

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

Present

Board:

Steve Mason, Lowell
Jason Brueck, Charleston
Arlene Brown, Newport Town
Richard Cartee, NCUJHS
Frank Carbonneau, Coventry
Tim Bronson, Derby
Cliff Forster, Troy
Rose Mary Mayhew, NCUHS

Staff:

John Castle, NCSU Superintendent
Glenn Hankinson, NCSU Director of Business and Finance
Kathy Nolan, NCSU Director of Curriculum
Leanne Desjardins, NCSU Director of Special Education
John Peters, NCSU Director of Technology
Liz Butterfield, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Not Present

Brighton
Holland
Jay/Westfield
Morgan
Newport City

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Mason, at 6:35 p.m.
Mr. Mason led the Pledge of Allegiance and called for any agenda changes. There were none.

II. **Motion** to approve the Minutes of January 15, 2015 (*Attachment A*) BRUECK/MAYHEW **APPROVED**

III. Superintendent's & Central Office Reports – (*Attachment B*) John Castle reviewed his report. Frank Carbonneau stated that he felt that the Board Chairs meeting was helpful and would like to see such meetings held more than once a year. Steve mentioned that John attended the Community Commons forum the previous evening, and shared that John did a great job of explaining school finance and budgets to the attendees. John reported that he offered to meet with the city council and the mayor, along with Glenn, to go over school budgets, school finance, etc. Frank suggested video taping the meeting and putting the video on YouTube, to reach a wider audience.

Leanne Desjardins, Director of Special Education, spoke about Speech and Language needs and services, and the possibility of using Telepractice, an online resource that many schools in VT are using. Telepractice hires the top 4% of those they interview, they charge a flat rate with no travel or mileage fees, and we can purchase set amounts of time rather than trying to hire a speech and language pathologist for just a few hours spent each of many schools. Leanne feels that it would be more cost effective, as Telepractice charges a flat \$70.00/hour and we are currently paying from between \$50-55/hour to \$90.00/hour (includes salary and benefits) plus mileage and travel time. Leanne stated that the program that took place a few years ago, where we trained our own SLPs, worked well, but IDEA monies may not be available to do that again. It may be a possibility for the future.

Leanne reported that screenings and interviews for the PreK positions took place this week. Five candidates were interviewed the first day, all current SU employees, and three additional outside candidates were interviewed on the second day. Leanne said that the administrators and principals involved felt that it was a good process, and would like to use same process to hire SpEd teachers.

Leanne shared that Diane Nichols Fleming will be giving a PowerPoint presentation at the April Leadership Team meeting, and it may be something that she would like to present to the boards, focusing on the strengths of the Preschool program. Leanne pointed out that the PreK staff is grieving the loss of the current PreK program.

IV. Business Operations & Finance Report

A. Motion to approve the January Financial Statement (Handout) Glenn reviewed the figures with the Board.
BRUECK/CARBONNEAU APPROVED

B. Motion to award the bid for the Financial Audit to RHR Smith (Attachment C – AUDIT) Glenn reported that the lowest bid is from a firm that we are not familiar with, and in researching them he got mixed reviews. RHR Smith was the next lowest bid and has done good work for the High School and many of our other schools. They are also quick. **FORSTER/BRONSON APPROVED**

C. Comparable Data – Attachment D: Glenn gave a PowerPoint presentation with enrollment graphs, budget per equalized pupil, cost per equalized pupil, the change in Ed Spending and the Homestead tax rate, all clearly illustrated. Glenn and John are trying to make arrangements to testify in Montpelier to the Ed Committees – preferably before Town Meeting. John thanked Glenn for all of his work in compiling comparable data and getting it out to board members so they can use it at their Town Meetings.

V. VSBA Update: Frank Carbonneau gave an update of the items that the VSBA has been discussing.

The Superintendent distributed a draft Resolution for the March NCSU Full Board Annual Meeting (see attachment) rejecting the state's efforts to end the small schools grants and the hold harmless provisions, and rejecting the push for consolidation. The resolution calls for adequate funding of AOE and states that the NCSU will engage in best practices in working with the AOE, VSA and VSBA to ensure efficient financial management, equitable learning opportunities, and sustainable schools and communities. John stated that he is working on an Op-ed piece for the newspapers, which will address the points of the resolution.

Legislative Forum: John reminded the Board that the Legislator/School Board Education Forum is scheduled for March 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the NCCC.

VI. New Business

A. NCSU Bylaws Review (Attachment E) This discussion was deferred to a future meeting in the interest of time.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Early Childhood Programs Reduction in Force: Motion to RIF five 1.0 FTE NCSU Preschool Teachers. John explained that this is necessitated because of the end of NCSU center-based Preschool Programs in FY2016.
FORSTER/BRUECK APPROVED

B. Superintendent Evaluation Process: John distributed a packet to each Board member with various documents to consider for the evaluation process. He said that it can be done electronically through the VSBA or in-house. All agreed that they support the 360 degree approach, with feedback from administrative staff and principals, as well as board members. John suggested that each board meet with their principal to evaluate the Superintendent. John stated that he is looking forward to the valuable feedback that the evaluation will provide. John and Steve will work together to get something out to the Boards.

Motion to accept the proposed method of Evaluation of the Superintendent. **BRUECK/MAYHEW APPROVED**

C. 2015–2016 School Year Calendar: John stated that the calendar is very close to Lake Region's calendar, and that early release days have been coordinated more this year than in the past. The only big difference between the two SUs is that OCSU will have 3 days off for Veteran's Day, and NCSU will have one.

Motion to approve the 2015-2016 NCSU Calendars. **CARTEE/BRONSON APPROVED**

VIII. Other Business

Policy Committee Update: Steve Mason reported that as a result of the VSBA Policy Audit, policies that can be combined or done away with will be coming to the boards each month. John will compile the list.

A. **Motion** to approve the Second Reading and to adopt the Following Policies: (*Attachment F*)

- 1. A.01 (Revised and Renamed) Policy Development, Dissemination and Administration
- 2. G.11 Responsible Computer, Network & Internet Use
- 3. D.10 Public Complaints about Personnel

B. **Motion** to rescind the Following Policies (Second Reading). (*Attachment G*)

- 1. A.2 Policy Adoption
- 2. A.3 Policy Dissemination, Administration and Review
- 3. F.47 Portable Electronic Communication Devices

CARTEE/BRUECK **APPROVED**

C. **Motion to** approve Policy A.04 Administrative Procedure Development (*Attachment H*)

Richard reiterated that he would like a courtesy notification from the principal when procedure is developed, which this policy does allow for. CARTEE/BRUECK **APPROVED**

VIII. Date of Next Meeting/Future Agenda Items: March 19th is the next meeting, which will be a Full Board meeting for reorganization. Other topics for discussion will include the Bylaws and the Resolution.

IX. Executive Session – was not needed.

X. Motion to Adjourn at 8:33. CARTEE/BRONSON **APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield,
Recording Secretary

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Legislator Education Summit	Monday	March 16	6:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 380
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	March 19	5:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 380
NCSU Annual Meeting (<i>Full Board</i>)	Thursday	March 19	6:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 380