

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2006 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE NCUHS LIBRARY**

**Board Members Present:** J. Rosenberg (Chair), Steve Brochu, Ken Canning, Richard Cartee, Sue Davis, Rick Geisel, Tammy LaCourse, Rose Mary Mayhew, Harold Morse, Peter Moskovites, Muriel O’Gorman, James Privee

**Board Members Absent:** A. Amalixsen (Derby), Vince Buttice (Newport Town), Elaine Morin (Holland)

**Administrators:** Bill Rivard, Geoff Lyons, Holly Heverly, Jeff Place, Bob Fitts, Glenn Hankinson, Rod Weston

**Faculty Forum:** Trish Buttice

**Student Council:** Jason Benn

**Media:** NEK-TV; Robin Smith, The Caledonian-Record; Joseph Cresser, The Chronicle; Daniel Stapes, The Newport Daily Express

**Guests:** Frank Davis, Joanne Morse, Bernie Henault, others

J. Rosenberg, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. and led Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. She asked for approval of the minutes of December 15, 2005. **S. Brochu moved the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by R. Cartee. K. Canning stated that page 2 should read that the board added the word Career Center to the reports to and evaluated by sections of the job description for the adult services coordinator job description. The minutes were approved as corrected (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).**

K. Canning stated he had a question regarding #10 on the agenda, noting all policies should go to the school committee first. J. Rosenberg agreed.

**Superintendent’s Report, Rod Weston**

**Adequate Yearly Progress**

Dr. Weston stated he would defer to Mr. Rivard, adding he would join in on the conversation.

**Administrative Reports**

**Principal, Bill Rivard**

**AYP Information and Update**

Mr. Rivard noted NCUHS did not make AYP in certain areas of their test scores; adding the administration wanted to take time to educate the board as to what AYP and NSRE mean.

Ms. Heverly distributed information to the board on language arts and math testing results and reviewed it with them using an overhead projector. She reviewed state requirements as required by NCLBA. She noted they were showing improvement but were not meeting the target. She noted they had not fared well over the past few years in math, adding they actually went down rather than going up. Ms. Heverly reviewed a graph for students with disabilities, which was significantly lower than the other 2 groups. Ms. Heverly reported actions taken by the administration to address the scores include: monthly department meetings; teaching reading across the curriculum; aligning curriculum with the framework; special programs involvement; extra help for students; staff development in differentiated instruction; and expanding summer school for incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Mr. Rivard noted they have a school-wide literacy team; that teachers were taking a reading course; they were going to add a literacy coach, whereby a person could be in the classrooms working with staff in a non-threatening way. He noted that Jean McKenny is working with the math teachers this year.

Mr. Rivard noted they were not the only school facing this and that by being part of HSTW they can find out from other schools what is working for them. Mr. Rivard stated that under Dr. Weston's leadership changes are being made.

Dr. Weston noted the Vermont Round Table report talked about the pulse of Vermont; that it talks about 2 Vermont's: one of lower income and education and one of higher. He noted that really creates a group of people whose way of life is being overrun, often from people who come from somewhere else. He noted that many feel disenfranchised and don't feel connected to the school, adding the test scores are saying they need to find a way to make kids successful. Dr. Weston stated he wants to spend with the faculty and the board to discuss poverty and how people live within it. Dr. Weston reviewed several issues with the board.

Dr. Weston noted that NCUHS spends the lowest amount per student, when compared to other Vermont high schools. He suggested the board build a contingency fund so they could work in the spring work on an action plan with some teeth in it, so they can make changes next year. Dr. Weston stated the staff is doing a great job; that for his own kids many people make accommodations for them with their sports; that he was not trying to be derogatory but that they have to change the way they do things. Dr. Weston stated they needed to have a session without cameras where they could talk bluntly. Dr. Weston stated he would like the board to put \$100, per student, into a contingency fund, which would provide for a lot of professional development. S. Brochu stated a lot of what Dr. Weston said was true, but that this area can't afford it. K. Canning stated he would like to explore this further and have a retreat and asked if the planning committee could plan a retreat. J. Rosenberg stated they could put it on a future agenda. She added the WDC would like an hour at the next meeting, as the vote was up-coming.

### **Holiday Concert Update**

Mr. Rivard reported that prior to the holiday break they had several concerts, which were very well attended and provided a great display of talent. S. Brochu noted the board had

previously voted to all senior citizens to attend concerts for free and asked why that wasn't happening. Mr. Rivard stated he would look into it.

### **Career Center Director's Report, Bob Fitts**

#### **Letter of Resignation**

Mr. Fitts noted the letter of resignation from Christina Nadeau, Adult Services administrative assistant, was effective December 22<sup>nd</sup>. R. Geisel moved the board accept the resignation of Christina Nadeau, seconded by K. Canning. R. Cartee asked why she would be paid through January 27<sup>th</sup> if her resignation was effective December 22<sup>nd</sup>. S. Brochu stated the issue needed to be discussed in executive session. R. Geisel pointed out there was a motion on the floor. S. Brochu stated they needed to table that motion until they held an executive session. R. Geisel withdrew his motion and K. Canning withdrew his second.

#### **WDC update**

Mr. Fitts noted that J. Rosenberg had mentioned the fact they would ask to come before this board to present their plan for the bond vote on Town Meeting Day.

