

NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, February 18, 2016
AT 6:30 P.M. @ NCSU CENTRAL OFFICE

Present:

Board Members

Tim Bronson, Derby
Scott Boskind, NCUJHS
Wilma Therrien, Newport Center
Cliff Forster, Troy
Frank Carbonneau, Coventry
Jason Brueck, Charleston
Mary Ellen Prairie, Newport City
Rose Mary Mayhew, NCUHS
Steve Mason, Lowell

Administration and Staff

John A. Castle, Superintendent
Liz Butterfield, Executive Assist. to the Supt.
Leanne Desjardins, Director of Special Education
Glenn Hankinson, Director of Business and Finance
John Peters, Director of Technology
Diane Nichols-Fleming, Coordinator of Early Childhood
Kathy Nolan, Director of Curr., Assess., and Instruction

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 by Chair Steve Mason, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and called for Agenda Changes or additions: An Executive Session was added to make recommendations for hires.

II. **Motion** to Approve the Minutes of January 21, 2016 – *Attachment A*
BRUECK/MAYHEW APPROVED

III. Superintendent's & Central Office Reports

A. Leanne Desjardins updated the Executive committee on Special Education vacancies and hiring. There are many anticipated vacancies for 2016-17. Interviews began this week. Some current SpEd teachers would like to change assignments. Leanne's goal is to be done hiring and making assignments in April, before contracts go out. Notice went out to staff that there is additional funding available for hard to fill positions.

Leanne also reported on the Neurodevelopmental Team: Kathryn Whitaker is working with Shelly Lanou and we are no longer contracting services. Services have jumped from 50 students, previously, to 90 students currently with neuro disorders. We are building capacity, but will need another .5 FTE to deal with the spike. Some of the increase is because of increased identification. The Special Education department is looking at more training for paras to build expertise in certain areas.

Leanne gave an update on the Continuum of Services team, saying there may be some students that do not need therapeutic day treatment, but need alternative programming. The SU is looking at developing a model for middle school students, in one of our schools, so the students can access general education classes, also. Leanne predicted that initially 10 – 12 students would access program. John said that it is most logical to house the program at the Junior High and bring in students from NCUJHS non-member districts, also.

B. Kathy Nolan reported on School Improvement Grants, saying that 8 or 9 of our schools qualified. Derby received \$65,000.00, while the others received \$45,000.00. Coventry, Lowell & J/W did not qualify. Troy qualified, but did not get in in time. There is another round of School Improvements in May. Examples of

what the grant money is being used for include new math programs, computers, I Pads for students and adults, and professional learning.

Kathy also reported on the progress of the Feedback and Grading committee. The committee meets monthly, and are looking at how we grade right now vs. what we would like it to look like, including tying in proficiencies and more student involvement.

Math Program considerations: Kathy reported that many of our schools have used the current math program for 16 years, while it's been 10 or 11 years for some. The committee has just begun meeting, and all schools K-5 have representation. We are hoping to implement a new math program for fall of 2017, in a unified way. School Improvement Grants will help with the funding.

C. Integrated Field Review Follow Up: Mr. Castle distribute the final report from AOE, which was just released yesterday, so we will defer discussion until future meeting. Liz will distribute the report to all board members electronically, as well as the Education Quality Standards rubric, which was the foundation of the Integrated Field Review. Steve Mason and John thanked Liz for her work on this project.

IV. Business Operations & Finance Report

Action:

A. **Motion** to accept the January Financial Statement – *Handout*

Glenn reported that little has changed since last month, we are on track, and there is nothing unusual. He handed out hard copies of comparative data, and will customize the report for individual Town Meetings, if requested.

BRUECK/CARBONNEAU **APPROVED**

V. VSBA Update & Legislative Forum: Frank Carbonneau reported that State Treasurer Beth Pierce was the guest speaker at the recent VSBA meeting. She spoke of divesting fossil fuels relative to the teacher's retirement fund. Frank reported that the numbering of the VSBA Model Policies has changed, to reflect whether a policy is required, recommended, or suggested. The VSBA has directed Nicole Mace to work towards eliminating unfunded mandates. Frank shared that the VSBA is discussing the creation of regional advisory boards, which would not be in violation of open meeting laws, so boards can work together. Steve thanked Frank for following the VSBA closely and reporting out monthly.

