

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES - Draft
North Country Career Center, Room 380
November 18, 2014 at 6:30 P.M.**

Present

Board Members

Richard Cartee, Newport City
Corey Therrien, Newport City
Scott Boskind, Derby
Rose Mary Mayhew, Troy
Richard Nelson, Derby
David Yasharian, Brighton
Kristin Mason, Morgan
David Ghelli, Newport Town
Peter Moskovites, Charleston
Rick Geisel, Derby

Parent

Sylvia Hunter

Students

Erica Tweed, Student Council
Alexander Cotnoir, Student Council
Parker LaCourse, Student Council
Samuel Brunnette, Athlete
Bayla Stewart, Athlete
Kendra Fecteau, Athlete
Kaitlyn Young, Athlete
Athletic Coaches
Chantelle Bouchard, Field Hockey
Chris Schaffer, Cross Country

Staff

John Castle, NCSU Superintendent
Glenn Hankinson, NCSU Bus. Mgr.
Bill Rivard, NCUHS Principal
Eileen Illuzzi, NCCC Director
Liz Butterfield, Recording Secretary

Public

Brian McNeal

Press

Robin Smith, Orleans County/Cal. Rec.
Ed Barber, Newport Daily Express

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Rose Mary Mayhew, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Mayhew called for **additions or adjustments to the agenda:**

A. Introduction of David Yasharian, new NCUHS Board member representing Brighton.

A round of introductions was made by all Board members and Staff present.

B. Presentations by Staff and/or Students

C. Policy and Special Programs Committee: 11/6/14 meeting did not have a quorum, therefor no minutes.

II. **Motion** to approve the minutes of October 21, 2014. Cartee/Therrien **APPROVED with one correction:**

In the fifth line from the bottom, page one, it should say Newport Town Elementary, not NCUHS.

Liz will make the change.

III. **Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens**

A. **Recognize Division III State Champion NCUHS Field Hockey Team:** Principal Bill Rivard introduced Field Hockey Coach Chantelle Bouchard and three members of team: Bayla Stewart, Kendra Fecteau, and Kaitlyn Young, stating that this is the 1st time in 34 years that NCUHS has been the State Field Hockey Champions. Scott Boskind shared that he had attended the championship game at UVM and said it was one of most exciting sporting events he's ever been to. The team was recognized by the Board with a hearty round of applause.

B. **Recognize Sam Brunnette, 2014 Division I Cross Country State Champion:** Principal Rivard introduced Cross Country Coach Chris Schaffer, who shared that Sam is only the 2nd NCUHS athlete to ever win the State Championship, the last being in 2004. Coach Shaffer shared that Sam's drive, determination and commitment got him to this point, after envisioning his name on a banner in the gym. Sam was congratulated by the Board with enthusiastic applause.

C. **Student Presentations:** Parker LaCourse, Student Council President and Alex Cotnoir, Vice President reported that the Student Council made a \$1,400.00 profit from the Halloween Dance, which will be used to support needy families in the area, as well as scholarships. The Council has also collected food for area food shelves. The Student Council will be distributing a questionnaire concerning the students' thoughts about the 3rd block, which is a school-wide study hall. The Council will report the results back to the school board. The students received a round of applause. Erica Tweed reported that the Tarzan production was a huge success, as was the Honor Society Haunted House. Erica also shared that fall sports have ended and Winter sports have begun.

D. **Mr. McNeal**, a Newport City resident, stated that he felt that he was not given his right of Freedom of Speech at the last Board meeting, and hopes it is being taught in our schools. Mr. McNeal stated his opinions concerning Common Board Policy and enforcement, and said that the Policies are not being enforced. He spoke specifically of cell phone usage, stating that the Policy states that their use in school is not permitted and cell phones will be confiscated, but he was

told by a teacher that this is never done. After ten minutes Peter Moskovites called for Point of order. The Chair thanked Mr. McNeal for sharing his opinions, stating that the Board feels that the school is well run.

IV. Financial Report

Action:

- A. Approve the Warrants: Glenn reported that he will ask the Business Operations Committee to recommend that the NCUHS Board institute the procedure of approving the warrants, which has not been done in past.
- B. Approve the Financial Report of October, 2014. There was no report available.

