

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

**Present**

***Board Members:***

Corinna Lancaster, Newport City  
Jason Brueck, Charleston  
Jessica Ward, Newport City  
Tim Bronson, Derby  
Rose Mary Mayhew, NCUHS  
Katie Mientka, Brighton  
Scott Boskind, NCUHS/NCUJHS  
Steve Mason, Lowell  
Richard Cartee, NCUHS/NCUJHS  
Danielle Blake, Morgan  
Lincoln Petell, Holland

***Staff:***

John A. Castle, Superintendent  
Glenn Hankinson, Director of Business  
Kathy Nolan, Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction  
Leanne Desjardins, Director of Special Education  
Diane Nichols Fleming, Coordinator of Early Childhood  
Liz Butterfield, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

***Public:*** None

***Press:*** None

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

**II. Motion to Approve the Executive Committee Minutes** of November 20, 2014 (*Attachment A*)  
**BROWN/MAYHEW APPROVED, CARTEE ABSTAINED**

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

**Mr. Castle** reported that at the Superintendent's Association meeting earlier today, the VSBA announced the availability of their Data Base for Negotiations, which is considered a "premium service", and costs \$200.00. John encourages and recommends that NCSU purchase the service. He shared that training around negotiations will be coming up soon, and Board members will receive mailings with more information. John shared that Rebecca Holcomb, VT AOE Secretary of Education, spoke at the Superintendent's meeting about Smarter Balanced Assessment. John feels that Secretary Holcomb is transparent, openly shares her frustrations, and recognizes the practicality that we can't refuse fed government monies. Shap Smith, Speaker of the House and David Sharp, Chair of the House Education Committee, also spoke. John's take was, "More ways to spend less money." They spoke of phasing out Small Schools Grants. John shared that the "Hold Harmless" provision will be changing, and that concerning Governance, the state is looking at opportunities to design our own, but with certain parameters.

**Director of Special Education Leanne Desjardins** spoke about the two trainings for paras that have been held this year, which have been very successful. 80 paras attended the first session, and there were 70 on Monday. The areas covered include an autism introduction by Kathryn Whitaker, including the use of technology, iPads and apps; the Behavioral Specialists presented on anxiety, trauma, and coping mechanisms; and the issue of clarifying roles and confidentiality in small communities was discussed.

Leanne shared that Voc. Rehab. is mandated to utilize 15% of their Federal funds to assist 14-21 year olds with job skills, which falls under the Work Innovation and Opportunity Act. They are working with our Special Education Department on this.

Leanne asked board members to email her with topics that they would like to hear about in world of SpEd.

**Diane Nichols Fleming** reminded those assembled that there will be a presentation of the film “Are We Crazy about Our Kids?” at the NCCC on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., and that John is on the panel. She encouraged board members to attend.

#### **IV. Business Operations & Finance Report**

**Motion to approve the December Financial Statement** (*Attachment C*) Director of Business Glenn Hankinson reported that all is well, we will be in the black at the end of year, and we are receiving and spending Federal monies. **BRUECK/BRONSON APPROVED**

Glenn reported on **Equalized Pupils**, sharing that of our 12 towns and Ferdinand, 6 have chosen to implement Act 166 to take advantage of Equalized Pupils. This translates to an increase of 114 PreK students in the SU, which brings a value of \$496,000.00 to NCSU. NCSU would have lost \$168,000.00 if those towns had not implemented Act 166. Glenn also spoke about how “ghost students” play into the equation, and said that he will create data sheets illustrating these facts.

**A. Minimum Wage & Mileage Changes:** Glenn shared that the Minimum Wage became \$9.15/HOUR on January 1st, and that the Federal Reimbursement Rate is 57.5 cents per mile.

