

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - Draft**

**North Country Career Center, Room 380  
August 13, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

Board Members

George Swanson, Lowell  
Rose Mary Mayhew, Troy  
Richard Cartee, Newport City  
David Ghelli, Newport Town  
Scott Boskind, Derby  
Peter Moskovites, Charleston  
Lisa Boskind, Derby  
Le-Ann Tetrault, Jay  
Maggie Griffith, Newport City

RAB Members

Dr. Katherine Gray  
Karin Barrup

Press

Ed Barber, Newport Daily Express  
Robin Smith, Caledonian Record

Students/Parents/Public

Chris Couture  
Jeffrey Stevens  
Jared Gonyaw  
Sharon Gonyaw  
Emily Chatterton

Administration/Staff

John A. Castle, Superintendent of Schools  
Liz Butterfield, Exec. Asst. to the Supt.

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Rose Mary Mayhew, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and called for additions or adjustments to the agenda. There were none.

Mr. Castle shared that NCCC Director Eileen Illuzzi was not able to be in attendance because of a medical issue.

**II. Unfinished/New Business**

Discussion/Action:

A. **NCCC Protective Services Program:** The Chair shared with those assembled that the Protective Services Program Instructor recently gave his two (2) week notice, as he will be returning to military service. Because the program has low enrollment, the Superintendent, the NCCC Director and the Board Chair felt that it was important for the Board to decide whether to hire a new instructor and continue the program, modify the program, or discontinue it altogether. Mr. Castle stated that he had distributed information provided by Ms. Illuzzi to the NCUHS Board as well the NCCC Regional Advisory Board (RAB). Mr. Castle also made the document available to those in attendance.

Mr. Castle said that he wanted to publicly thank Kurk Flynn for his service and all he has done over past few years.

Mr. Castle said that the RAB had already been looking at the Protective Services Program because of the low enrollment numbers, and that we need to consider the students and their career goals. Scott Boskind asked if there is there a candidate available to fill the position. John answered that there is a potential candidate, with extensive fire fighting background, but no teaching background. Mr. Castle added that this is typical of tech ed teachers. Mr. Castle stated that if the program was discontinued, there are 30 Pre-Tech students that would need to be redistributed, besides the year one and year two students. Scott stated that he is most concerned for the seniors. A parent stated that their son is enrolled in Year 2, is going to be a VT State Trooper, and this is very important to him. John shared that 6 students are enrolled for Year 2. David Ghelli asked how the numbers compare to other NCCC programs, to which John replied that some have similar numbers and some are much higher.

Richard Cartee wondered if there are any programs that could merge with this program. John replied that the knowledge base of this program makes it difficult to do that. In response to a question from Richard, John answered that the cost for the program is probably \$50-70,000.00 per year, for the instructor. Richard wondered if the program could run for half of a year, which John said would be difficult to schedule. Richard also asked about the possibility of running it as an Adult Ed program. John said that he and Eileen have discussed that and it may be possible in the future, more for volunteer fire fighters. For career development, it might be possible to shift the focus to law enforcement, in the future. Richard also wondered if the seniors could be offered credit if it was offered at night. Jeffrey Stevens, a Year 2 Protective Services student said that evening classes would be difficult for seniors, who are juggling the demands of working, studying and preparing for “the big, scary world”. One parent asked how the schedule can be re-created if these three blocks need to be replaced. Peter Moskovites offered that it might be best to look at a transition, and phase the program out.

Lisa Boskind, Director of the North Country Schools Alternative Program (NCSAP) shared that the embedded credit that is offered in the program is necessary for graduation for at least one current NCSAP student.

Superintendent Castle stated that the administration’s recommendation is to run Year 2, eliminate Year 1, and continue Pre-Tech, dependent on the availability of an instructor. He stated that it would be a 50% position, plus or minus.

Reporter Ed Barber asked if there is a student/teacher ratio that is necessary for this type of program. Peter Moskovites offered that the magic number is Act 46. John shared that there are fewer students across the board, with 700+ enrolled at NCUHS this fall. He stated that we can’t maintain programs that have 6 or 7 students in them, and the trends look like 740 to 780 students will be enrolled annually over the next 5 years.

Reporter Robin Smith wondered about the possibility of a local dispatch center being re-established, and wondered if adult ed could teach 911 dispatching. She asked if the training equipment would remain at the Career Center. John replied that we would keep it for now and see how things progress. Jeffrey Stevens suggested that we look at displaced dispatchers as instructors, as many of them have a fire fighter or EMS background.

Scott Boskind asked if the position has been advertised, and wondered if we should indicate that the first preference is for a Year 2 instructor, but that we would consider both Year 1 and 2. Peter felt that we should go with Year 2 and drop Year 1.

Richard Cartee asked if adults ever enroll during the day for classes, to which John replied that it is an option, but rare, and would typically not happen.

**Motion** to hire a half-time instructor to continue Year 2 and Pre-Tech, and to phase out Year 1.

**GHELLI/GRIFFITH**

The discussion continued, with Scott Boskind saying that if the position is already budgeted, then we should go forward with it, look at the program over the coming year, and redesign it to attract more students next year.

Richard Cartee agreed, saying, “Give us a year to evaluate the program.” Jeffrey Stevens pointed out that the Career Center has already made a large investment in fire-fighting gear.

Peter Moskovites pointed out that, “Three years ago, when the program started, we said we would look at the demand in a few years. The demand is not there. We have to look at the larger context. We have to cut the budget. When do we start?”

Scott Boskind said that this discussion should have started last year, if numbers are the issue, and that we would not be having this discussion if the instructor had not resigned. He stated that this could be an opportunity to hire a displaced local worker.

Board Chair Mayhew called for the vote.

**APPROVED: The motion passed on a vote of five (5) to two (2).**

Parent Sharon Gonyaw said, “I appreciate the board validating the journey that the seniors have been on.”

**III. Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting**

Tuesday, August 18, 2015

**IV. Executive Session** – *not necessary*

**V. Motion** to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. **MOSKOVITES/BOSKIND APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield  
Recording Secretary

DRAFT