

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2006 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE NCUHS LIBRARY**

**Board Members Present:** Arne Amalixsen (Chair), Steve Brochu, Ken Canning, Richard Cartee, Rick Geisel, Harold Morse, Peter Moskovites, Muriel O’Gorman, James Privee, June Rosenberg

**Board Members Absent:** Todd Durkee (Newport City), Joe Gregersen (Newport Town), Rose Mary Mayhew (Troy), David Merrill (Holland), Morgan Rep

**Administrators:** Bill Rivard, Bob Fitts, Thomas Pound, Glenn Hankinson, Brent Hilliard, Rod Weston

**Student Council:** Jason Benn

**Faculty Forum:** none

**Media:** NEK-TV; Joseph Gresser: The Chronicle; Chris Roy: The Newport Daily Express

**Guests:** Frank Davis, Lisa Boskind

A. Amalixsen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. **He asked for approval of the minutes of September 5, 2006. S. Brochu moved the minutes be accepted as printed. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/K. Canning).**

**Administrative Reports**

**Principal, Bill Rivard**

**Security Improvements**

Mr. Rivard reported they had begun the process of re-keying the doors: internal and external; noting that over the year’s keys had been lost track of. He stated this would allow them to reduce the number of keys issued and they would keep a very tight inventory of who has keys. Mr. Rivard noted that Ron Chaffee, an employee of over 30 years, is overseeing the issuing of keys. R. Cartee asked if copies of the keys could be made and Mr. Rivard reported they were in the process of getting that information. K. Canning asked if all exterior doors were locked during the day and Mr. Rivard reported that all but the main door are locked; adding they had started to have teachers lock their doors. He noted they had also talked about issuing cards.

Mr. Rivard noted that every year they practice crisis drills and work very closely with the Newport City Police Department; adding they would run through them again. He reported they had police officers in the building for the first couple of weeks of school; noting this allows the officers to establish positive relationships with the students. Mr. Rivard thanked the City of Newport for allowing the officers to come to the school. He also thanked Chief Paul Duquette for his assistance. Mr. Rivard noted they also have cameras in the student parking lot and outside of the building, including by the green house. S. Brochu noted there had been several people asking why they charge students

\$30 per year to park their cars. Mr. Rivard reported they had charged a student parking fee for at least 7 years; that the reason they charge is so they can use the money for student activities; that the money paid for the cameras in the parking lot and around the building; that the funds helped to pay for the senior outing; and hire police officers when necessary. He stated they basically want to discourage students from driving cars to school. He reported they had 200 spots and always have a demand. Mr. Rivard stated if a student can afford to run a car they could afford the \$30 charge. R. Cartee noted when the board set the charge initially it was because of the amount of vandalism in the parking lot and they felt students should pay for cameras to be installed in the parking lots. Mr. Rivard noted that the cameras had been knocked down; that the students were caught and restitution was made for the cost of the cameras. Mr. Rivard reported the majority of the funds raised by the parking fee were used to keep the cameras updated; that they run 24/7; and the staff in the A&D office can access the tapes. J. Rosenberg asked how many parking permits were issued and Mr. Pound said between 180 and 200; adding they don't waive the fee.

### **New Bus Fleet**

The board went out to meet Wendy Buchanan, bus foreman, and view 2 of the new buses.

### **Special Programs Coordinator, Jeff Place**

#### **Special Education Update**

Mr. Place distributed packets of materials to the board, noting this would be the same information they would receive from the DOE as to what is mandatory. He stated that if after reviewing the reference materials if they had specific questions they would like in greater detail the next person to be brought to the board would be an attorney, who could give clearer information as to the mandates. He added these were the most current forms from the DOE; and reviewed the flow chart that outlines the special education process.

Mr. Place reviewed the IEP process in detail for the board; noting they were obligated to ensure procedure safeguards, parental rights, and due process for parents at every IEP meeting; adding the once change is that they only have to present parental rights information once a year, rather than at every meeting.