V. Committee Reports

A. **Business Operations** – Information: Minutes of November 11, 2014 (*Attachment C*)

Peter Moskovites reported that the Committee has begun the budget process and will present a draft budget for discussion at next full board meeting.

B. **Curriculum & Instruction** – Information: Minutes of November 5, 2014 (*Attachment D*)

David Ghelli reported that the Chinese 2 + 1 program is on hold, and that Eileen had presented the Course of Studies for 2015-16. Anita had discussed the HS courses and the complexities of scheduling. The next Committee meeting will be on Dec. 2 at 5:30.

C. **Policy and Special Programs** – Information: Minutes of November 6, 2014 (*Attachment E*)

Peter and David met, but there was no quorum, therefore there are no minutes.

Rose Mary initiated a discussion on **Policy Procedure**, explaining that our system is different than most other SU's. She stated that in most SU's, the policies go through the SU Policy Committee, then to local boards for approval. She wondered if we could eliminate the NCUHS Policy Committee, as the High School has representation on the SU Policy Committee. Peter stated that it is difficult to pass policies when the HS Policy Committee wants to change a few words. John stated that by statute the board adopts policy: the HS Policy Committee has no power, they can only recommend adoption to the full HS board, which creates an extra layer of overlap. Should the NCUHS Policy Committee only deal with High School policies? John feels that there should be Common Policies throughout the SU to the extent that it makes sense. He pointed out that the SU Policy Committee has representation from every board, they recommend a policy to the SU Board, and the SU Board approves the policy and sends it on to each board for adoption. He feels that it should be an anomaly for a school to have a different policy than the SU Common Policy. John said that the SU will be looking at instituting one reading vs. two at the meeting on Thursday. It was mentioned that many of our policies should be procedures, and that if there is a state statute or law, a policy is often not necessary, and can create a problem if it is different than the statute. John suggested that Board members should trust the credible, well vetted input of their colleagues, who represent their board on the NCSU Policy Committee and the Executive Committee. Richard Cartee said he would still like to have two readings at the NCUHS level before a policy is adopted by the Board. Rose Mary pointed out that many sets of eyes will be on a Policy before it gets to the board. Corey feels the NCUHS Policy Committee should review the policies first. Peter pointed out that a board can always table adoption if they need more time for review.

John was asked about having a Policy Audit performed by the VSBA, and responded that the NCSU Policy committee will look at recommending that to the Executive Committee at their meeting this Thursday. A Policy Audit would cost about \$600.00. John has experience with the process and strongly recommends it. The VSBA makes recommendations, but the Board ultimately decides which policies to keep and which to rescind. It takes about one month for the audit, and John suggested we have it done soon, before the VSBA becomes busy with the Legislative cycle. Scott also indicated that he would like to continue having two readings, to give the public and/or those who weren't present, time to review.

D. Human Resources – Rick Geisel reported that the committee had met earlier in the evening to approve the Pep Band Advisor job description. There was discussion concerning whether to approve the job description now or wait until the next meeting, as it was not in the Board Packet. **Motion** to approve the job description of the Pep Band Advisor. Cartee/Boskind. **APPROVED with two Nay votes (Ghelli and Nelson) and one Abstention (Therrien).**

E. Negotiations – Information: Richard Nelson and Corey Therrien shared the dates of the next meetings: Support Staff Negotiations meetings are scheduled for November 24th and December 8th. Teacher Negotiations meetings are scheduled for December 3rd and 17th. In both cases proposals have been exchanged and the bargaining process has begun.

VI. NCUHS Principal's Report – (Attachment F)

Motion to accept the Principal's Report. **Nelson/Mason APPROVED**

Principal Rivard shared that he has had some very productive Core Values and Beliefs meetings, and will now go to the staff and students for their input. He will eventually bring the outcomes to the Board.

Bill reported that nine professional staff and three students had recently attended the Rowland Foundation Conference at UVM. He expressed that it was a very good conference, the students enjoyed it, and one teacher is applying for a Rowland Foundation grant, which would provide him with the funds to conduct research for a half to a full year.

