

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, September 16 AT 6:30 in NCCC Room 380
MINUTES**

Present:

Board Members

Brighton:

Charleston:

Derby: Richard Nelson, Rick Geisel, Scott Boskind

Holland: Dan Maple

Jay: Le-Ann Tetrault

Lowell: George Swanson

Morgan: Kristin Mason

Newport: Corey Therrien, Maggie Griffith, Richard Cartee

Newport Town: David Ghelli

Troy: Rose Mary Mayhew

Westfield:

Staff:

John A. Castle, NCSU Superintendent

Liz Butterfield, Recording Secretary

Glenn Hankinson, NCSU Business Manager

Eileen Illuzzi, NCCC Director

Bill Rivard, NCUHS Principal

Press:

Robin Smith, Orleans County/Caledonian Record

Guests:

Erica Tweed

Natalie Diette

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Board Chair Rose Mary Mayhew, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

There was one Addition to the Agenda, made by NCUHS Principal Bill Rivard, who asked that the annual Member-to-Member Agreement between NCUHS and Lake Region Union High School be added.

II. **Motion** to Approve the Minutes of August 19, 2014 – *Attachment A*
TETRAULT/K.MASON **APPROVED, No Abstentions**

III. **Public Comments:** There were none.

IV. **Principal's Report: Mr. Rivard** - *Attachment B*

Relative to his written Principal's Report, Mr. Rivard explained to the Board that he was now following the Superintendent's recommended format, and that discipline statistics will be reported quarterly. Corey Therrien asked that Athletics participation numbers also be included quarterly, which Mr. Rivard agreed to do.

Motion to sign the Member-to-Member agreement request from Lake Region Union High School to allow Brady Perron to play on the NCUHS Men's Hockey Team. Mr. Rivard presented the request, and Richard Nelson spoke very highly of Mr. Perron. TETRAULT/K.MASON **APPROVED**

V. **Career Center Director's Report: Ms. Illuzzi** - *Attachment C*

Director Illuzzi stated that she is also following the new format for her Director's Report. She shared some statistics relative to the Strategic Plan: 64% of NCUHS Juniors are involved in a NCCC program, and 56% of Seniors are involved in a NCCC program. Ms. Illuzzi presented information on Formal Training I, Fire Extinguishers, a computerized program that simulates different types of fires, and stated that all employees in both buildings will be offered the training.

Corey Therrien asked about the Health Careers pet that he had been hearing about. Ms. Illuzzi shared that it is a Degu, a rodent that is used (with no harm to the animal) as a mock patient in studying diabetes, cataracts, anatomy, diseases, heart rates, pulse, temperature, hypothermia, etc.

Scott Boskind asked Ms. Illuzzi if she was finding it challenging dealing with four new teachers this year. Eileen said that it is going well, she checks in with them regularly, and all have mentors. There has been some difficulty for the Natural Resources seniors in transitioning, not because of the new teacher, but because they want more forestry, which is part of, but not the entire program. Richard Nelson has heard that Natural Resources is going very well. Eileen shared that Fern Fontaine had stopped in to the Land Lab Friday afternoon, was walking well and making great progress.

Richard Cartee asked if the Land Lab has been inspected for any other deficiencies. Ms. Illuzzi stated that the inspection has been closed, the required signs have been posted and VOSHA is quite happy with what has been done. Project Work Safe will be helping with pro-active site visits.

Motion to accept the following grants:

- A. \$20,800.00 Mechatronics Equipment Grant from VT AOE
- B. \$22,000.00 Training Grant from VT AOE
- R. NELSON/K. NELSON **APPROVED**

Eileen offered a demonstration of the simulators before the start of the next Board meeting.

VI. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Castle

The Superintendent mentioned that his written report had been mailed and emailed to all Board members, and asked if there were any questions. He invited all Board members to the Full Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, the 18th.