Discussion was held on budgeting and the difficulty of not knowing how many special education students they would get. Mr. Place reported the new SpedDoc program has helped that process, adding he knows all the students who are coming from sending schools next year. He noted that new students move into the district as well, which they do not know about. R. Cartee stated he gets upset when he sees the budgets get into trouble and they need to funnel funds away from the regular education system; and asked if there was any action this board could take. Mr. Place stated they needed to start with their state legislators, as these were not just federal mandates.

Mr. Place reported, at last count, there were 203 students on IEP's, about 20% of the student population. Mr. Rivard stated total enrollment was about 1050. S. Brochu thanked Mr. Place for his informative report, adding he had been waiting for this for 3 years. Mr. Place asked board members to call him with any questions they might have after reading the documentation he provided tonight.

### **Career Center Director, Bob Fitts**

#### **Update of Quarry Road Issue**

Mr. Fitts reported he received a verbal message today from Derby that the permit for starting the Land Lab work has been approved and is in the mail. Mr. Fitts noted Vermont state law says any over weight equipment being brought onto a road that has a weight limit must be permitted by the town road commissioner; that was one of the clauses in the contract; adding it was very common in Vermont to bring over weight trucks onto dirt roads.

Mr. Fitts reported the contract he mentioned at the last meeting and asked for board approval for the chair to sign will be ready for signature sometime this week.

### **Superintendent's Report, Dr. Rod Weston**

#### **Education Committee**

Dr. Weston stated he wanted to ask the chair and board to consider the formation of an education committee; noting they have all the other committees; that this was a watershed moment for this school, noting for 8 or 10 years they have heard the value of implied learning and now that the Career Center would be undergoing new construction this would be the time to maximize the possibilities for students. He stated he would like to see 80-90% of the students attend the Career Center. Dr. Weston stated this whole discussion had to start happening right now for this to be in place when the renovated buildings open. He stated this could be a formal committee of board members and administration; and could include staff, community and business leaders and the WDC group. He noted this would be something for the board to ponder. Dr. Weston added he had an issue for executive session dealing with a contractual issue.

#### **Student Representative**

Jason Benn reported the yesterday DECA students worked with Angela Dayton; that they talked about opportunities for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs after college; including ethics for work like showing up on time. He stated that juniors and seniors were disrespectful after the session, with the auditorium being a mess; and that FFA students came in to clean it up. He noted the freshmen and sophomores were not so messy. Jason stated a lot of students asked him about the parking permits; adding he would try to get an article in the school newspaper; noting the deadline was tomorrow. He reported students would like to have a plan for parking permits for those students who don't drive to school for the whole year, but only a couple of months. He reported a picture was taken of all students and staff on the football field; adding the poster was posted on the hallway, adding it came out very well.

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

**K. Canning moved the board approve the minutes of September 12, 2006. The motion was unanimously approved (K. Canning/M. O'Gorman).**

#### **Bus Garage Update**

S. Brochu reported there was really no update; that they had requested that a letter go out to Sloan's by the board's lawyer giving them a deadline date to answer whether they still want to go through with the purchase and sale. Mr. Hankinson asked if the board wanted to make a motion for that request. K. Canning stated if the board wanted to take

appropriate action they would need to make an affirmative motion. **P. Moskovites moved the board approve the motion from the finance/operation's committee minutes "that Brent was to notify the property owners that if a purchase/sale agreement or movement is not done by 9/30/06 then the offer is considered withdrawn". The motion was unanimously approved (P. Moskovites/S. Brochu).**

J. Privee asked if the board withdrew their purchase agreement if they had to back to the other bidders or start over. S. Brochu stated they would start over.

### **Audit Update**

Mr. Hankinson reported the audit arrived 2 days ago; adding he would bring it to the finance/operations' committee. S. Brochu asked if the committee members could receive it before their next meeting on Wednesday and Mr. Hankinson stated they would.

