

# Newport City School Board Meeting Minutes

## January 11, 2016

### Present

#### **Board Members:**

Corinna Lancaster – Chair  
Vicki Lantagne  
Mary Ellen Prairie  
Jessica Ward

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

John Castle, Superintendent  
Melinda Mascolino, Ass't Principal  
Nancy Frenette, Interim Principal  
Nancy Griffith, Recording Secretary  
Jennifer Rotunno, Teacher  
Kristen Morey, Teacher  
Christina Malanga, Teacher  
Mary Ellen Maclure, Teacher  
Judy McKelvey, Teacher  
Christina Tetreault, Teacher  
Tammy Wiggett, Teacher  
Thyra Monaghan, Teacher  
Sharon Pare\*\*, Teacher  
Dennis Royer, Teacher  
Brenda Jones-Rooney\*\*, Teacher  
Jeanne Kadmiri\*\*, Guidance Counselor

#### **Press:**

Robin Smith, Orleans Record  
Laura Carpenter, Newport Daily

#### **Parents/Community Members:**

Christine Russell  
Rory Carr\*\*  
Stacy Royer

\*\*Partial attendees

- I. LANCASTER called meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- II. **Additions or adjustments to the agenda:** none.
- III. **Motion** to approve the minutes of November 30, 2015 and December 14, 2015 (attachments A1 and A2) WARD/ LANTAGNE. **Approved.**
- IV. **Public comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens:** None.
- V. **Financial report:**
  - A. **Motion** to approve the October, November and December 2015 Reports - LANTAGNE/WARD - **Approved.**
  - B. **Motion** to approve warrants from December 21, 2015 for payroll - \$18,022.37, food service - \$20,856.07 and general fund - \$661,353.38; and January 5, 2016 for general fund - \$21,248.69 and food service - \$21,052.97 - LANTAGNE/WARD. PRAIRIE mentioned that custodians were making frequent trips to a local hardware store and they charge mileage each time. LANCASTER asked administration to notify the custodians to consolidate needs and make less trips. **Approved.**
  - C. Auditor recommendations: Auditor report was received today via email. Tabled until board members can review and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- VI. **Principal's report:** No questions on the report that was sent out.
- VII. **Superintendent report:** none.

VIII. **Unfinished/New business:**

LANCASTER asked who had cut trees on the property line and left the branches. MASCOLINO believes a neighbor had done it, so LANCASTER has asked that the neighbor be notified of the property boundary lines to avoid future cutting of trees on the school's property

LANCASTER inquired about open board positions. LANTAGNE is running again, WARD is not, and they are not sure if BRIGGS is aware she is up for re-election.

LANCASTER discussed a letter received informing the board of an upcoming maternity leave.

Action:

A. Approve FY17 budget: FRENETTE was asked to present the proposed budget. Major changes are: contract bookkeeping and technology thru the SU as well as some re-assignments of existing staff to reduce RIFs. Two intervention teachers have asked to reduce their FTEs. After reviewing scheduling, administration noticed that there was room to cut in music and art, so the 1.0 FTE in each category would be reduced to 0.60 FTE. FRENETTE went on to discuss some facility needs, but minimum projects were included due to financial restrictions. There was some discussion around a composting project that FRENETTE would like to potentially continue thru grant funds in addition to some local funds. FRENETTE also discussed some of the school's revenue sources and their estimated amounts.

PRAIRIE asked if all these cuts allowed the district to reach the threshold. FRENETTE indicated that no, they will still have to apply some fund balances to reach the threshold.

SMITH asked for a total number of teacher RIFs. FRENETTE indicated 1 full FTE, plus partial reductions of art/music teachers, but there were also some other positions that asked to be reduced. WIGGETT wanted clarification on the art and music positions. FRENETTE indicated it is the general music position that will be reduced to 0.60 FTE. MASCOLINO indicated instructional time will not be affected. ROTUNNO asked where that leaves her prep time to provide quality instructions on her art classes. FRENETTE indicated that the cap is unfortunate and she is trying to respect the tax payers and avoid penalties. ROTUNNO understands the financial limitations but fears that standards will not be met.

