

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE NCUHS LIBRARY**

Board Members Present: Peter Moskovites (Vice-Chair), Steve Brochu, Ken Canning, Richard Cartee, Tim DelaBruere, Rick Geisel, Rose Mary Mayhew, Harold Morse, Muriel O’Gorman, James Privee, June Rosenberg, Mary Roy

Board Members Absent: Arne Amalixsen (Derby), Lucy Gannon (Holland), Joe Gregersen (Newport Town)

Administrators: Bob Fitts, Jeff Place, Brent Hilliard, Glenn Hankinson

Media: Chris Roy: The Newport Daily Express

Student Council: Jennifer Johnson

Faculty Forum: none

Guests: Joe Aja, Jerry Davis, Joanne Morse

P. Moskovites, vice-chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. K. Canning called for a moment of silence for the Virginia Tech tragedy. **P. Moskovites asked for approval of the minutes of April 3, 2007. R. Cartee moved the minutes be accepted as written. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/M. O’Gorman).**

Career Center Director’s Report, Bob Fitts
Review Bidding on Phase II

Mr. Fitts introduced Joe Aja from the Department of Buildings/Grounds and Jerry Davis from DEW to the board. Mr. Davis reviewed the bidding process in detail with the board; he reported that A. Amalixsen was present for the bid openings, adding they had to extend the deadline to 4:00 p.m. as 3 of their fax lines were being tied up with submissions. He reported all bidders put a lot of time and effort into their bids. He stated as construction manager DEW reviewed all bids in detail; and that the low bidder was more than qualified. Mr. Fitts asked if all bids had been awarded for the entire job. Mr. Aja reported they were working through that right now; that going with a construction manager has allowed them to start without that in place. **R. Cartee moved the board authorize DEW to proceed. The motion was unanimously approved R. Cartee/H. Morse).**

Approve Construction Contracts & Authorize Board Chair to Sign the Contracts

Mr. Davis reported he send an email to Mr. Aja and confirmed who they would be awarding the bids to.

He reviewed the bidders with the board, which included electrical work. The bidders were: Consolidated Electrical at \$980,000; Norway & Sons at \$1,187,202; Mike’s

Electric at \$1,214,790; and Ames Electric at \$1,381,120. Mr. Davis reported his recommendation to Mr. Aja was to award the bid to Consolidated Electrical; noting this was a company from Massachusetts; that they were the most qualified, very professional and knew their job very well; adding he had checked their references.

Mr. Fitts noted the board needed to approve the construction contracts and authorize the board chair or vice chair to sign them. **S. Brochu moved the board authorize the board chair or vice chair to sign construction contracts. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/M. O’Gorman).**

R. Cartee moved the board accept the bid from Consolidated Electrical Contractors at \$980,000. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/H. Morse).

Mr. Davis reviewed the bids for the structural steel part of the job and reported that Breton quoted \$582,000, which was the low bid, adding they did work on the Land Lab; that Duquette quoted \$578,360, but were disqualified; and Jefford’s Steele quoted \$586,490. **R. Cartee moved the board accept the bid from Breton Steel for \$582,000. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/H. Morse).**

Mr. Davis reviewed the bids received for the mechanical section: Thomas Mechanical at \$2,080,450; Vermont Mechanical at \$2,468,974; and Oullette Mechanical at \$2,544,328. **R. Cartee moved the board accept the bid from Thomas Mechanical at \$2,080,450. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/H. Morse).**

J. Davis reviewed bids received for the site work: SCI Holdings bid \$975,000; Omer Choquette bid \$1,048,400; and Gosselin’s bid \$1,245,845. **R. Cartee moved the board accept the bid from SCI at \$975,000. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/H. Morse).**

Mr. Fitts reported they still had an issue with parking; that the teacher lot had been fenced off and the intent was to put a temporary lot on the front soccer field; adding they would start work on that tomorrow. He stated he was still going to the City and the American Legion to see if their land could be used, adding he was not sure where that would end. J. Rosenberg asked if lot would be turned back to a soccer field for this soccer season and Mr. Davis stated that would hopefully happen by the time school begins in 2008. Mr. Fitts reported they would use the field across the street, with the JV and girl’s teams using the NCUJHS soccer field.

Grievance Hearing

At 6:35 p.m. R. Cartee moved the board enter executive session for a grievance hearing inviting Attorney Wells, Mr. Place and Ms. Rubino. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/H. Morse). R.M. Mayhew left the meeting.

At 7:45 p.m. R. Cartee moved the board return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/R. Geisel).

R. Geisel moved the board deny the grievance, seconded by H. Morse. A vote was held: voting against were: R. Cartee, T. DelaBruere, J. Privee and J. Rosenberg. Voting in favor were: S. Brochu, K. Canning, R Geisel, H. Morse, P. Moskovites, M. O’Gorman and M. Roy. The motion carried (R. Geisel/H. Morse).

Special Program’s Director, Jeff Place

Mr. Place reported they started the school year with 203 students eligible for special education services; that through the good work of Jessica Puckett and Dianne Farrar who reviewed procedural compliance they were now serving 172 students; that 20 students exited because they no longer met the criteria for special education services. He reported with their projections for the conclusion of this year’s budget it appears that they will meet or come under budget this year, if the get no surprises.