VI. New Business

Mr. Castle announced that this would be Wilma's last meeting, and thanked her for her service. She was applauded by the Executive Committee.

Action:

A. Approve Hire of Director of Learning Design: deferred to Executive Session

B. **Motion** to approve an increase in Supplemental Salaries to \$26.00 per hour for licensed staff and \$14.00 per hour for support staff, for one year, beginning June of 2016.

Discussion concerning the motion: John explained that this is in regard to pay for licensed staff and support staff outside of their contract, such as summer work, curriculum work, and Encore. He said that most is grant funded. The rate for licensed staff has been \$24.00/hour for the past fifteen years. John recommends raising the rate for licensed staff to \$26, \$28, and \$30, over three years, effective this June. SS are currently paid at \$12.00/hour. The vote was to approve the rate of \$26.00 per hour for licensed staff and \$14.00 per hour for support staff, for one year, beginning June of 2016. CARBONNEAU/MAYHEW **APPROVED**

C. **Motion** to approve revised Policy D.1 Background Checks: BRUECK/MAYHEW **APPROVED**

Discussion:

A. Annual Report & Annual Meeting Considerations: John asked for feedback and suggestions for the 2016 NCSU Annual Report and Annual Meeting. The items mentioned were: the Integrated Field Review report; EQS; having Principals attend the meeting; proficiency based learning and graduation requirements; and a

discussion of the SU's position concerning Act 46: giving the community a sense of where we are going, what it means, and why we are going in the direction we are pursuing. Also, concerning the Transportation waiver, letting the AOE know what we have done towards efficiency and compliance, and fulfilling our responsibility. It was suggested that John send out a questionnaire/survey to all board members.

B. Considering Digital Distribution of Board Packets: John asked if the Executive Committee would be willing to pioneer going completely digital for their board packets. He suggested it could be done by purchasing a device for each board member, or having each board member bring their own device (BYOD?). John suggested that we could use the website and/or Google Docs, with links and it would improve the efficient of both money and time. It was agreed to have John Peters research devices, with the possibility of purchasing one for each Executive committee member, though the device would be the property of the NCSU. John Peters will report back in April.

VII. Unfinished or Other Business

Information:

A. Facilities Update: John shared that realtor Jim Campbell has spoken to him about finding a tenant for the Early Ed building, as well as possibilities for relocating the Central Office. We have also been working with NVDA, an organization which helps businesses to find space. Also, John has asked Eileen to research any limitations on locating the Central Office at the NCCC.

B. Legislative/School Board Education Forum on Monday, March 21, at 6:00 at the North Country Career Center: Invitations have been sent to all legislators who represent the NCSU, as well as Vickie Strong and Sam Young. John asked for recommendations for this year's Forum. It was suggested that invitations be sent to the representatives to the House and Senate Education Committees. Scott suggested that we seat the Legislators at the head of table, as honored guests, get RSVPs from board members and principals, and create targets for questions which can be distributed ahead of time to board members, possibly as a Google Doc. Jason suggested that we educate the legislators as to what goes on in a public school in the 21st Century. It was suggested that we might have a presentation by students and/or teachers. Other topics could include state mandates, PLPs, EQS, and school visits. Liz will send an invitation with an RSVP to all board members, and will send an email reminder to the legislators.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting/Future Agenda Items: The Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the NCUHS Library. The Collective Bargaining Agreement will be on applicable agendas in March, and will be ratified at the NCSU Annual Meeting.

IX. **Motion** to enter Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. MAYHEW/BRUECK
The Chair exited Executive Session at 9:02 p.m.

Motion to offer Dr. Edith Beatty a 2 year contract as NCSU Director of Learning Design, with a salary of \$94,494.75 and 20 days of paid vacation, for the first year of the 2 year contract.
BOSKIND/BRUECK **APPROVED**, BRONSON Opposed

X. **Motion** to Adjourn at 9:04 p.m. THERRIEN/BOSKIND **APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield
Recording Secretary

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<i>Legislative/School Board Education Forum</i>	Monday	March 21	6:00 p.m.	NCCC 379/380
NCSU Annual Meeting/Full Board	Thursday	March 24	6:30 p.m.	NCUHS LIBRARY