

NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - **DRAFT**

THURSDAY, November 20, 2014

AT 5:30 P.M. -- NCSU CENTRAL OFFICE, Room A213

Present:

Board Members

Steve Mason, Lowell

Gislaine R. Gobeil-Judd, Derby

Arlene Brown, Newport Town

Patrick Austin, West Charleston

Staff

John Castle, Superintendent

Liz Butterfield, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Public

Brian McNeal, Newport City resident

I. Chair Steve Mason called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Agenda Changes – there were none.

II. **Motion** to Approve the Minutes of October 16, 2014 – *Attachment A* AUSTIN/JUDD **APPROVED**

III. **Privilege of the Floor/Public Comment** – **Mr. Brian McNeal** shared that he has spoken to Perry Thompson, Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcomb's assistant. Mr. Thompson told Mr. McNeal that he is not aware of all the cell phone issues and asked Mr. McNeal to send him more information. Mr. McNeal reported that he has also contacted the VT NEA. John explained that the NEA is a Union, they do not have the authority to create policy nor are they a state agency. John said that the NEA can be helpful in making recommendations for creating policy. John recommended that Mr. McNeal request a copy of the Responsible Use Policy from the AOE. Mr. McNeal said he gets calls from parents saying that the policies are not being enforced. John said that he will be recommending that cell phones be allowed in the classrooms, and that we will need to create policies, procedures, protocols and parameters around responsible use. Mr. McNeal spoke of his concerns with the future of education, saying that he is afraid that there will not be the need for teachers, as kids can just stay home and learn using technology. John spoke of the value of technology as a tool for blended learning, allowing students to take classes that they would not have access to in a traditional setting. Mr. McNeal said it needs to be controlled in the classroom, and he knows that kids are able to text without the teacher knowing it. John responded that it is a matter of classroom management, making good choices, and teaching responsible use and digital citizenship. He pointed out that kids have been passing notes in class for hundreds of years.

IV. **New, Unfinished or Other Business**

Information and/or Action:

A. Review and Revise Policies:

A.1 Policy Development – *Attachment B*

A.2 Policy Adoption – *Attachment C*

A.3 Policy Dissemination – *Attachment D*

John stated that he is hoping to condense the policies that concern Policy (A.1 – A.4) down into one policy. John also explained why it is difficult to track policies when there are so many readings. As for policy review by employees, he feels it is good practice, and he is working on a new version. As for students, he said it is hard to make sure they have reviewed all the policies, as is stated in A.3. John also spoke of the difference between board policy and administrative procedure, saying that some policies require procedure for implementation. In other cases, a policy is not necessary, but a procedure is.

John offered to draft a combined policy to bring to the Policy Committee at the next meeting.

Motion to combine Policies A.1, A.2 and A.3 into one policy, and to require only one policy reading.

AUSTIN/GOBEIL-JUDD **APPROVED**

A.4 Administrative Procedure Development – *Attachment E*

Steve stated, “There seems to be a lot of mystery around developing procedure”. John replied that most procedures should be developed at the administrative level, but a board can say that they don’t like it. Procedures often times have to change as the times change. Pat asked why NCUHS has their Policy Committee reviewing policies before their Board adopts them. John shared that this has been discussed at NCUHS meetings. He suggests that NCUHS have their own policy for procedures. John would like the Common Board Policies to be on the SU web site, and to have a link for any that are specific to a local school. He shared that it is not uncommon for some schools to have different policies for things such as Facility Use, because they are so site specific. On the other hand, Harassment, Search and Seizure, Acceptable Use, etc. should be Common Policies. Pat asked what happens when one board makes a change, can the Common Policy then be looked at and the same change made? John answered “Yes” the policy would then be brought back to all boards to make the change, so that it is still a Common Policy. Steve likes having the Leadership Team look at new or revised policies to see if they have any objections or suggestions before the policy is adopted or changed. John stated that some of our current policies may even contradict the law because it is hard to keep track with so many policies, which is another good reason to have a policy audit by the VSBA. Steve feels that it is best to have all districts participate in policy development, so that all of the boards agree that once a policy goes to the boards it doesn’t get sent back. John offered to draft a new version of **A.4** to bring to the next Policy Committee meeting.

Steve polled the committee as to their recommendation for a **Policy Audit by the VSBA, and all agreed that it should be recommended to the Executive Committee.**

D.10 Public Complaints about Personnel – Attachment F

1. Information from Minutes of April 17, 2014 concerning D.10 – *Attachment G*

Motion to approve Policy D.10 with the changes agreed upon at the April 17th meeting.
GOBEIL-JUDD/AUSTIN APPROVED.

The Policy will be placed on the next Executive Committee agenda for approval.

J.6 Head Lice – Attachment H

John pointed out that the current NCSU policy states “no live nits.” John spoke with Colleen Moore de Ortiz from the VT Dept. of Health, the VSBA, and Kathy Nolan to get their input on Head Lice Policy. The Dept. of Health does not recommend a No Nits policy and the VSBA does not recommend No Nits. John stated that not all school nurses are enforcing No Nits. For example, if they find 2 dead nits, they might remove them, allow the child to stay in school and recheck regularly. There was discussion concerning no nits vs. live nits. Steve asked for John’s suggestions for the NCSU Policy. John offered to seek input from principals and nurses and to report back at the next Policy Committee meeting.

IX. Date of Next Meeting/Future Agenda Items

The next Policy Committee meeting will be on December 18, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in NCSU A213.

XI. Motion to Adjourn at 6:32 p.m. AUSTIN/GOBEIL-JUDD APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield
 Recording Secretary

Meetings:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCSU E.C. Budget Meeting	Monday	December 15	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A213`
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	December 18	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A213
NCSU Full Board	Thursday	December 18	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209