Mr. Place reported they were also proposing some program changes for next year; with another readjustment of the learning center; would provide help for homework; and would be putting together a team of 3 special educators to be responsible for developing a multiple pathways approach, which would reduce their reliance on alternative programs outside of the school; adding they could use those resources to build programming here.

Mr. Place also reported they would be using the last week of school to have all special educators taking a course together. He noted that in the first year he was at NCUHS they had to replace 4 special educators; and last year another 4; adding he didn’t anticipate any change over this year.

Student Council

Jennifer distributed paperwork to the board regarding host families being needed for about 400 students who would be attending the All State Music Festival. She reported the GSA group had a display in the cafeteria, which was well received; and that she and 3 others would be attending a GSA conference in Burlington and would be able to network with others.

S. Brochu noted the student council had been on the board for about 3 years; adding there has been a lot less vandalism since then.

Finance/Operation’s Committee

R. Geisel moved the board approve the minutes of March 28, 2007. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Geisel/M. O’Gorman).

Bus Garage

S. Brochu stated this issue should be moved until later in the meeting when Mr. Tanguay could be present. R. Cartee reported a gentleman had quoted the board a price of \$500 per month for a temporary garage; that there were modifications to that cost and it would now cost \$800 per month; adding that board chair A. Amalixsen authorized the change and had signed the contract.

NEKLS Adult Services Contract

R. Cartee reported the finance/operation's committee recommended the board approve signing the contract. S. Brochu stated the wording should be to ratify signing the contract. **S. Brochu moved the board ratify that the board approve signing the contract. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/K. Canning).**

R. Cartee reported the Dr. Crenshaw appeared before the committee; that they had asked for a contract to review; but he came with no contract; that he felt there was a misunderstanding and that Dr. Crenshaw thought the committee wanted to give input into the contract; adding Dr. Crenshaw would attend their next meeting with a proposal for the 207-2008 contract.

S. Brochu noted the board already approved giving NEKLS a contract; that they would need to fix that, as they couldn't go into that without a contract being written. R. Cartee stated they were also looking for a 5% increase in salaries.

Business Office

R. Cartee reported the committee was considering information received from Mr. Hilliard concerning bringing the business office back to the school.

School Committee

K. Canning reviewed the changes, as prepared by Attorney Leopold. K. Canning moved the board approve the policy for 2nd reading and adoption, seconded by H. Morse. T. DelaBruere noted the committee had agreed to change the word "diesel" to "vehicle"; K. Canning stated they had but he had not changed the wording. K. Canning and H. Morse withdrew their motion.

K. Canning moved the board approve 2nd reading and adoption of the revised Policy I.6, with the word "vehicle" replacing the word "diesel". The motion was unanimously approved (K. Canning/H. Morse).

Personnel Committee

R. Geisel moved the board approve the minutes of March 28, 2007. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Geisel/R. Cartee).

Bus Garage

R. Cartee reported he received a phone call from Mr. Terry Lucas; reporting he would be requesting that they relieve Mr. Tanguay from his buy/sell agreement; that if the school did that he would be prepared to offer Mr. Tanguay \$100,000 for his property, adding he would give Mr. Tanguay an extra \$60,000 and \$10,000 for NCUHS. R. Cartee added Mr. Tanguay was prepared to ask to be released from his buy/sell agreement with the board. R. Cartee reported Mr. Lucas said he would tie the board up legally for years, if needed.

Mr. Hilliard reported that Mr. Tanguay was going ahead with his proposal; and was attending the City's Planning Commission meeting tonight; adding he was going forward

with the project. R. Cartee reported he told Mr. Lucas that the ball was in Mr. Tanguay's court. S. Brochu stated they had heard nothing from Mr. Lucas about guaranteeing they would receive any money. S. Brochu stated he was very upset with this issue and had been very quiet tonight; adding he was going to recommend that if they got a signed agreement by a lawyer that they give up the land; adding he was sick of fighting with people of the City of Newport; that they didn't want to work with the board; that the board had worked with the City on the bike path; and that every time the board asked for something the City fought them. He noted it would take the board years to get this, as the City had very strict proposals the board had to follow. S. Brochu noted the test results came back well within limits; adding the only thing the engineer was recommending was that they put up an 8 foot fence; adding that was all in writing. R. Cartee stated his concern was that if they let the contract expire his fear was that Mr. Lucas won't feel he has to give a \$10,000 donation to the school. He agreed with S. Brochu that they always have to fight City Hall; adding the school is a productive part of this City; and the board was never going to win with the City of Newport or the City Fathers. J. Privee stated the City was not in the way of this bus facility; that it was the Planning Commission that was reviewing the application; adding he was quite confident they would approve the site plan. He added if the application was denied they would have to take the next step, but that it was premature to even consider that.

Mr. Hilliard reported he told Mr. Tanguay he didn't need to return to this meeting; noting his lawyer and Mr. Lucas can't come to an agreement. J. Privee stated if the decision was made tonight to approve the plan Mr. Lucas could file a grievance; and if it went to that next step the site would not be worth pursuing. S. Brochu stated this issue was listed on the agenda for discussion tonight; adding he would rather table it until the board hears from Mr. Tanguay as to what the planning commission said.

There being no further business to discuss the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. (K. Canning/M. O'Gorman).

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Rubino
Recording Secretary