#### **Introduce Adult Services Coordinator**

Mr. Fitts reported that, effective today, NEKLS took over management of the Adult Services Program. He stated that Eileen Illuzzi had another commitment tonight, but as things get rolling he would have Bill Crenshaw and Ms. Illuzzi come to the board with an update.

S. Brochu asked who Carla works for and Mr. Fitts said she works for NEKLS. S. Brochu asked if they were filling the position with an outside person and Dr. Weston reported she was part of the transition team; that they had been working to see which files were which; that they would be advertising for the position and the person would be the schools' employee. S. Brochu asked if there were any additional costs and Dr. Weston stated there were not.

Dr. Weston noted this was a very temporary situation; that Ms. Nadeau resigned in very short order; that NEKLS has stepped up to the plate to bring in a team; that they were finding out who had signed up for classes; adding there was a lot to be done with virtually no support. P. Moskovites noted these were extraordinary circumstances and that no reasonable person would find fault with this.

S. Brochu asked where the NCCC budget was and Mr. Fitts reported the RAB was meeting tomorrow to approve it. S. Brochu stated the finance/operation's committee would review it on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Faculty & Student Council Representatives**

Ms. Buttice stated she had no comments tonight.

Jason Benn updated the board on concert and dance program activities. He reported there is a professional dance group that comes up from Florida and conducts seminars at high

schools. He reported the NCUJHS would be more than willing to put up half the cost to have them come up. He stated 30-35 dancers travel in groups of 4 and perform all over the world. He reviewed their program with the board. J. Rosenberg asked Jason to talk further with Mr. Rivard about this proposal. Jason said he would.

### **Comments from Guests**

B. Henault requested board packets be sent to him; that he would be willing to pay the cost and donate reams of paper. Mr. Hankinson stated it could be sent electronically.

### **Finance/Operation's Committee Report**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**K. Canning moved the board approve the minutes of November 30, December 7, 14 and 19, 2005. The motion was unanimously approved (K. Canning/R.M. Mayhew).**

#### **2006 – 2007 Budget**

S. Brochu read a hand-out, prepared by A. Amalixsen, which was distributed to the board. It explained the background and process used by the committee in preparing the budget. S. Brochu noted the budget was \$10,271,596 or an increase of 6.3%. He noted the increase included salary and benefit increases, as well as higher fuel and electric energy costs. He noted the regular education portion of the budget was increased by \$280,109 or 3.6% increase; that the budget included \$30,000 as a first payment for bleachers; and \$10,000 for professional development.

Mr. Hankinson reported that as of lunch time today the DOE made a determination as to the impact Act 130 would have on the high school budget; that the tech center grant was based on a 6-semester rolling average and that 87% of the base had to show as revenue and expenditure. He noted transportation costs would now be a revenue in this budget, where in the past those revenues went to the town school districts. Mr. Hankinson reported the DOE says that all career center students belong to the high school where before the towns had to put them in their budgets. He asked the board to make a motion to approve their budget as already stated and add in the tech center grant. He noted it would be a wash.

J. Rosenberg called for the board to recess at 8:57 p.m. The board reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

P. Moskovites stated he was curious as to whether they had to discuss and pass the budget tonight, given the latest curve thrown in by the state; and if it was possible to have preliminary discussion tonight and finalize it at the next board meeting along with the NCCC budget. Mr. Hankinson reported that each town is waiting for this budget; that he would send them their information based on this budget. He noted the tech center grant is not something they were going to vote on; that it is based on the number of FTE's at NCCC; and the state sets the rate. Mr. Hankinson noted in terms of the board's discussion it was unchanged; that he was only asking them to include in their motion the tech center grant and tuition, which was based on something they have no control over.

The board discussed the special education expenses. Mr. Place reported they have students going to programs that are really cost effective; he noted they can certainly pay attention to how much it costs as long as they provide comparable services; that they have no students in residential programs; with all in local or nearby programs, which means a savings in transportation costs. He noted these costs were less than in his past experiences. Mr. Place added that every year they get unanticipated costs, with students moving into the district requiring extraordinary services. He reviewed the costs of the programs with the board. Mr. Hankinson noted that allowable tuition doesn't include special education or transportation costs.

**At 9:40 p.m. P. Moskovites moved the board extend the meeting for 15 minutes. The motion was unanimously approved (P. Moskovites/S. Davis).**

**P. Moskovites moved the board accept the budget as presented. The motion was unanimously approved (P. Moskovites/R. Geisel).**

P. Moskovites stated he did not want discussion on the budget to end tonight, adding the board needs to fully understand it. J. Rosenberg stated the planning committee should bring it forth as an agenda item.

J. Rosenberg stated she would wordsmith A. Amalixsen's article concerning the budget and bring a finalized copy to the board for review and signature, before being put in the annual report.

Mr. Hankinson asked board members to email him with any questions they might have on Act 68.

**At 9:54 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board enter executive session for a personnel issue, inviting Mr. Fitts and Dr. Weston, seconded by R. Cartee.** J. Rosenberg reported that Frank Davis asked to be included; Mr. Davis stated he wanted to be sure the contract stays in tact. **A vote on the motion was held with the motion being unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).** Mr. Davis was not invited to attend executive session.

**At 10:05 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).** No action was taken.

**There being no further business to discuss the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 10:06 p.m. (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Rubino  
Recording Secretary