

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2007 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE NCUHS LIBRARY**

Board Members Present: Arne Amalixsen (Chair), Steve Brochu, Richard Cartee, Tim DelaBruere, Rick Geisel, Rose Mary Mayhew, Harold Morse, Peter Moskovites, James Privee, Mary Roy

Board Members Absent: Ken Canning (Lowell), Joe Gregersen (Newport Town), Muriel O’Gorman (Brighton), June Rosenberg (Westfield), Holland Rep

Administration: Bill Rivard, Bob Fitts, Brent Hilliard, Dr. Robert Kern

Faculty Forum: Helen Poulin

Student Council: None

Media: Robin Smith: The Caledonian-Record; Joseph Gresser: The Chronicle

Guests: Cheryl Currier, Kiah Caldwell & England Tour Students

At 6:30 p.m. A. Amalixsen, Chair, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. **He asked for approval of the minutes of December 4, 2007. S. Brochu moved the board approve the minutes as printed. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).**

Superintendent’s Report: Dr. Robert Kern
Long Term Substitute Rate Day 1 to Day 30

Dr. Kern reported he was asking the board to approve the rate for a long term sub, which would be a set rate after the 31st day, noting the substitute rate language in the contract indicated that he come up with a rate for day 1 – 30. He recommended the board set the rate at \$95 per day, beginning with the 1st day through the 30th day. **S. Brochu moved the board approve the long term substitute rate of \$95 per day beginning with the 1st day of service through the 30th day, seconded by P. Moskovites.** A. Amalixsen asked if that funding was included in the budget; Mr. Rivard reported the figure budgeted should cover that amount, adding they always had challenges that were unforeseen. Mr. Hilliard reported they had never gone over the budgeted amount for substitutes. **A vote was held: with all voting in favor. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/P. Moskovites).**

Update on ALERT NOW

Dr. Kern reported NCUHS was a pioneer in this area; that Mr. Rivard reported to the Leadership Team and the program was now being approved by all other boards in the Supervisory Union. He reported they would move forward in January; with funding being supported by Parent Involvement through Title’s Funds; adding this was a good move forward to notify parents of school activities. Mr. Rivard reported the program was an automated voice messaging system that could call between 2 and 3000 numbers in a

minute; that it was the latest technology, which allows them to make mass notifications, not only about school delayed openings/closings, but about report card nights, school dances, etc.

Other

Dr. Kern noted he was completing his first 6 months here; that he had enjoyed the ride so far and wished the board a nice holiday season, and a safe one.

Finance/Operation's Committee

R. Cartee moved the board approve the minutes of December 3rd and 10th. A. Amalixsen noted the December 3rd minutes had been revised and included in the board packet. **The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/S. Brochu).**

Field Trip Modification

R. Cartee reported the trip was originally approved for April 10th, but was canceled by the tour company because 35 participants did not sign up. He reported the students who did sign up could join another group, but would miss 5 days of school instead of 2. He also reported the students who planned on the trip had already paid a non-refundable down payment. **S. Brochu moved the board approve the England tour date changes as recommended by Mr. Rivard, seconded by R. Cartee.** S. Brochu noted that last year and this year Mr. Rivard told the committee the company could change the dates at any time. Ms. Caldwell stated she would communicate with the tour company better in the future; adding this was the first time this change had happened to her. **A vote was held: with all voting in favor. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).**

NCCC Budget

R. Cartee reported the finance/operation's committee met; that Grant Spates, chair of the RAB, and Bill Stenger made presentations as to the why's and where fore's of the budget. **R. Cartee moved the board approve the NCCC budget as presented, seconded by S. Brochu.**

S. Brochu stated it would take all of the board members to sell this budget to the taxpayers. R. Cartee noted the taxpayers approved the expansion of NCCC, with the understanding there would be more courses offered; adding hopefully they would now back up that by supporting the budget so they could utilize the Career Center the way it should be. S. Brochu asked Mr. Hilliard what the overall increase was, and what it would be without the addition. Mr. Hilliard reported this would be a 31% increase over last year's budget. Mr. Hilliard reviewed the budget increases with the board; including construction debt, costs for the 4 new programs, Land Lab costs, costs of the new allocations for the increase in square footage, and Adult Education costs. He noted heat, lights and outside maintenance also added costs. Mr. Hilliard reported when the board hosts a Career Center facility they allocate costs based on the formula set by the State Board, based on square footage.