MCKELVEY inquired about potential elimination of para positions. Frenette stated that with the current one on one needs of students, they are only proposing the elimination of one para position. Administration is hoping to move forward with a pairing of two students with one para with similar needs, but that is still in the works and cannot be finalized at this time.

WIGGETT asked if the conflict resolution room was in the FY17 budget, and MASCOLINO confirmed that it was. MOREY asked about the funding for all the behavior specialists and FRENETTE stated that for FY17 it would be thru an SU assessment, and CASTLE explained how that is calculated.

PRAIRIE asked why the FY17 proposed budget included bus leases as a couple of years ago the board had tabled it the idea of bus leases. CASTLE indicated that at the last couple of meetings the board had expressed interest in getting information on moving forward with

leases and that it is beneficial to the board to do so, as a lease would incur 40% transportation reimbursement from the State, where as the owning of buses does not allow any reimbursement. Repairs and maintenance are also included in lease agreements.

LANCASTER asked why there was such a variance in the Pre-K section of the budget. CASTLE expects that the new hires were placed higher on the salary grid than anticipated when the FY16 budget was developed.

PRAIRIE asked why we couldn't hire a full time behavior specialist directly with fund balances. RUSSELL asked why we couldn't use those fund balances instead to retain existing staff that might be rified to maintain quality of services. WIGGETT supports maintaining a full time Arts program as it is important to all students.

CARR asked for more specifics about the proposal of contracting technology services thru the SU. She was under the impression that the FY16 budget eliminated the Gifted and Talented program to give those funds towards increased technology integration. She is worried about what services were being centralized. FRENETTE explained that this position was strictly IT services, the technology integration is handled thru the Library media specialist position.

ROYER's (Dennis) biggest concern is that kids and programs come first, that should never be compromised. He feels the school is not going in the direction he feels he had committed to years ago. He understands the financial restrictions but can't justify walking into a classroom and teaching when such changes in programs are occurring. TETREULT seconds his thoughts. They have difficulties reaching the kids now sometimes, what will they do with less.

RUSSELL asked what the penalty is that we keep referring to. CASTLE discussed various scenarios. LANCASTER asked why rumors were out before the board was presented final recommendations. FRENETTE indicated she had discussions with the employees that might be affected by the proposal in the budget as a courtesy before it was discussed in an open meeting. PRAIRIE does not want to cut positions. **Motion** to table the budget discussion - LANTAGNE/PRAIRIE. CARR indicated that maybe if a small committee of teachers was involved in figuring out potential changes there might be more buy-in or consensus.

**Approved.**

MASCOLINO indicated the town council has asked that the school district board do a courtesy presentation to them on February 1<sup>st</sup>. That date coincide with the next regular NCES meeting, so they could potentially hold the school board meeting at the city hall office for convenience. LANCASTER set a special budget meeting for Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of January at 5:30 pm.

- B. Approve the District Meeting warning: CASTLE indicated there is new language under Act 46 that needs to be taken into consideration. He will work on getting a draft warning for the next budget meeting.

Information/Discussion:

- A. Principal Search Process: CASTLE handed out a template for a new proposed job description, a draft advertisement, an updated search timeline and a list of proposed individuals interested in serving on the search committee. **Motion** to approve the AD and post it - WARD/LANTAGNE - **Approved**. The job description will be tabled until the next meeting. Board members to serve on committee will be LANCASTER and PRAIRIE. Balance of committee will be selected at the next meeting.
- B. School Board Openings: LANCASTER mentioned that this was discussed previously in the evening, and that Wendy McGillivray will be running for Jessica Ward's spot.

IX. **Agenda Items for next meeting on January 19, 2016:** Budget, search committee and job description, auditor report.

X. **Adjourn: Motion** to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. – PRAIRIE/LANTAGNE – **Approved**.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Griffith

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	January 21	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A219
NCSU Executive Committee	Thursday	January 21	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
NCES Board	Tuesday	January 19	5:30 p.m.	NCES