

NORTH COUNTRY UNION JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
NCUJHS Library - OCTOBER 28, 2014
6:00 p.m. New Faculty Reception - Board Meeting to Follow

Present

Students:

Christina Young
Maya Brainard
Noah Mathieu
Carmen Wheeler
Martina Turgeon
Katie Lucier
Brandon Blau
Allura Rayne Reynard

Board:

Maggie Griffith, Newport City
Scott Boskind, Derby
Kristin Mason, Morgan
Corey Therrien, Newport City
Rick Geisel, Derby
Richard Cartee, Newport City
Richard Nelson, Derby

Staff:

John A. Castle, Superintendent
Nicole Corbett, Principal
Colleen Storrings, Asst. Principal
Glenn Hankinson, NCSU Business Mgr.
Pat Gelo, SAP
Peggy Stevens, Literacy Coach
Tammy Wiesen, Social Studies Teacher
Julie Gunn, Health Teacher
Liz Butterfield, Recording Secretary

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:21 by Chair Richard Cartee, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A. Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda

1. Principal Nicole Corbett introduced the new faculty who were on hand for the reception.
2. Move the World of Difference presentation to the top of the agenda
3. Finance: Information and possible Action on a new compressor for the walk-in freezer
4. The chair read a note from Kevin Hodgeman, thanking the Board and the school for their support.

A group of students from the **World of Difference** program made a presentation to the Board, explaining why they chose to take part in the training, what they hope to accomplish, and what they have learned thus far. The Board participated in a paper-folding exercise that demonstrated how the same words can mean different things to different people, that there is not necessarily a right or wrong way to do things, and how it feels to be different. The Board was extremely impressed with the presentation and thanked the students for the good work they are doing. The students were congratulated for being brave, caring, strong and composed, and were given a hearty round of applause and invited back to share more of their experience. The group was accompanied by staff members Pat Gelo and Julie Gunn, as well as Colleen Storrings.

II. **Motion** to approve the minutes of September 23, 2014 (*Attachment A*)

THERRIEN/BOSKIND APPROVED Abstentions: Nelson, Geisel

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

A. Tammy Wiesen, Social Studies teacher, and Peggy Stevens, Literacy Coach shared with the board their involvement in a 5 member Instructional Team that is focusing on writing across the curriculum, based on the instructional framework. They are focusing on “Essential Questions” and “Low-stakes Writing”, trying to get students to want to write and to appreciate writing. The students are given prompts, from very broad to very specific and asked to write for five to ten minutes. The goal is to get the children to ask questions. Tammy and Peggy said that both the students and the staff are “getting it”, stepping up and taking risks. There was a discussion concerning handwriting, penmanship and legibility. The teachers shared that “technological literacy” is a topic that will be in the forefront for the next few years. The teachers thanked the Board for allowing Professional Development to happen at the school, sharing that it was a great way involve the whole staff in what is being taught and shared.

IV. Financial Report

Action:

A. Approve the Warrants

B. **Motion** to Approve the Financial Report of September (*Attachment B*): Glenn reviewed the Financial Report ending September 30, 2014, stating that there are no surprises and the budget is on track.

THERRIEN/BOSKIND APPROVED

Glenn also shared a print-out comparing the July and August 2014 Financials, in response to an earlier inquiry. He explained that the net balance had dipped due to lower than anticipated revenue related to Special Education service plan final payments from the State of Vermont. A discussion ensued concerning government mandates.

V. **Principal's Report** – (*Attachment C*) Nicole shared the highlights of her report and asked the Board to approve the Science field trip scheduled for November 7th.

Motion to approve the Principal's Report. **GIESEL/MASON APPROVED**

Motion to approve the November 7, 2014 Science Field Trip. **THERRIEN/GRIFFITH APPROVED**

VI. **Superintendent's Report** – John Castle shared with the Board some of the work that has been happening with the Leadership Team and the Learning Outcomes Cadre, which uses Character, Competency, Creativity and Community in their working model. The cadre is charged with developing a core set of outcomes for our students and to identify the learning opportunities necessary to support those outcomes, finding a balance of "Freedom and Unity". Once the common threads have been identified and put into a working package, the results will be brought to the Boards to "rip apart", make decisions, and put together again. John envisions a partnership in developing character and competence in our students: what is their place in the world and how can their gifts and knowledge be applied. A discussion of the Common Core and associated assessments followed.

