

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
North Country Career Center, Room 380  
November 17, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.**

I. Chair Rose Mary Mayhew **called the meeting to order** at 6:30 p.m. and led the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**. She then called for **Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda**: there were none.

II. **Motion to approve the minutes** of October 20, 2015 (*Attachment A*) CARTEE/SWANSON **APPROVED**, Corey Therrien **ABSTAINED**

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

Jackie Young shared that she attended the NCUHS Fall Band Concert, and said an uncanny thing happens between the kids on stage and the teacher (Bill Prue) – “magic”. It was noted that the Jazz band would love to play for school board.

**IIIa. Student Report**

Erica Tweed reported that the band is back from Disney, all went well, and it was a great trip, even though it was very warm. The band performed music from Frozen, which was fun. Erica reported that a lot of people watched the performance.

**IV. Staff Presentations**

**A. Fall Athletics – Ian Dinzeo:**

Ian shared that the Band came back from Disney with a beautiful trophy, will go in the case. Mr. Dinzeo gave an update on fall sports, and discussed what is coming up for winter sports, including a new program to strengthen knees and avoid injuries. Ian shared that NCUHS Athlete’s GPAs are .4 above the general population. Spirit week was phenomenal, the best he’s seen in five years.

**B. Explorers Club – Royce Lancaster:**

Officer Lancaster attended with five members of the Explorers Club, which he said is affiliated with Boy Scouts, is insured through Boy Scouts, and is now meeting at NCCC, a much better space for them. Royce stated that numerous local Explorers have become Newport, VT State Police and Border Patrol Officers, as well as dispatchers, etc. Royce would like to use Air Soft pistols for role-plays, an integral part of the Explorers program, and said he needs to know if it is okay with the Board. He stated that Air Soft pistols have orange tips, and that the group always meets after school, from 6:00-8:00p.m. Richard Cartee said he would like to approve the request and let the NCUHS/NCCC administrators oversee it, and made a motion to that effect.

Superintendent Castle stated that he has strong reservations about the message that the board would be sending, and pointed out that this was not an action item on the agenda, and any action should be deferred. Richard Cartee withdrew the motion. Officer Lancaster asked that the item be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**V. Financial Report**

Action:

A. **Motion** to approve the Warrants in the amount of \$4,405,069.49. (*Attachment WARRANT*)

**CARTEE/THERRIEN APPROVED**

Discussion:

A. Special Education Centralization: Superintendent Castle shared that there are two options currently being considered: Assessment for direct services, or an aggregated model assessed by equalized pupils over a three-year period. The Executive Committee will make a decision on Thursday on which model to recommend to the Full Board in December. The local boards need to know so they can build their budgets. John believes the aggregated and assessed based on equalized pupils model is best all around. He said that it may not seem best at this time for some boards, but asked that boards be cognizant that it could go the other way for them next year. He stated that this model offers the most equitable delivery and the most equitable cost. There was some

discussion about what happens if a board chooses not to centralize their SpEd program. John explained that the state will impose a 5% tax penalty on districts that do not centralize. He said that all licensed Special Education employees will be centralized.

Mr. Castle also discussed the state's requirement that transportation be centralized, stating that it was nearly impossible for that to happen in this SU, given the sheer size of NCSU. We will need to apply for another waiver for transportation. This time the waiver will ask for a waiver from the law, not a waiver for more time as we have done in the past.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### **A. Business Operations**

#### Information:

1. Minutes of October 13, 2015 (*Attachment B*)

2. FY17 Budget Process: Committee Chair Peter Moskovites reported that the Business Ops committee is aware of Act 46 and the thresholds. Regardless of Act 46, their aim is to cut the budget, as enrollment is still declining. They are looking at a \$300,000.00 cut to the budget. Principal Rivard pointed out that the cuts actually add up to \$775,000.00 when you consider wage increases and insurance increases. As part of those cuts, the NCC has reduced its budget by \$111,889.00.

The budget cuts include 7.5 FTEs, through attrition, retirements, and consolidation of the North Country Academy and NCSAP. Peter said that Business Ops will present the budget at the next board meeting, but that it will be subject to possibly change again with the state's consideration of thresholds.

### **B. Curriculum & Instruction**

#### Information:

1. Minutes from October 6, 2015 (*Attachment C*)

C & I Committee Chair David Ghelli reported on the recent work of the committee. The C & I Committee is recommending that Fast Forward college credits be counted as high school credits also. Mr. Rivard said that there is an established process for designating credits, and that the administration will work with the committee to move that forward.

### **C. Policy and Special Programs (*did not meet*)**

### **D. Human Resources**

#### Action:

1. **Motion** to approve hiring the following coaches:

1. Lonnie Wade for the position of Strength and Conditioning Coach.
2. Jay Gonyaw for the position of Varsity Baseball Coach.
3. Gina Basiliere for the position of Snowboarding Coach.
4. Tracy Muzerall for the position of Girls' Varsity Hockey Coach

**BOSKIND/NELSON APPROVED**

**VII. Motion** to accept the NCUHS Principal's Report (*Attachment D*) **NELSON/TETRAULT APPROVED**

**VIII. Motion** to accept the NCCC Director's Report (*Attachment E*) **SWANSON/GRIFFITH APPROVED**

**IX. Superintendent's Report** – Mr. Castle said that all items had been covered in other discussions.

### **X. Unfinished/New Business**

#### Action:

A. Ratification of Successor Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement – action tabled until after Executive Session.

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

A. Possible Joint Meeting with NCUJHS Board: it was agreed that the NCUHS Board will meet as scheduled on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Junior High Board will discuss their December meeting date at their November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**XII. Motion** to enter Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. to discuss ratification of the Successor Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement. (*Anticipated*) NELSON/CARTEE **APPROVED**

**Motion** to exit Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. NELSON/CARTEE **APPROVED**

Action:

A. **Motion** to ratify the Successor Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement.

NELSON/THERRIEN **APPROVED**

Corey Therrien formally resigned as a Newport City NCUHS Board representative, effective following the December Board meetings, as he is moving to California. The Board thanked him for his service and wished him well.

**XIII. Motion** to Adjourn 8:05 p.m. SWANSON/THERRIEN **APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield  
Recording Secretary

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	November 19	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A219
NCSU Executive Committee	Thursday	November 19	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
NCUHS Curriculum Committee	Tuesday	December 1	5:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 316
NCUHS Business & Ops. Comm.	Tuesday	December 8	5:00 p.m.	NCCC Room 316
NCUHS Board	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
NCUHS HR Committee	As needed			