Mr. Castle shared that he is working on stylistic changes to agendas and principal's reports, aiming to simplify them both.

He shared that he has invested time and energy with the Leadership Team in looking at the NCSU Strategic Plan to determine priorities, looking at outcomes and opportunities, re: instructional practices, teaching and learning. His hope is that the discussions with the Leadership Team will then expand to the boards, possibly leading to a retreat, where stakeholders might also be invited. This is not a re-write of the Strategic Plan that is in place, but will complement that work.

Mr. Castle stated that he likes being in close proximity to the High School and enjoys the informality of popping over and seeing kids in hallways.

He is working with Mr. Rivard on having teachers involved in the Rowland Foundation Conference in Burlington. The presenter is Angela Duckworth, speaking on the emotional side of learning and persistence. He would like to see Rowland Fellowes teachers from NCUHS. The Fellowes receive grants and initiate change initiatives in their schools.

Mr. Castle is looking forward to work in partnership with Bill and Eileen to design learning programs for the High School and the Career Center.

Richard Cartee expressed to the Superintendent his concern, as a Jr. High Board member, with the power of Executive Committee. Mr. Cartee feels that the Full Board should be making the big decisions, not the Executive Committee. Mr. Castle said that discussion of the Bylaws is on agenda for Thursday's Full Board meeting.

Scott Boskind asked about the change of name from the Superintendent's Cabinet to the Council. John shared that it is simply a name change, reflecting the collaborative process of the Council.

VII. Faculty and Student Council Representatives Comments

Students Erica Tweed and Natalie Diette shared their insights on the start of the school year, including Student Council elections. They said that many of the clubs and student organizations would like to have more members.

VIII. Committee Reports

Business Operations

Business Ops Minutes from September 9, 2014 meeting – *Attachment D*

A. Motion to accept the 2013 Audit. Business Manager Glenn Hankinson distributed a copies of the Independent Auditors' Report, and explained that RHR Smith & Company has taken over for the audits and the next one will start soon. He explained that for audit purposes NCUHS, NCUJHS and NCCC are considered one unit by State of VT. Glenn stated that the auditors had given the audit an "Unqualified opinion", signifying no material weaknesses, some recommendations, but no findings. As far as Federal compliance, all requirements were met, with some recommendations. Richard Cartee asked when the next audit will be available, and Glenn stated that he expects a draft by December, in time for budgeting, and the final audit before town meeting. The audit will be available in time for voters to decide what to do with any surplus. Rose Mary stated that the audit showed very good budget planning. **MOSKOVITES/CARTEE APPROVED**

B. Motion to accept the Year-End Financial Report for NCUHS. The Business Manager distributed a handout and expanded on certain points of the report, which shows a net of \$272,000.00. Rick Geisel asked if there cost savings in keeping students here at NCUHS, rather than placing them in a residential facility. Mr. Hankinson said that the savings are approximately \$36,000.00 per student per year. **MOSKOVITES/GHELLI APPROVED**

B.1 Motion to accept the Year-end Financial Report for NCCC. **MOSKOVITES/GHELLI APPROVED**

C. Motion to award the contract for bus repair services for one year to W.C. Kresly. Peter Moskovites explained that the school no longer maintains it's buses, and that the company that was contracted last year did not want to continue. He explained that W.C. Kresly, of Maine, is the company that we currently lease the buses from and they are in the process of locating locally. They are the only company that met all components of the RFP, and have completed all of the October 1st required inspections. **R.NELSON/THERRIEN APPROVED**

D. Budget: Peter Moskovites reported from the NCUHS Business Ops Committee that the budget process is beginning, the committee is collecting data and the calendar is pretty much the same as last year. The budget will go to the board in December, with the vote in January. Richard Cartee asked what % increase the Business Operations Committee is looking at and Peter asked if the board wants to have a budget discussion at a full NCUHS Board meeting to share the insights of the Business Operations Committee. Superintendent Castle shared that, based on the secretary of Education's letter, we are looking at more fiscal austerity. Mr. Castle is concerned for NCUHS because of declining enrollment. He said to count on 3% less revenue because of the equalized pupil count. He also pointed out that the state could change the "hold harmless" limits, which could affect budget building. NCUHS has some of the lowest costs per pupil in the state, but we are in a low-income area. Mr. Castle anticipates a conservative budget process. Peter stated that, at worst, we are looking at a flat budget and at best, the budget will go down.

