

**NEWPORT CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING**

November 24, 2014

Board Members Present: Corinna Lancaster, Chair, Phil Laramie, Vice Chair, Jessica Ward, Mary Ellen Prairie, Victoria Lantagne

Administration Present: John Castle, Superintendent, Judith Boucher, Principal, Melinda Mascolino, Assist. Principal

Guests: Aimee Alexander, Kristen Morey, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Robin Smith, Orleans County Record

Recorder: Jessica Ward

I. Call the Meeting to Order-Mr. Laramie called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

II. Principal's Report

Information:

Ms. Boucher opened by saying the purpose for this meeting is to discuss offering Early Education for 3 and 4 years olds at NCES. Doing it off site will be much more expensive. The rent alone is \$65,000.00 per year. Location is something we've been looking at and redoing the attic would be expensive there is no plumbing, etc. Melinda and Judith walked around the school and called Diane the director of Early Childhood and talked with her and did walk around to see what could be done and still meet the regulations for preschool. She came over twice, Kathy Nolan and John Castle came once. This is the beginning of the conversation there is no plan in place as of yet. Administration will meet with staff and see if we can get input to see how this might work best for the students. There are about 90 students who could enroll and we can expect and plan for approximately 60 of those children will attend preschool.

One of the regulations is to offer at least 10 hours a week to 3 and 4 year olds. That has to come out of local budget. Anything over 10 hours per week may come from Titles. Diane said there may be some additional funds but certainly not a huge amount. With each student the ADM will follow them in the amount of \$4,300.00 per student. Will need a minimum of 2 licensed teachers and 2 para educators. Regulation is 1 adult per 10 children. Administration walked around and what they found for the most cost effective would be to use the 2 kindergarten rooms, Helena Perry and Donna Young both have a bathroom and a door between their rooms. Ellen could stay in her room and we need to keep K-teachers in that area so they can get to know these students. Two possibilities:

Classroom 1: A half day for 15 four year olds in the a.m. 5 days a week.

A half day for 15 three year olds in the p.m. 5 days a week.

Classroom 2: A half day for 15 four year olds in the a.m. 5 days a week.

A half day for 15 three year olds in the p.m. 5 days a week.

Ms. Boucher said legally she doesn't think transportation needs to be provided. Diane said no it is not. Ms. Boucher said maybe we could provide transportation to school but perhaps the parent to pick up students.

Classroom 1: A half day for 15 four year olds in the a.m. 5 days a week.

A half day for 15 three year olds in the p.m. 5 days a week.

Classroom 2: A half day for 15 four year olds in the a.m. 5 days a week.

A half day for 15 three year olds in the p.m. 3 days a week.

Ms. Boucher said some parents may not want their 3 year old children to go 5 days a week and we could offer 3 days a week. We want to move as few classrooms as possible but yet keep grades together. Maybe move some special education rooms. This is just the beginning and she wants to present this to the staff. They may have to double up some special educators because those rooms are quite big.

Diane commented that we could say that we only serve Newport City students. Ms. Boucher said she thought that is what we should do to exclude possible added expenses. This would be a first come first serve program. Special Ed services will still be served from central office. If a student goes to a private program we would have to pay \$3,000.00 to that program per student. The goal is to serve our community without putting too much pressure on the budget. We will have to reallocate our resources.

Mr. Laramie asked if we could look into a possible day care here at the school so the children could do ½ day preschool and ½ day daycare in the building to make things easier for parents. Diane said it was a nice thought but thinks opening a preschool first is a big project, but it remains a good idea for the future. Mr. Laramie asked what the cost would be, what could be funded with state subsidies for some of the children to have daycare. Ms. Boucher said she thought it was a good idea but feels it too big for the first year. She said she would look into it and try to find answers.

Ms. Prairie asked if Central office had enough staff in Special Education to supply us if needed. Diane said they have 3.8 teachers and 1 vacancy. We currently have 80 children enrolled and 50% of those are Special Ed. Ms. Boucher said our assessment for Special Ed. would cover the cost of those Special Ed. students. The cost is already figured out and we have been paying that so there is not an addition cost.

Ms. Lantagne said she would like to see the formula Glenn uses when setting the assessment cost.

Ms. Lancaster asked who would keep track of the students when they come and go. Ms. Boucher said the administrative assistant does the reports and preschool would just be another grade or program in the school, NCES will be pre-K thru 6.

Ms. Prairie asked if Ms. Boucher if this plan is workable. Ms. Boucher said yes. She wants to make as minimal changes as possible but it is definitely probable. We would like to keep the grades together. She wants to meet with the staff in the future to discuss their thoughts on this idea. We all need to keep in mind the best interest of the students and to keep the financial part of this as minimal as possible for our tax payers.

Ms. Boucher said there are still things to talk about and this meeting is the beginning. She said she is not comfortable putting 3 and 4 year olds on our buses. There are still some things to decide for transportation which may include purchasing another bus. A 3rd bus would make a big difference. We pay to have supervision on the playground for 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon. Ms. Lancaster said they use to have 3 buses and it was very useful. Mr. Lancaster asked if the Early Childhood program could pay for a bus. Diane said it could be possible through the titles fund. Ms. Boucher said she would look into it. It would be NCES

school's Titles funds that would have to be used if it could be used for transportation. Although we will be receiving more Titles funds we are currently \$70,000.00 short to pay for the intervention positions that we have.

Ms. Boucher said there is a lot of ways to do this and will be having a discussion with the staff to get their input in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Castle said the goal is to serve our community and he feels we are serving students quite well right now and there will probably be an opportunity to serve more children in this community. You need to reallocate your services in terms of space and staffing resources. It can be challenging and hopes this does not have a big impact on the budget process. His hope is to come out with something that serves the students and the community as well.

III. Motion to Adjourn

Ward/Lantagne **APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted by,

Jessica Ward
Recording Secretary

Meetings:

<u>Groups</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCES Board Meeting	Monday	December 1	6:00 p.m.	Library