Mr. Hilliard reported the actual bond payment on the construction debt of \$4.6 million won't start until a year from now. He stated the goal was to have everything finalized before school starts next year; with the first bond payment due the following July.

Mr. Fitts noted the board had known for a couple of years now that at some point Adult Services would be funded under the local budget; adding the RAB had also talked about this in the past. He stated the local contribution would be \$42,000. He noted technical education was funded based on a 6 semester rolling average; that when new programs are added they were working with a system that doesn't recognize them; and funding would need to be through local assessments at first. He reported there was some new legislation that allows for additional funding from the state when a Career Center enrollment goes up more than 20%. He reported that technical education costs were higher than regular education costs due to the equipment required. Mr. Fitts noted for the first couple of years these new programs were running there would be a significant increase in what is locally assessed, based on the 6 semester rolling average.

There being no further discussion on the budget A. Amalixsen asked for a vote on the original motion. **A vote was held, with all voting in favor. The motion carried (R. Cartee/S. Brochu).**

Audit

Mr. Hilliard reported that Mr. Hankinson was away; that he spoke to Ms. Binette at Central Office, who said the auditors have a ton of reports and received all requests they had asked for; that they would be in again on Thursday to continue their work. A. Amalixsen noted that work was on the audit that ended June 30, 2007.

S. Brochu reported they had received the 2005-2006 audit for review; adding the committee would review it at their next meeting.

Career Center Director: Bob Fitts

Budget

Mr. Fitts thanked the board for approving their budget; noting it was a hard job facing up to what was going to move them forward. He stated there would be an increase in the budget as they were adding 4 programs; adding they would still provide quite a bang for the buck. He reported their per pupil cost would still remain one of the lowest in the state; adding that career education was necessary for the community and helps prepare student for the workplace.

Construction Project

Mr. Fitts reported the project was moving along; that they were looking at moving at least one program into the new section; and that between January 2nd and 31st they would have the entire second floor moved, so they could start the demolition and construction of areas that are currently occupied. He noted after the first of the year they would have the opportunity to spread out a bit.

A. Amalixsen asked for descriptions of the new courses. Mr. Fitts reported a committee was formed several years ago, with the business community being asked for input. He reported cosmetology was one suggestion; that there were at least 4 business women on that committee that were not in favor of the program, but the men on the committee were. Mr. Fitts reported he was not a voting member of that committee, but had worked for 13 years as a guidance counselor at NCUHS, adding that every year they sent 8-12 students to cosmetology programs in either Burlington or New Hampshire. He reported students would now be able to earn at least half of the credits they would need and save them half of the tuition costs; adding this program would be a valuable addition.

Mr. Fitts reported another new program was for heavy equipment operation and maintenance; that everyone on the committee felt it was very necessary in this community; that a lot of high paying jobs were available. Another program would be early childhood development; with Mr. Fitts reporting that Bill Stenger was very in favor of it as the area needs reliable trained child care. He reported this would be an opportunity for students here and Lake Region to have an opportunity to start in that career. Mr. Fitts reported the 4th program was protective services; that it was decided right away by the committee they wanted a program like that, as Homeland Security was one of the largest employers in the area. He noted that students would mainly have to be 21 years old and go on for further training; which could light a fire under of the kids; and let them know about careers available in these fields.

A. Amalixsen stated this was a good insight for the board and public; that it was important for them to know about the programs; that they were having a new building built; had state financial support for it; that it would be a benefit to the taxpayers and good for the students.