### **Budget Process**

R. Cartee reported the first part of the process was asking Mr. Rivard to provide a list of teachers and students assigned to them. Mr. Rivard stated the list is complete and he would give it to the chair of the committee. A. Amalixsen asked that the audit and teacher/student list be mailed at the same time. R. Cartee stated the committee would start meeting weekly in October; and would set up a hard schedule of departments they would meet with. J. Rosenberg noted they don't get agenda's for finance/operation's meetings; noting they had previously agreed there would be no surprises.

### **Wood Chip Project at NCUJHS**

Mr. Hankinson reported that last week the NCUJHS board met with Jules Chatot, from Banwell Architects, to review their wood chip project. He stated the board agreed they wished to warn a vote on November 7<sup>th</sup>; adding he was asked by the board to develop a warning for the bond vote. He stated he contacted Attorney Paul Juliani, of Montpelier, and asked him to draft the warning and necessary paperwork. He stated after his conversation with Attorney Juliani it became clear that the NCUJHS board doesn't have the authority to incur indebtedness for district #22a and 22b; but that the NCUHS board is the board of record for district #22. Mr. Hankinson reported the warning was to be ready for the NCUJHS board meeting scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>, and for them to take action. He distributed information to the board, which included the resolution and warning information and gave an overview of the project. He noted this was approximately a \$1.7 million project; that state construction aid, for the proposed wood chip system, was available and currently being reimbursed at 90%. He reported a proposed stand-alone building for the system and wood chips, and parking lot renovations would be eligible for 30% state aid; and noting that the 2 boiler rooms were far apart and to link them would be about \$286,000, which would also be at 30% reimbursement. He noted if they chose to have an emergency back-up system, which would cost about \$30,000, it would be eligible for 90% reimbursement. Mr. Hankinson reported there would be approximately \$421,000 of local money involved in this project.

R. Cartee asked what happened when the NCUJHS expanded and who voted on that project. Mr. Hankinson reported that the same attorney prepared those documents; adding it took him a while to find them, but he did. He added Attorney Juliani specializes in bonded indebtedness.

**P. Moskovites moved the board authorize the board and clerk to sign this resolution, seconded by R. Geisel.**

J. Privee noted this article didn't talk about a surplus. R. Cartee stated they would have to have another article on the ballot to place surplus funds generated to go into an account to offset those dollars. Mr. Hankinson noted there was a resolution and warning that needed board action now; that the other requests could be made at the next annual meeting. **A vote was held: with all voting in favor. The motion was unanimously approved (P. Moskovites/R. Geisel).**

### **Bike Path**

R. Cartee noted that the City of Newport proposed, in May of 2005, that they pay the school \$2,500 for easement for land by the football field; and that they were now offering \$3,000; adding that John Ward attended their last meeting. A. Amalixsen reported he had received paperwork from the City, which required his signature if the board agreed to the easement. **S. Brochu moved the board allow the board chair to sign the easement agreement, seconded by R. Cartee.** K. Canning asked what would happen to that \$3,000. R. Cartee stated they would put it in the general fund. Mr. Rivard noted they had created a courtyard; adding they wanted to create another one and that the \$3,000 would be a big help. S. Brochu stated the issue should go back to the committee; adding the water used on the football field is now metered. **A vote was held: all voted in favor. The motion carried. S. Brochu moved that when the funds come in the issue goes back to the finance/operation's committee, seconded by K. Canning. A vote was held: P. Moskovites voted against the motion; with all others voting in favor. The motion carried.** J. Rosenberg noted the board could do anything it wanted to, without going through a committee.

### **Personnel Committee**

M. O'Gorman noted the minutes of September 18, 2006 should read a .6 FTE position for NCCC Assistant Director. **J. Rosenberg moved the minutes be approved as amended to include a .6% position, as amended by the committee chair. The motion was unanimously approved (J. Rosenberg/K. Canning).**

**M. O'Gorman moved the board authorize hiring Jose Batista, as the .6% FTE NCCC Assistant Director, seconded by R. Geisel.**

R. Cartee stated when that position came to personnel he objected; noting the NCCC had a \$190,000 deficit from the 05/06 school year; that the deficit would have to be made up at the expense of the taxpayers and while this position for \$8,000 would only be for one year he felt that anything not necessary should not be spent to help reduce the deficit.