VII. Committee Reports

Building Committee Update, Minutes (*Attachment D*): The Chair recognized Scott Boskind for the time, effort and diligence that he has invested in the building project. Glenn shared an update from Sarah Bosworth of DEW, which showed the cost of the project at approximately \$1,308,000.00. This figure does not include the anticipated roof repairs. Scott explained that the asbestos survey will be completed by Mark Fuller, with samples being taken from 30 locations throughout the school. The results will be kept on file for reference in any future projects.

Scott shared a report from Scott & Partners, Architecture concerning the **roof ponding** and their recommendations. They recommend adding some roof drains now and then completing a more permanent fix when the roof reaches the limits of its lifespan, in five to ten years. Scott asked the Board to study the recommendations and to be prepared to share ideas and suggestions at the next meeting.

Funding for the roof repairs was discussed. Legally, the cost could probably be included in the original bond, as it is necessary for the health and welfare of the students, but John cautioned that the board needs to consider if it falls under the scope of the original bond vote or if it should be included in next year's budget.

Next, the Scott shared his research on the **lighting project**. He had wondered why we were replacing the same number of fixtures that we had, instead of installing fewer fixtures, in light of advanced technology. He investigated LED lighting, but learned that there is an issue with "slow flicker", especially for those with seizures, migraines, autism and children in general. Scott shared a report from the VT AOE and Efficiency Vermont which states that bright lights can be detrimental and can reduce efficiency. Scott is working with a lighting engineer, Matt Kiley of the Kiley Company, who has designed lighting for more than 35 VT schools, with a 100% rate of satisfaction.

Nicole reported that Ron, who is filling in while Kevin recovers, is willing to continue to work "until deer season" and would then be available on a limited basis.

Nicole also reported that the **walk-in freezer compressor** in the kitchen has died. Kevin had gotten estimates a year or more ago, as he was aware that its life was limited. Kincaid is willing to honor the estimate and install a

new compressor this week. It will be energy efficient and will be outside of the building. Rick questioned whether the board should get other estimates before ordering the compressor. Glenn confirmed that statute allow for a board to make a purchase without soliciting bids if it is an emergency. It is also not necessary to solicit bids if the purchase is under \$15,000.00. Glenn will research grants that may cover the cost of the new compressor.

Motion to purchase a new energy efficient compressor for the walk-in freezer from Kincaid for \$10,582.00, to be installed outside. NELSON/THERRIEN **APPROVED with 1 Nay (Geisel)**

VIII. Unfinished/New/Other Business – Executive Session

A. Negotiations: **Motion** to enter Executive Session at 8:14 p.m. to discuss Negotiations, as doing so in open session would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. NELSON/THERRIEN **APPROVED**
Motion to exit Executive Session at 8:26. NELSON/THERRIEN **APPROVED**
No action was taken.

IX. Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting: November 25, 2014

- A. Roof Project
- B. Negotiations Update

XI. Motion to Adjourn at 8:26. NELSON/THERRIEN **APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield,
Recording Secretary

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCUHS Curriculum and Instruction	Wednesday	November 5	5:30 p.m.	NCCC 316
NCUHS Policy and Special Programs	Thursday	November 6?	5:30 p.m.	NCCC 316?
NCUHS Business Operations	Tuesday	November 11	5:00 p.m.	NCCC 316
NCUHS Full Board	Tuesday	November 18	6:30 p.m.	NCCC 380
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	November 20	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A213
NCSU Executive Committee	Thursday	November 20	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
NCUJHS Board	Tuesday	November 25	6:15 p.m.	NCUJHS Library