Richard Cartee pointed out that a bill was passed last year which requires that for every new teacher we hire, we have to pay VT \$1,000.00/year, every year that the teacher is employed here, to fill the retirement fund deficit.

NCUHS hired 14 new teachers this year. John Castle added that with Dual Enrollment, Early Ed, and the fact that the state is shorting the money sent to the education fund, more pressure is placed on property taxes. Le-Ann stated that it doesn't help that legislators are telling people to vote down budgets. John Castle stated that all of our boards have to have an active voice in Montpelier and suggested that Board members attend the VSBA meeting on Oct. 15th in Lyndonville, with the Secretary of Education.

Corey Therrien stated that he has a different goal than either a flat budget or a decrease, that everything in the budget should be justified: It doesn't matter if the budget is up or down, but to cover the needs with no waste. Peter asked what is acceptable class size? What to do about low class numbers? He stated that revenue is the issue, not expenses.

John Castle said to be mindful that this will be used as a precursor of consolidation, and that it is important that NC's voice is heard. He stated that education funding in VT is designed so, "the haves can have what they have and they don't care about the have-nots". It was agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Curriculum and Instruction

Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting minutes from September 2, 2014 - Attachment E

Chair David Ghelli gave a synopsis of the minutes and shared that Eileen Illuzzi had made a very informative presentation to the C & I Committee on Mechatronics. He stated that the next C & I Committee meeting will be held at the Land Lab on Oct. 7.

HR

It has not been necessary for the Committee to meet since the last Board meeting

Policy

The Committee has not met since the last report. Mr. Castle shared that the NCSU Policy Committee will be meeting on Thursday.

Negotiations

R.NELSON/GHELLI - Table for Executive Session until the end of the meeting.

IX. Timeline

A. **Community Survey:** Rose Mary Mayhew stated that this is a work in progress. Richard Nelson requested that cell phone use be included in the survey.

B. **Annual Timeline of Agenda Items:** John Castle stated that the SU Board will be looking at his model on Thursday, and that he and Liz will try to tailor the Agenda Timelines to each board.

X. Old /New/Other Business

Corey Therrien stated that he has been told that there is no salad or pizza left for the last lunches, Mr. Rivard said that he would check on it.

The Superintendent shared that he has received the letter from the Union for the certified staff informing the NCSU of their intent to negotiate on or before December 1st.

XI. Executive Session

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:04 for the purpose of discussing Contract Negotiations, because doing so in open session would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. **Motion** to exit Executive Session at 8:13. NELSON/GHELLI **No Action Taken**

XII. Future Agenda Items

Budget Discussions

Date for Next Board Meeting: October 21, 2014

XIII. Adjourn **8:14**

Respectfully submitted,

**Liz Butterfield,
Recording Secretary**

Meetings:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCUHS Policy and Special Programs	Thursday	October 2	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
NCUHS Curriculum and Instruction	Tuesday	October 7	5:30 p.m.	*LAND LAB
NCUHS Business Operations	Tuesday	October 14	5:00 p.m.	NCUHS 316
NCUHS Full Board	Tuesday	October 21	6:30 p.m.	NCCC 380
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	October 16	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
NCSU Executive Committee	Thursday	October 16	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
Negotiations Planning Meeting) Negotiations Committee (Support Staff Contract Negotiations meeting with Derby, Troy & NCUJHS team)	Thursday	September 25	3:30 p.m.	NCSU A209