

NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016
AT 6:30 P.M. - NCSU CENTRAL OFFICE

PRESENT

Board Members:

Chair Steve Mason, Lowell
Mary Ellen Prairie, Newport City
Frank Carbonneau, Coventry
Richard Cartee, NCUJHS
Wilma Therrien, Newport Town
Scott Boskind, NCUJHS
Rose Mary Mayhew, NCUHS
Peter Moskovites, NCUHS
Jason Brueck, Charleston
Cliff Forster, Troy
Myra Alix, Jay
Bryan Davis, Derby
Sally Rivard**, Jay

Administrators and Staff:

John A. Castle**, Superintendent
Glenn Hankinson, Director of Finance
Nancy Griffith, Recording Secretary
John Peters, Director of Technology
Kathy Nolan, Director of Curriculum, Assess. & Instruction

**partial attendee

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Mason at 6:35 pm who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and called for agenda changes. There were none.

II. No minutes to approve.

III. Superintendent & Central Office Reports (*Attachment A*). No comments as John Castle was not present at the time.

IV. Financial Report

Action:

A. December Financial Statement: **Motion** to approve BRUECK/MAYHEW - **Approved**.

Information:

A. **Local School District Budgets:** Glenn Hankinson talked about recent changes to finance calculations around the thresholds that again effected school budgets. He reviewed a spreadsheet that showed changes by district. MASON discussed that he received a call that things may change again.

B. Minimum wage & mileage changes: Glenn Hankinson indicated that all payroll was informed of the new minimum hourly rate of \$9.60 and the new IRS mileage rate as of January 1, 2016.

V. VSBA Update – Frank Carbonneau: They are making January “School Board Recognition Month”. While there is much activity within districts around the State there appears to be less of a rush to take advantage of the early implementation incentives offered by the State. Everyone feels that all communities are still uninformed about Act 46 and its implications. In February the VSBA will be meeting to hear about teacher retirement and investments. The VSBA website is updated at this time, it is much more user friendly. Talks were had around the legalization of marijuana in the State. He encourages everyone to send letters to the VSBA discussing the stress you are feeling in your district, and to move for repeal.

VI. New Business

Action:

- A. **2016-2017 School Calendars (Attachment C):** John Castle mentioned there is still a question around the parent teacher conferences and professional development dates in October. He is still waiting on some input on that at next week's Leadership meeting. Jason Brueck would like to see school done earlier in June. Frank Carbonneau asked about a year round schedule, and John Castle said that unless the number of student days is increased, which would increase costs of teacher contracts, it is not feasible. Scott Boskind inquired if PD days could be bundled to have student days finish earlier. John Castle has seen it done numerous ways, but feels it might be difficult to get teachers to focus on so many PD days at the end of the year. Peter Moskovities indicated there is very little learning going on when teachers are not engaged. He mentioned that Mr. Castle could perhaps target some vacation weeks. **Motion** to approve calendar proposed – THREERRIEN/MAYHEW – **Approved.**
- B. **Returned to Superintendent's report:** Cliff Forster inquired about the transportation waiver. John Castle indicated it was an agenda item and would be discussed later.
- C. **Director of Learning Design Job Description:** The proposal is not changing the scope of the job, just some differences in how it is articulated and some changes in practices. Richard Cartee asked how the board can expect one person to do all the responsibilities listed on the job description. Castle indicated that many of the administrators are in the same situation. For curriculum we did add capacity thru a 20% Instructional Innovation Coordinator position funded thru title funds. Richard Cartee is fearful that we set people up to fail when we expect so much from them. John Castle indicated that there is great support for this position thru the administrative assistant and instructional coaches. **Motion** to approve job description – BRUECK/CARTEE – **approved.**
- D. **Legislative forum:** John Castle indicated that OCSU is opting out of hosting a joint forum as they feel their current initiatives vary from ours. Castle wants to know if we want to host our own. Jason Brueck mentioned he feels it would be important to bring legislators directly to a school as they indicated they don't get there often enough. Richard Cartee would like to host our own. Wilma Therrien indicated it would be a great way for new board members to know what is facing our schools. Peter Moskovities and Jason Brueck indicated they feel that the local legislators don't really have a voice in Montpelier. The Board has tasked John Castle with setting up a legislative forum where legislators would come into a couple of schools and then have a public forum after board reorganizations in March.
- E. **Reschedule March Meeting:** John Castle has a conflict as he would like to attend a High School Redesign presentation that same day. He would like to move the March meeting back one week. No objections.