J. Rosenberg noted the deficit is a revenue deficit for the 05/06 school year; that there are currently sufficient funds budgeted for this position; adding the WDC Governance Board also said Mr. Fitts should have help and this board was to seriously consider the recommendation of that Board. K. Canning noted this was a recommendation from the administration, the personnel committee and WDC Governance board; adding this appeared to be a billing error. Dr. Weston noted the voters approved the amount of money to be spent in this current budget; that this issue was not a result of overspending,

but that bills sent to town were for less than we actually need from them; and some areas had been identified by the NCCC director as to where they could get it back. Dr. Weston stated it would unduly burdensome on the towns at this time to re-bill; noting they could do that in future years.

**J. Rosenberg called the question. The vote to call the question passed unanimously. A vote was held on the original motion: J. Rosenberg, S. Brochu and R. Cartee voted against the motion; all others voted in favor. The motion carried (M. O’Gorman/R. Geisel).**

### Math Teacher

**M. O’Gorman reported the committee received a letter of resignation from Jesse Tatum, as math teacher. S. Brochu moved the board accept the resignation of Jesse Tatum. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/P. Moskovites).**

**M. O’Gorman moved the board hire Amanda Phillabaum for the math position, seconded by P. Moskovites.** R. Cartee stated that since Ms. Phillabaum had worked at NCUHS for 2 years she would no longer be a probationary teacher. Mr. Rivard noted there was a 2 year probationary period for licensed teachers; that new teachers were evaluated a minimum of 3 times in their first year. Dr. Weston noted the administration was pleased with her performance at the end of her second year and had it not been for her licensing issue they would have issued her a contract; adding as her provisional license ran out June 30<sup>th</sup> they could not issue her a contract. Dr. Weston reported he contacted the DOE regarding this emergency situation and that he requested an extension to her provisional license, which had been approved. Dr. Weston reported the DOE was appreciative of his not requesting extensions except for emergency cases. R. Cartee requested that they put wording in her contract that would stipulate that she have her license by the end of this year’s contract. Dr. Weston stated he would contact the board’s attorney and report back to the personnel committee about this matter. **A vote was held on the motion: all voted in favor. The motion carried.** M. O’Gorman requested that a letter be sent by Mr. Rivard to Ms. Phillabaum informing her of her licensing requirements.

### School Committee

**P. Moskovites moved the board approve the minutes of August 31, 2006. The motion was unanimously approved (P. Moskovites/K. Canning).**

K. Canning reported the committee would be meeting this Thursday to review NCUHS Policy F.47: Cell Phones and also to begin work on the defibrillator policy.

### Negotiation’s Committee

**P. Moskovites moved the board approve the minutes of September 7, 2006. The motion was unanimously approved (P. Moskovites/M. O’Gorman).**

### Old Business

K. Canning stated if the board agreed to create an education committee it would require an addition to Board Procedure B.1. **K. Canning moved the board refer the education**

**committee request to the school committee. The motion was unanimously approved (K. Canning/J. Rosenberg).**

**At 8:30 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board enter executive session for a student hearing, inviting the administration and Ms. Rubino. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).**

**At 8:50 p.m. R. Cartee moved the board return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/P. Moskovites).**

**R. Cartee moved the board support the fact that the violations did occur. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee. P. Moskovites).**

**At 8:51 p.m. R. Cartee moved the board enter executive session for Part Two of the student hearing. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/M. O’Gorman).**

**At 9:20 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).**

**R. Cartee moved the board accept the administration’s recommendation for Student A; and also that Student A gets homework assignments. A vote was held: R. Geisel abstained; all others voted in favor. The motion carried (R. Cartee/J. Rosenberg).**

Mr. Pound stated he would send a report to the board in 2 weeks with the student’s progress.

**At 9:25 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board enter executive session for contractual issues, inviting the administration and Ms. Rubino. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/J. Rosenberg).**

**At 9:35 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board return to open session and adjourn, taking no action. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Rubino  
Recording Secretary