

## Newport City School Board Meeting Minutes January 25, 2016

### Present

#### **Board Members:**

Corinna Lancaster – Chair  
Vicki Lantagne  
Mary Ellen Prairie  
Jessica Ward  
Karrie Briggs

#### **Administration and Staff:**

John Castle\*\*, Superintendent  
Melinda Mascolino, Ass't Principal  
Nancy Frenette, Interim Principal  
Nancy Griffith, Recording Secretary  
Sharon Pare\*\*, Teacher  
Kathy Nolan, Curriculum Director  
Cathy Lowell\*\*, Teacher  
Dale Netz\*\*, Receptionist  
Samantha Knight, Bookkeeper

#### **Press:**

Robin Smith, Orleans Record

\*\*Partial attendees

- I. LANCASTER called meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
  
- II. **Public comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens:** LANCASTER discussed that John emailed her the lawyer's response in regards to the city's charter and it states that it is the board's discretion to decide on their bookkeeping services. SMITH asked for a copy of this email as well as the proposed budget handouts that were distributed tonight.
  
- III. **Approve FY17 budget:**

TWO budgets were handed out, one included all the motions from last week and one included an additional 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher position above last week's motions.

LANCASTER asked for a reminder on teacher negotiated salary increases (which was confirmed to be 2.5%) and what was proposed for support staff. It was confirmed that the board gets to decide what that percentage is for support staff as well as the increases for administrators. KNIGHT confirmed that support staff were based on 3% increases, and the assistant principal is locked into a three year contract so that amount is set for FY17. LANTAGNE mentioned that BCBS was going up 7.9%.

PRAIRIE brought up the bookkeeping services as she felt a final decision was not made at the last meeting. Upon review of last week's minutes, it was found that the board decided to leave the bookkeeping services at NCES. KNIGHT mentioned that if services were moved, not all tasks that she did would be taken over by the SU, some would have to be re-assigned to NCES staff.

LANCASTER asked GRIFFITH if she could amend the support staff policy tonight to include the new 30 hour a week threshold for benefit requirements for the new reduced receptionist position, and GRIFFITH indicated we should wait to bring forward a revised policy that would also include last year's board decision to offer dental insurance to support staff. LANCASTER agreed.

LANCASTER asked how many bus routes were in this budget. MASCOLINO indicated two.

LOWELL inquired as to why the discussion was being brought forward again around the 6<sup>th</sup> grade configuration. It was her understanding that the motion was passed last week to only keep 2 grade 6 teaching positions in the FY17 budget. She wanted the board to know that the group of students moving up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are a good group and have made much progress, and that the group would not necessarily benefit from smaller classroom sizes. LANCASTER confirmed that she just wanted to be prepared with financial information if the subject came up again.

GRIFFITH mentioned that there needed to be discussion around the financial impact of these two proposed budgets as she believed the comparative spreadsheets were emailed out today by the NCSU Director of Finance. She believed the second proposed budget with the 3<sup>rd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher position showed significant increases in the tax rate. LANCASTER asked the board where other cuts could be done to reduce costs. MASCOLINO asked if they wanted to reconsider them not wanting to take the administration's proposal to only have two 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes as well. No interest was shown. CASTLE indicated that the budget without the third 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and with the three 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers would represent about a \$0.02 tax hike when combining the JHS and SHS budget tax rates.

**Motion** to approve budget in the amount of \$5,735,642.38 - WARD/BRIGGS – **Approved.**

- IV. **Agenda Items for next meeting on February 1, 2016:** Approval of support staff policy revisions, discussion of the monthly meeting schedule, principal report, superintendent report and the auditor recommendations are to be reviewed. Meeting will be held at the city clerk's office.
- V. **Approve the warrants:** Warrants for the FY17 budget were read by LANCASTER and the first one was for the budget amount of \$5,735,642.38. Second article is to request a transfer of \$53,229 from the general fund balance to the construction fund. Third article is to request a transfer of \$53.230 from the general fund balance to the construction fund.
- VI. **Adjourn: Motion** to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. – WARD/PRAIRIE – **Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Griffith

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	February 18	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A219
NCSU Executive Committee	Thursday	February 18	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
NCES Board	Monday	February 1	6:00 p.m.	City Clerk