VII. Unfinished Business

Action:

- A. **Transportation Waiver Denied and Options (Attachment E):**
The Secretary of Education denied the waiver request but has granted an extension of one year. John approached local legislators to see if they would be willing to sponsor a bill to address centralized transportation. At some point we will need to do a cost analysis of centralized transportation by soliciting bids. The State is agreeable to the idea that each district contracts with transportation providers as long as it passes thru the SU. Castle fears this will cause increased costs and loss of equity. Board proposes moving forward with bids to provide concrete evidence as well as work on legislation. Concurrently they would like a study done of costs for the SU to own buses, and employ all bus drivers.
- B. **NCSU Central Office Facility Considerations:** John Castle indicated that the current building serves us well, but that he needs to be fiscally responsible and look at options. We could try to negotiate a better lease, or have the High School purchase the building and lease it back to the SU. We could also explore other properties or look at potential space available at NCCC, as some of their program have

been discontinued and enrollment keeps dropping at the High School. We will need to have a plan by September. Richard Cartee would like options looked at with price tags attached. Frank Carbonneau indicated that SU administrators and board members should be involved in this research. Jason Brueck indicated the NCCC option would be the most economical realistically. Rose Mary Mayhew indicated that it appears the consensus of the board is that they like the NCCC option. John Castle is adamant that the perception will be that programs will be eliminated at NCCC to make room for the SU. Rose Mary Mayhew indicated this perception would be incorrect as the Career Center started looking at program eliminations prior to this idea even being brought forward. John Castle will work with Glenn Hankinson and bring a formal recommendation to the Board by September. He would welcome a committee to help with this, possibly made up of 3-4 board meetings. Frank Carbonneau and Richard Cartee indicated they would be willing to help. Scott Boskind asked if there were any restrictions from the State as to the career center having to remain strictly a career center. John Castle indicated that it should be looked into.

Information/Discussion:

- A. **Update from policy committee:** Steve Mason confirmed that this evening the committee consolidated policy D. 01A and D. 01B into one policy. He also mentioned that the recommendations for support staff policies will be pushed back to March or April as budgets are front and center now.
- B. **Superintendent Evaluation Process:** Steve Mason inquired if the board wanted to keep the process the same as last year. Sally Rivard asked if John Castle had been comfortable with it and he indicated yes. Consensus is to use the same format as last year.
- C. John Castle informed the board that he was part of an **Integrated Field Review** process today. It is a pilot program and he felt it was important to be part of it. Next Wednesday, NCSU is hosting an IFR team that will visit all of our schools other than Jay (ski day), as well as the Central Office. An end of day report will be done by the AOE around 5:30 at NCCC and he encourages board members to attend. He will also be inviting leadership team members. It is a systematic review for the entire SU, not by individual schools. He would like to commend Liz for helping coordinate this visit and all its details.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting/Future Agenda Items: Full Board meeting on February 18th, 2016. Cliff Forster wanted to add an update on the central office facility to the next agenda. Glenn mentioned that Ann Bathalon was leaving to go work at the Troy School and that Jessica Therrien was hired to replace her.

IX. Executive Session (Anticipated): Not necessary.

X. Motion to Adjourn at 8:11 p.m. - FORSTER/CARTEE. The meeting was adjourned by **UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Griffith
Recording Secretary

Meetings:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	February 18	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A213
NCSU Executive Board	Thursday	February 18	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209