

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NCUJHS Library**

**Faculty Reception – 6:00 P.M.
September 22, 2015 at 6:15 P.M.**

PRESENT

School Board Members:

Kristin Mason, Morgan
Jackie Young, Derby
Scott Boskind, Derby
Richard Cartee, Newport City
Le-Ann Tetrault, Jay
Dan Maple, Holland
Maggie Griffith, Newport City

Administration and Staff:

John Castle, Superintendent
Nicole Corbett, Principal
Colleen Storrings, Assistant Principal
Liz Butterfield, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Diane Binette, NCSU Finance Assistant

Press:

Ed Barber, Newport Daily Express

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:16 by Chair Richard Cartee, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and called for Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda. There were none.

II. **Motion** to Approve the minutes of August 25, 2015 (*Attachment A*) BOSKIND/MASON **APPROVED**

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

Nicole introduced three new staff members: Matt McFarland, Allison Comtois, and Bridget Carbonetti. The board welcomed them to the Junior High.

IV. Financial Report

Action:

A. **Motion** to approve the Warrants (*Attachment B*) MASON/TETRAULT **APPROVED**

B. **Motion** to approve the Financial Report (*Handout*)

Diane Binette attended, representing Finance director Glenn Hankinson who is recovering from knee surgery. MAPLE/TETRAULT **APPROVED**

C. FY 17 Budget Process and Context:

Superintendent John Castle distributed documents illustrating Cost Containment Thresholds, showing possible 2.5% and 3% increases. He pointed out that the Junior High has a lower spending threshold because the state considers the Junior High a high spending district. The thresholds are based on spending per equalized pupil. John learned today that the Health Care cost increase will be 7.9%, much higher than the 5% anticipated increase. We don't know yet if Equalized Pupil will be based on 2015-16 or 2016-17. John says the Junior High should anticipate having to bring in a budget lower than this year's. He will be meeting with Nicole soon to begin the conversation. Nicole is also being invited to meet with the NCUHS Business Ops Committee, as there is some overlap and sharing between the two schools.

John said that the two districts that tuition to the Junior High, Newport Town and Westfield, are considering joining the NCUJHS district. This would entail votes in those two towns, plus all of the current member districts. John and Business Manager Glenn Hankinson recommend the vote be held at the time of Town Meetings, which would allow enough time to consider the change, which would be effective FY18. John said the Central Office is seeking legal advice: does the vote have to be yes in all towns, or a majority?

Reporter Ed Barber asked if there is any consideration of a new Brigham case, because of the “inherent unfairness” of Act 46. John replied that the ACLU says the thresholds do not meet the standards of inequity. John explained that you can’t file a law suit until there has actually been harm – which would be after town meeting. Retroactive gains would be too late. John suggested at the VSA Act 46 meeting today that students from poverty be weighted at a higher level. Many superintendents concurred and thought it should be pursued by the VSBA and the VSA.

V. Building Committee Reports

Information:

A. Minutes of 9/18 and 9/21 (Handouts)

Building Committee meeting minutes highlights:

9/18: The roof drain project is 100% successful. The final cost was \$59,496.00, out of an approved budget of \$60,000.00, but \$1,000.00 is yet to be invoiced so the project will run \$400 - \$500.00 over budget. The warranties became effective upon issuance of the Certificate of Completion on 9/18/15.

9/21: Bids for snow removal and wood chips were opened. The wood chip bid was advertised as a one year contract, not 3 years as proposed. \$65.00 by Ivan Maxwell was the low bid. There was only one bid for plowing, the same contractor as the past few years: Kelly View Farms. This bid was for three years. \$175/plow, \$145/salt, \$125/sanding. There would be no charge to remove snow from the premises. (See the BC minutes).

B. Building Committee Update:

Telephone wire: Dan Maple recused himself as a Board Member to discuss, as a FairPoint employee, the removal of the telephone wire from the Derby Historical Society building. In answer to a question, Dan stated that the contract is with the Historical Society, so they are responsible for the bill. Dan is concerned that with no wire, the Historical building will not have any alarm capabilities, etc.

Action:

A. Award wood chip bid (Attachment C-1): **Motion** to award the wood chip bid to Ivan Maxwell for \$65,000.00. BOSKIND/TETRAULT **APPROVED**

B. Award snow removal bid (Attachment C-2): **Motion** to award the snow plowing bid to Kelly View Farms for three years. BOSKIND/GRIFFITH **APPROVED**

VI. Principal’s Report (Attachment D):

The August enrollment was 282 students, including 42 tuition students: 30 from Newport Center and 12 from Westfield. Ms. Corbett stated that this is a great group of students!

Maggie Griffith asked about bus problems. Colleen said that 25 days of bus suspensions have been issued, somewhat higher than usual. She said that some busses have monitors, and there are 2 or 3 cameras on each bus.

VII. Superintendent’s Report:

John had nothing new to report since the NCSU Full Board meeting a few nights earlier.

VIII. Unfinished/New Business

Action:

A. **Motion** to approve the contract with Edna LaClair-Petit (Attachment SWC) for School Based Clinician services. BOSKIND/MASON **APPROVED**

B. **Motion** to approve Cross Country Running Supplemental Contract. Nicole explained that there is no cheerleading program this year, so the money that had been earmarked for that will go to X-country. MAPLE/TETRAULT **APPROVED**

IX. Other Business

Action:

Motion to adopt the following three (3) revised policies (Attachment E):

D.8 Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace

D.11 Drug and Alcohol Testing

E.26 Tobacco Prohibition

NELSON/BOSKIND APPROVED

X. Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting

A. Fall Retreat – September 30, 2015, 6:00 at the East Side

B. October 20, 2015 - Joint Meeting at NCUHS

XI. Executive Session: None Needed

John mentioned that Mediation will take place on either the 21st or 26th of October.

XII. **Motion** to Adjourn at 7:15 p.m. by the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield,
Recording Secretary

| <u>Meetings:</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <i>NCUHS/NCUJHS Retreat</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>September 30</i> | <i>5:30 p.m.</i> | <i>The East Side</i> |
| NCSU Policy Committee | Thursday | October 15 | 5:30 p.m. | NCSU A219 |
| NCSU Executive Committee | Thursday | October 15 | 6:30 p.m. | NCSU A209 |
| NCUHS/NCUJHS Joint Meeting | Tuesday | October 20 | 6:30 p.m. | NCUHS |