Mr. Rivard shared that over 1,800 snacks and meals were served in October for the after-school program, and the number will probably increase with winter sports beginning. The Library stays open late every day, and 50-60 students take advantage of the space and the snacks every day. Sodexo got a grant to provide the snacks, which are more like a meal, at no cost to the school. Tracking the performance of those who take advantage of the program and the snacks is part of what's required through the VSAC grant, and Bill will share the results with the Board.

Mr. Rivard said that 103 walk-through observations have taken place so far, as part of the Rubicon Atlas Curriculum system, which he called a "great tool".

Kristin asked about homeless students and the process for identifying and helping them, saying that she had recently attended a meeting where the possibility of using some of the area's empty buildings was mentioned. John agreed that it is a very serious problem in our community and our country, and it can happen quickly to a family. He explained that Kathy Nolan is the NCSU homeless liaison, and that there is a good process set up to identify and assist homeless students. John was the homeless liaison in his last SU, so he is very familiar with the issue. David shared that 1 in 30 students is considered homeless.

VII. NCCC Director's Report – (Attachment G)

Information:

A. Director Illuzzi reported that **National Manufacturers Day** was held at the Career Center on October 3rd. She distributed copies of a newspaper article and showed a video which chronicled the day. John mentioned that the Secretary of Education has been touting our school and Career Center at meetings around the state.

B. **The College and Career Fair** was a great success, with plans for it to be bigger and better next year.

Motion to accept the NCCC Director's Report. Therrien/Cartee **APPROVED**

VIII. **Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Castle reported that on December 2nd the Leadership Team will be discussing Acceptable Use Policy. He shared that the AOE is recommending a Responsible Use Policy, rather than Acceptable Use, recognizing how important technology is in education today. John shared that many of the meetings he attends are BYOD: bring your own device. The Secretary of Education recently held up her cell phone, stating, "This is the device which all can access all information." John reassured that he does not endorse devices for inappropriate use, but for effective for learning. Richard Nelson added that they have become equally important in the work world.

John shared that on Thursday he will be meeting with Walter Medwid and Barbara Morrow, from Orleans County Restorative Justice. John explained that restorative justice is more than diversion: there is a clear victim and a clear perpetrator, who are brought together. It is a very clearly scripted and controlled process to develop empathy and awareness. It creates a teachable moment, where the perpetrator may make amends, and the victim can feel that the perpetrator has taken responsibility and understands the effect of their actions. John said that restorative justice can also be applied in school systems and can complement what we already have, SU-wide.

John reported that he had a good meeting with Bill and Eileen last week and feels very positive about the level of collaboration. "There are challenges, but it's positive."

IX. **Unfinished/New/Other Business:** Richard Cartee asked Mr. Rivard if the Resource Officer and the Newport Chief of Police are aware of confidentiality concerning students and families, and was assured by Bill that they are very aware of the requirements.

Rose Mary had distributed the Block 3 student council questionnaire to the Board earlier in the meeting, and asked if the board had any questions or comments. Bill expanded on Block 3, saying the High School is looking at more options, such as mini classes, appropriate use, class meetings, and assemblies. He said the block is very popular, and is tweaked every year. In the past, attendance was an issue, but now there is an online process which requires students to sign in the night before and the teacher takes attendance. This has helped to foster accountability and ownership. The theory is to build-in help during the day, so it is not a penalty, but a support. Rick would like to see included on the questionnaire, "What else can you see this Block being used for?"

8:05 p.m. X **Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting – December 16, 2014**

8:08 p.m. IX **Executive Session** – *was not necessary*

8:15 p.m. XII **Motion to Adjourn** Nelson/Therrien 8:18 P.M. **APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

**Liz Butterfield,
Recording Secretary**

<u>Meetings</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCUHS Bus. Operations	Tuesday	November 25	4:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 316
NCUHS Curr. & Inst.	Tuesday	December 2	5:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 316
NCUHS Bus. Operations	Tuesday	December 2	TBD	NCCC Room 316
NCUHS Policy Comm.	Thursday	December 4	5:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 316
NCUHS Bus. Operations	Tuesday	December 9	TBD	NCCC Room 316
NCUHS Full Board	Tuesday	December 16	6:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 380
NCSU E.C. Special Budget Mtg.	Monday	December 15	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	December 18	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A213
NCSU Full Board	Thursday	December 18	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209