

Newport City School Board Meeting Minutes April 4, 2016

Present

Board Members:

Vicky Lantagne – Chair
Wendy McGillivray
Mary Ellen Prairie
Chris Royer

Administration and Staff:

Samantha Knight, Bookkeeper
Judith McKelvey, Teacher
Nancy Frenette, Interim Principal
Glenn Hankinson, Finance Director
Nancy Griffith, Recording Secretary
John Castle, Superintendent
Sharon Pare, Teacher
Cindy Stone, Teacher
Kristen Morey, Teacher
Christine Russell, Parent
Mary Ellen Maclure, Teacher
Cathy Lowell, Teacher
Karen Ward**, Edward Jones Representative

**Partial Attendees

- I. LANTAGNE called meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.
Additions or Adjustments to agenda: PRAIRIE asked to add the presentation from the representative from Edward Jones under the financial reports. **Motion** to have board go up to see the students' weather presentations in Mr. Royer's classroom – MCGILLIVRAY/PRAIRIE – **Approved.**
- II. **Approve the minutes of March 21 and March 30, 2016 (attachment A1 and A2).** **Motion** to approve the minutes – ROYER/PRAIRIE – **Approved.**
- III. **Public comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens:** None.
- IV. **Financial Reports:** **Motion** to approve warrants from last week – MCGILLIVRAY/PRAIRIE - **Approved.** The Edward Jones Representative talked about NCES' investments and indicated that they have the school placed in low risk investments. They are averaging an approximate growth of 10% annually since 2009. The representative also discussed some changes she would like to bring forward to continue a good growth rate. The board asked for time to review the information before they made any decisions in regards to potential changes in their portfolio.
- V. **Principal report:** None
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** None
- VII. **Unfinished Business:**
 - A. **Considerations for the FY17 budget revote:** A new revised budget was brought forward. FRENETTE indicated she did not do any adjustments around the bookkeeping position as some of the current bookkeeper's tasks would not be included in NCSU's bookkeeping contract and she was not certain what costs would be attached to those additional tasks. She

did include proposed cuts in music and art teaching positions from 100% down to 80%. The initial proposal at the beginning of the budget process of cutting those positions down to 60% was voted down by the board.

Another consideration in tonight's revised budget was to again propose cutting the third grade teacher position due to anticipated total enrollment in that grade. The other reductions implemented into the new proposed FY17 budget were the differences in administrator salaries with upcoming changes in those two positions. MCKELVEY indicated that currently 25 out of the 39 students in 2nd grade that would be moving into third grade next year receive intervention services. Discussion was had around students receiving adequate support from teachers. MCGILLIVRAY indicated she was firmly opposed to eliminating the third grade teacher position, with ROYER agreeing.

MCGILLIVRAY asked the teachers present what their opinion was in regards to the reductions in art and music, and STONE indicated she felt more comfortable with it at 80% than the original proposed 60% for music. However from observing the art department she felt there was more preparation time needed for the art teacher. LOWELL mentioned she helped with scheduling and this year the art teacher did have numerous back to back classes, but that next year there would be some preparation time in between classes. RUSSELL mentioned she is concerned about retention of staff when you cut percentages in employees' positions. **Motion** to cut art and music to 80% and approve the figure around the administration positions– PRAIRIE/ROYER – more discussion followed:

FRENETTE indicated that as she scrutinized the budget closely over the past few days, she found a couple of line items that she felt funds should be added to. There are currently two great successful programs within the school, Four Winds and Farm to School, that were not funded in the current budget. The cost for FY17 for Four Winds would be \$2,975. The Farm to School program is typically paid thru a grant, but the school is supposed to pay \$2,000 for the administration of the program with non-grant funds. FRENETTE did not know if the parent group could share some fundraiser funds to sustain these two programs. There was discussion had around why the Parent Group has all the funds, and not the school. PRAIRIE would like further clarification as to what services Farm to School provides for their \$2,000 fee. The board feels that will have to be examined at a later date as the amounts were not significant and could potentially be raised thru fundraising. MCGILLIVRAY still is worried about the proposed cuts to art and music, and realistically feels it is less than a penny difference in the tax rate. HANKINSON and KNIGHT were asked to provide new figures to the Board in regards to what these proposed changes would mean in terms of increase in equalized student spending and tax rate. While HANKINSON and KNIGHT worked on the new figures PRAIRIE withdrew her earlier motion. **Motion** to present a new budget with only the principal and assistant principal positions adjusted - MCGILLIVRAY/PRAIRIE – KNIGHT indicated that the administrative changes only represents an increase of 8.79% in per equalized pupil spending versus the initial budget's 9% increase. If they also reduced the art and music teaching positions to 80% the increase would be 8.22% - **approved**.

HANKINSON presented the final warrant for approval with a FY17 budget of \$5,714,500 with an equalized pupil cost of \$13,420, which represents an increase of 8.79%. **Motion** to approve the warrant for the re-vote – PRAIRIE/ROYER – **Approved**. A draft of the informational trifold mailing was presented by HANKINSON. CASTLE suggested something be added to the trifold in reference to the difference in total budget amount being presented versus the initial budget that was brought forward at Town Meeting day. MCGILLIVRAY indicated she wanted a change under the special education section to read that it was mandated by the State. She also wanted to add a comparison of NCES equalized

pupil cost versus the State average. The Board thanked Glenn for working on this trifold. He will mail another draft to the Board for review before the actual mailing.

- B. **Assistant Principal Search:** FRENETTE indicated that they are interviewing 4 candidates this week.

VIII. **New Business:**

A. **Approve supplemental pay rates:** CASTLE indicated that these rates have not changed in a number of years. He indicated he would like to see it move in increments. Goal is to reach \$30 over the next 3 years for certified staff. MCGILLIVRAY asked if this would affect the budget. HANKINSON indicated that these supplemental wages were typically paid thru grant funds, so it would not affect the local budget. **Motion** to approve supplemental pays of \$26 per hour for certified staff and \$14 per hour for support staff – ROYER/PRAIRIE – **Approved.**

B. **Summer programming:** FRENETTE indicated there are new guidelines under the ENCORE program around staffing levels and safety concerns. As a result they may have fewer openings. The program will be 5 weeks, and will have similar offerings as they have had in the past. The Abbey Group will run the food service program. FRENETTE has also coordinated with the custodial staff to plan around that program.

C. **Support Staff Policy:** Will be discussed next month.

- IX. **Agenda Items for next meeting on April 25, 2016:** The only item mentioned was that it was an informational meeting for the new budget. They would also like to invite the Parents Club and Farm to School to the May 2nd meeting. FRENETTE added that she would like to make a recommendation to hire Betsy Willard as a long term teacher substitute starting after April break. **Motion** to approve the hire of the long term teaching substitute – MCGILLIBRAY/PRAIRIE – **Approved.**

- X. **Executive session (anticipated):** **Motion** to enter executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation - MCGILLIVRAY/PRAIRIE - **Approved.** Moved out of executive session at 8:20 p.m. with no action taken.

- XI. **Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Griffith

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	April 28	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A219
NCSU Executive Committee	Thursday	April 28	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
NCES Board	Monday	April 25	6:00 p.m.	NCES