Mr. Fitts reported the project would cost \$18.7 million, with roughly 25% paid by local monies. He added that with the 6 semester rolling average, as more kids come into these programs the expense to tax payers would go down.

Faculty & Student Council Representatives

Ms. Poulin reported they were moving ahead with the teacher advisory program; that they had their first faculty meeting today; and were helping students with curriculum in the high school and helping them plan for post secondary life.

Ms. Poulin reported that Athletic Director Mike Kiser was doing a great job; reporting that students who have under a “c” grade can meet with their teachers, who must sign off on their assignments, which was putting pressure on students to keep up with their academic school work, as well as being involved in athletics.

A. Amalixsen reported he attended the dance presentation; that Tyler was Santa and said hi to him; adding it was a really good performance.

Comments from Guests

There were none.

School Committee

A. Amalixsen reported he received a letter of resignation from Ken Canning, who had been the school committee chairperson for the past several years; reporting he had moved out of the area. A. Amalixsen noted the board had a vacancy in that position, adding he was actively looking for someone to carry out that position.

2nd Reading/Adoption of the Following Revised NCS/OENSU Policy F.23: Prevention of Harassment of Students

S. Brochu moved the board accept the 2nd reading and adoption of Policy F. 23. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).

Community Relation's Committee

R. Geisel moved the board approve their minutes of December 14, 2007. The motion was unanimously approved R. Geisel/J. Privee).

R. Geisel stated he was impressed with the slide presentation that J. Privee put together and suggested they try it out on the board, as it was good comprehensive presentation. He added he would like to have another meeting before making a recommendation to the board and J. Privee stated they would then have a PowerPoint presentation.

R. Geisel expressed his concerns about Act 82 and distributed a draft letter they were thinking of sending to local legislators; adding he hoped the consensus of the board would be that they want the committee to go forward with it. P. Moskovites stated the letter was well written; adding the committee had done a good job. A. Amalixsen asked board members to talk to R. Geisel if they had any suggestions; adding the board needed to be unified in their discussions with area legislators. He noted the board had to communicate with area legislators and represent their people who put them in these board positions.

P. Moskovites moved that the board have the community relations committee take the next step and publish the letter, seconded by S. Brochu. A vote was held: J. Privee voted against the motion, with all others voting in favor. The motion carried (P. Moskovites/S. Brochu).

Any Other Business

Letter of Resignation

A. Amalixsen read a letter of resignation received from David Barrett requesting he be eligible for the retirement package as of June 30, 2009. Mr. Rivard stated he supported Mr. Barrett's request.

Other

Ms. Smith questioned the finance/operation's committee about the high school budget, as she was not in attendance at the meeting when it was approved. They answered her questions.

Mr. Rivard reported he had an item for executive session; S. Brochu stated he had a personnel issue for executive session as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by R. Cartee, seconded by S. Brochu, to go into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. with adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED that pursuant to Title 1 §313.1 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public shall be excluded from that portion of the meeting involving discussion of:
_ Personnel

FURTHER RESOLVED that discussion of such subject matter in Executive Session can be disclosed to the public, if appropriate, at such time as formal action, if any, is taken by the Board, either at conclusion of the Executive Session, or at a public session at some later date. MOTION CARRIED.

OPEN SESSION

Moved by R. Cartee, seconded by H. Morse to go into Open Session at 7:37 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

S. Brochu moved the board increase the salary for Sharon Rubino to record their minutes from \$20 to \$25 per hour, effective January 2008. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).

P. Moskovites moved the board accept the recommendation of the administration for the math position through the end of the current school year, seconded by M. Roy. A vote was held: R. Cartee voted against the motion; all others voted in favor. The motion carried (P. Moskovites/M. Roy).

There being no further business to conduct the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. (S. Brochu/R. Geisel).

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Rubino
Recording Secretary