**V. VSBA Update** – Frank Carbonneau was not present.

#### **VI. New Business**

**A. Initiatives related to Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment – Kathy Nolan** (*Handout*)

Kathy shared that she will be “going on tour with John” to local Board meetings, and asked Board members to let her know what they want to hear about. Kathy gave an informative presentation on SBAC, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium testing that will take the place of the NECAPS, sharing that VT AOE is way behind on being ready to administer the tests and that there are a lot of issues yet to be cleared up. Kathy spoke about the Teacher Leaders initiative, which involves more than 50 teachers and is focused on improving instruction for all students, as well as the Continuum of Literacy Intervention, which brings Special Education Consulting Teachers and Literacy Instruction specialists together to study how struggling learners learn to read, with the goal of creating student profiles and matching with appropriate interventions. Kathy shared that we are not looking at making any new program purchases for Common Core Resources at this time, but it is on the radar to move to a Common Core aligned math program for grades K-5 in the future. Kathy stated that the literacy teachers are using more non-fiction resources and more primary sources, and creating their own units.

**B. Superintendent Evaluation Process**

John distributed a handout that he and Steve Mason had created, illustrating the proposed timeline for the Superintendent Evaluation Process, and said that he has been in touch with Harry Frank at the VSBA to see what they can contribute to the process. Steve asked the EC if they approved of the timeline, and all agreed that it is appropriate.

John asked if the 360 degree review should include the Leadership Team. Some Board members strongly felt that it should, while others expressed concern about getting honest answers from people who work for you. John said that he wants the feedback and will develop a comprehensive tool to collect feedback. His former SU is sending him copies of what was used there. John said there should be different questions each year. The question was posed: What kind of tool do we want to use, regardless of who the Superintendent is? Do we involve others, such as parents? Most felt that it would be hard to get participation. Steve and John will develop 3 models to present to the EC next month.

**C. Legislator Education Summit:** The EC chose the 16<sup>th</sup> of March for the Summit. It is NCSU's turn to host and organize, and Liz will work with OCSU to do so. The Summit will be held at the NCCC.

**Unfinished or Other Business**

**VSBA's NCSU Policy Audit:** Mr. Castle reported that John Nelson of the VSBA has begun the process, and will have the report to us by the end of the month.

**A. Motion** to Approve the First Reading of the Following Policies:

1. A.01 (Revised and Renamed) Policy Development, Dissemination and Administration (*Attachment D*) **BRUECK/MAYHEW APPROVED**
2. G.11 Responsible Computer, Network & Internet Use (*Attachment E*)  
**BRUECK/MAYHEW APPROVED**
3. D.10 Public Complaints about Personnel (*Attachment F*) **BRUECK/MAYHEW APPROVED**

**B. Motion** to Rescind the Following three Policies: **BOSKIND/MAYHEW APPROVED**

1. A.2 Policy Adoption (*Attachment G*)
2. A.3 Policy Dissemination, Administration and Review (*Attachment H*)
3. F.47 Portable Electronic Communication Devices (*Attachment I*)

**C. Motion** to Approve the Second Reading and Adoption of the Following Policies:

1. F.04 Search and Seizure (*Attachment J*) **BRONSON/MAYHEW APPROVED**
2. F.05 Interrogation or Searches of Students by Law Enforcement Personnel or Other Non-School Personnel (*Attachment K*) **BRONSON/MAYHEW APPROVED**

Steve Mason shared the *VT Youth Risk Behavior Survey* (Handout) from Lesley Becker. Board members brought up the fact that we are sending students to other schools, such as LR, through School Choice, and we need to look at the facts and figures of NCUHS vs. other schools.

**IX. Date of Next Meeting/Future Agenda Items:**

February 19, 2015

A. John would like to schedule a **Board Chairs Meeting** in February to discuss efficiencies, reorganization in March, representation, regular attendance, meeting dates, what would be helpful for Board Chairs, etc.

**X. Executive Session** – not needed

**XI. Motion to Adjourn** at 8:20 p.m.: **CARTEE/BRONSON**

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Support Staff Negotiations	Wednesday	January 28	4:00 p.m.	NCCC Room 380
Teacher Negotiations	Tuesday	February 3	5:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 380
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	February 19	5:30 p.m.	NCSU, A213
NCSU Executive Committee	Thursday	February 19	6:30 p.m.	NCSU, A209