommend that the Full Board approve the Special Education assessment model of “Equalized Pupils, Phased in over Three Years.” **BRUECK/PRAIRIE APPROVED**

Motion to recommend that the Full Board approve the overall NCSU Special Education budget of \$7,895,000.00. **BRUECK/PRAIRIE APPROVED**

C. Transportation Waiver Request

Information:

John said that we have received, from VT AOE, a Confirmation of Compliance form. Because we will not be in compliance, John distributed a draft waiver request, which, if approved, would allow us to not comply with the law. John will ask the Full Board to approve the Waiver of Compliance to Centralize Transportation. If we are not in compliance, we could incur a 5% tax penalty. John stated that this is more challenging than SpEd centralization, because of all of our SS terms and conditions policies and negotiated agreements, plus the fact that many bus drivers are also janitors, etc. We can ask for bids from bus companies to centralize, and if it is more than our current cost, that would justify staying the same. If we centralize transportation, we will have to add a coordinator position.

John said that he will also ask, in December, for a Full Board resolution asking that poverty be weighted in Act 46. Our high SpEd costs are in direct correlation to our high poverty rates.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Information:

A. Support Staff Terms and Conditions Policy Update

Steve Mason reported that the Policy Committee has looked at a draft of a blended common Support Staff policy hybrid. In January, the draft will be sent out to individual boards, so they can compare it to their current SS terms and conditions. The local boards will then make recommendations to the Policy Committee.

Action:

A. Motion to Ratify the Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement.

BRUECK/CARTEE **APPROVED**

IX. Date of Next Meeting/Future Agenda Items:

Full Board meeting on December 17th.

X. Executive Session (Anticipated) **NOT NECESSARY**

XI. **Motion** to Adjourn at 8:27 p.m. CARTEE. The meeting was adjourned by **UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield
Recording Secretary

Meetings:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	December 17	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A213
NCSU Full Board	Thursday	December 17	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209