

**North Country Union High School Board Meeting  
Tuesday, February 6, 2007 At 6:30 P.M. In the NCUHS Library**

**Board Members Present:** Rose Mary Mahew, Peter Moskovites, Ken Canning, June Rosenberg, Todd Durkee, Richard Cartee, Steve Brochu, Jim Privee, Rick Geisel, Arne Amalixsen (Chair)

**Board Members Absent:** Harold Morse, Muriel O'Gorman, Joe Gregerson, Dave Merrill, Morgan Rep.

**Administrators:** Bill Rivard, Bob Fitts, Tom Pound, Rod Weston

**Media:** Chris Roy: Newport Daily Express; Robin Smith: The Caledonian Record

**Guests:** Gary Johnson, Marte Rhodes, Marie George, Chesney Stone, Frank Davis

- A. Amalixsen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Superintendents Report**

#### **Grievance**

Gary Johnson, Association representative, brought a grievance on behalf of teachers Marte Rhodes, Marie George and Chesley Stone. The grievance centered on the Superintendents decision to disallow the early retirement incentive program for 2008. The Association believes that the incentive was not available in 2005 due to a time conflict between contract language expectations and the actual date of signing the negotiated agreement and therefore should be available for teachers requesting retirement in 2008. The Superintendent believes that the Contract "effective retirement dates are June 30, 2005/2006/2007 as clearly stated in Section C of the Negotiated Agreement. If the Association and the Board want to create a benefit for 2008, the appropriate place for that discussion is at negotiations currently ongoing. After a lengthy discussion K. Canning suggested that we enter into a "deliberative" session. G. Johnson requested that we continue in open session. **Motion that we enter open deliberative session( T. Durkee/K.Canning) Motion failed 3 in favor and 5 against. Motion that we enter private**

deliberative session (K.Canning/R.Cartee) carried 5 in favor 4 against. Motion that we come out of deliberative session (S.Brochu/R.Cartee) unanimous. Motion that we allow the 3 teachers to proceed with their early retirement (P. Moskovites/J. Rosenberg) Motion carried unanimously. J.Rosenberg noted that the Superintendent followed the contract, flawed as the language was, and if he had not the Board would have held him accountable.

## **Administrative Reports**

### **Bill Rivard, Principal**

Titles Strategy. B. Rivard discussed the Titles Strategies as outlined in the packet. There was much discussion about the \$15,000 of Safe and Drug Free Schools money that B. Rivard wanted to use to employ a School Resource Officer for the purpose of reducing incidents of violence and drug use. S. Brochu stated that the Fin Ops. Committee recommended that the Board eliminate the expenditure for this position. **Motion that we not include the School Resource Officer position in the Titles Strategies (K.Canning S.Brochu)** A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of the position. **Motion to move question (R.Cartee/S.Brochu) Motion carried. The original motion carried. R.Geisel and R. Mayhew voted no.** B. Rivard went over the Calendar of Events for Senior activities. Graduation is June 9. There will be an Action Planning Retreat at the Gateway Center in Newport on February 14. This is the first part in the development of an action plan for NCUHS. There will be opportunities for Board involvement in the process.

### **Tom Pound**

T. Pound presented his report on the High School Completion Program. 18 students are on the list. 13 contacts have been made. 5 could not be reached. 4 students are making arrangements to complete their education. 3 are attending school elsewhere. With respect to Attendance. 430 five day letters were sent 161 ten day letters were sent. 161 qualified for the 15 day meetings. 8 home visits were conducted. 74 truancy letters were sent with a focus on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. The school is working with area states attorneys to ensure judicial support in truancy cases when necessary.

### **Bob Fitts Career Center Directors Report**

The Career Center will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit from April 2 to April 5, 2007, by a visiting committee representing the Commission on Technical and Career Institutions of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. B. Fitts asked that the board accept the donation of an HP Color Plotter and accessories valued at \$2000 donated by the DEW Construction Corporation. **Motion to accept the donation**

**(S. Brochu/R. Cartee) Motion carried unanimously.** The City of Newport granted the Career Center a permit for its renovation and expansion. B. Fitts acknowledged the support and cooperation of the City of Newport and its representatives. B. Fitts walked the board through the phases of construction of the Career Center. Construction should begin in mid April of 07 and completion should be February 08. The Land Lab walls are up and construction is going as planned.

### **Faculty and Student Council Representatives**

There is a new student from Brazil at NCUHS and he is a great ambassador for his country, providing the students with an understanding of his culture. The Basketball team is doing great and they have a big game this Friday. NCTV is looking into providing a live feed of the game to other venues. The Gay Straight Alliance that was approved at the last meeting currently has 12 members attending

### **Comments from Guests**

There were none

### **Student Hearing**

**Motion to go into executive session for a student discipline hearing (S. Brochu/K. Canning) Unanimous. Motion to come out of executive session (S. Brochu/K. Canning) Motion that we follow the recommendations of the administration to expel student A for one year. During the rest of the year he will participate in tutoring and follow all the recommendations of his DCF worker and adhere to the no trespass order. If he cooperates and maintains appropriate behavior he may apply to NCSAP for the fall semester. (J. Rosenberg/P. Moskovites) Motion carried unanimously with exception of R. Geisel who abstained.**

**Motion to extend meeting until 10 pm. (S. Brochu/K. Canning)**

### **Finance Operations**

**Motion to accept meeting minutes of 1/17 and 1/31.**

**(S.Brochu/R.Cartee) Approved unanimously.** S.Brochu advised that the bus garage permit was submitted. **Motion to accept the administration recommendations of salary increases that came from personnel committee to finance operations (R.Cartee/S.Brochu) as follows:**

**Approved unanimously.**

Principal-3 year contract with a 6% increase in years one and two and 5% in year 3. Special Ed Director 2 year contract, 5% each year. Director of Curriculum, 2 year contract 5% each year. Operations Coordinator 1 year contract 3%. Assistant Principal 3 year contract 5% each year. Athletic Director 2 year contract 5% each year. Dean of Freshman 1 year contract 4%. Career Center Director 1 year contract 3%.

### **School Committee**

K.Canning reported on the formation of a new standing educational committee. K.Canning also reported that the Board will have representation on the faculty committee working on the school action plan.

### **Community Relations Committee**

**Motion to accept the minutes of the CR Committee 1/16 1/22 and 1/30. (R.Geisel/S.Brochu) Approved unanimously.** Discussed the 06-07 highlights and that they were included in the packets to the media. It is hoped that these will reach the public through news stories. R. Geisel directed Board members to each take a stack of flyers to their respective towns and distribute them in Town offices, libraries, general stores, etc. B. Rivard will send flyer home to each student household.

**Motion to Adjourn at 10:00 (S.Brochu/R.Cartee)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Geisel, Clerk