

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2006 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE NCUHS LIBRARY**

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

Board Members Absent: Todd Durkee (Newport City), Joe Gregersen (Newport Town), Morgan Rep

Administrators Present: Bill Rivard, Bob Fitts, Bob Davis, Thomas Pound, Rod Weston, Glenn Hankinson

Student Council: none

Faculty Forum: none

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

Guests: Sarah Fitts, Frank Davis, Meghan D’Arcy, Mary Colleen Healy, Brian Grimm, Suzette Cyr, Annette Benson, Chad Thompson

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 August 21st and 22nd, 2006. **S. Brochu moved the minutes of August 21st and 23rd, 2006 be approved as submitted, seconded by R. Cartee. A vote was held: D. Merrill abstained; all others voted in favor. The motion carried.**

Recognition Presentation

Welcome New Faculty

Mr. Rivard noted that each year the board takes this opportunity to welcome new faculty members. He introduced those new teachers who were able to join the board at the reception: Meghan D’Arcy, Mary Colleen Healy, Brian Grimm, Suzette Cyr, Annette Benson, Chad Thompson and Thomas Pound. The board introduced themselves to the new faculty members.

Moment of Silence for Essex Teachers

A. Amalixsen noted there was a very tragic event in Essex; noting his grandchildren attended Essex Town School and had one of them as a teacher. He asked for a moment in silence in memory of the teachers. He thanked the board for their thoughts and support of that program.

Superintendent’s Report, Dr. Rod Weston

Dr. Weston reported he received a note from Doug Westin, principal of Derby Elementary, thanking Joe Batista and the boy’s soccer team for helping out to put their playground together. Dr. Weston reported they would also be doing some painting there this weekend, adding Joe Batista has them doing community service, as a thank you for the communities’ support of their team.

Administrative Reports

Principal Bill Rivard

Grade Advancement Policy

Mr. Rivard noted that about a month ago a member of the school committee asked for an update on this policy and procedure. Ms. Fitts noted this was the first year of implementation of this procedure, as last year was a transition year. She reported letters went out to everyone stating the new procedure would be enforced; adding they had some students remain at last year's designation. She informed the board there were students that could conceivably move from a sophomore to a senior next year; and that some could advance mid-year from junior status to a senior. Ms. Fitts reported parents called and asked questions, but by and large the comments were positive and some parents felt it helped students pace themselves. Ms. Fitts reported that students have to be full fledged sophomores to take driver's education.

K. Canning thanked Ms. Fitts for her very nice update; adding it seemed the feedback from parents and students was positive.

Career Center Director's Report, Bob Fitts

Mr. Fitts reported that 2 weeks ago the ad-hoc building committee met and reviewed 3 bids; adding they were included in the board packet. Bids were received from: DEW Engineering, Engleberth and H.P. Cummings. He noted the low bidder was DEW, with H.P. Cummings close behind. He reported as a result of the low bid, DEW would receive the contract for building management; that it took about 2 days for the architects and attorneys to sort out the categories and it seemed that DEW gave the low bid; and that they were in the process of finalizing a contract. He noted he wrote a letter a week ago to the president of DEW Construction indicating it was their intent to hire them as the construction manager. Mr. Fitts reported that Buildings and General Services have asked for several modifications to the contract as had DEW Construction; that when finalized the attorney who specializes in construction law would review it. Mr. Fitts asked the board to authorize the board chair, or his designee, to sign that contract; adding it should be ready in the next 2 or 3 days. A. Amalixsen reported he was going out of town on Friday and that P. Moskovites would be the designee.

S. Brochu stated he saw in the Newport Daily that there may be a snag with the road department and weights; noting that Steve Gendreau, Derby road commissioner, said the weight limit changes at Barrup's on the Quarry Road and it did not meet regulations. Ms. Smith stated Mr. Gendreau said the weight limit is very low, allowing only school buses and small trucks on it. A. Amalixsen stated the committee would look into it; noting they had not received any formal contact from Derby yet. **S. Brochu moved the board authorize the board chair, or designee, to sign the contract proposed by Mr. Fitts. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).**

Health Careers Satellite Program at Lake Region

Mr. Fitts reported that on August 21st, the first day of school, he got a call from the person they had offered the job to telling him she would not sign her contract and did not want to take the job. He reported it was a surprise to him; adding they had reassigned the students at Lake Region and would not run a program there this year. He noted they only had the one applicant for this position; adding she would have been taking a tremendous cut in pay and that he would try to recruit someone this year and have them in place for next year. He stated 8 students at Lake Region were affected by this; adding the

schedules were not compatible between NCUHS and LRUHS for them to attend here. Mr. Fitts stated that 18 students were in the program at NCUHS.

Adult Services Fall Offerings

Mr. Fitts noted the booklet had been included in the board packet and mailed out about a week ago to prospective students. He asked if there were any questions about the Adult Services Report he distributed at the last board meeting. There were none.

Faculty & Student Representatives

Mr. Rivard reported that Jason Benn, the student representative, called him today saying he would not be present tonight as he had to spend some time with an ill grandparent. Mr. Rivard reported he was trying to recruit a faculty representative and would hope to have one at the next board meeting. A. Amalixsen reported he saw Jason last week and Jason told him how much he enjoys being on the board and reporting on student activities.

Finance/Operation's Committee

S. Brochu reported the new buses were in; adding he saw a beautiful convoy of them arriving to town. He stated he understood there was a problem with an alarm system on a door of one of the buses, which would be taken care of. He noted it would be nice to have some dependable buses to transport our children. Mr. Rivard reported he had a conversation with Wendy Buchanan, the bus coordinator, who said she would like to have 1 or 2 buses in front of the school at the next board meeting for the board to see them. S. Brochu reported he received an email from the people who own Clark's, which said it was nice to work with the NCUHS staff; adding he appreciated having Ms. Buchanan in there and having such an interest in the school.

Dr. Weston reported there would be training classes for those interested in getting their CDL licenses being held on September 11th and 13th, which would be a precursor to the October 14th clinic of 8 hours. He stated they could use a number of spare drivers, as they always seem to get caught short. Dr. Weston stated he was not sure of the pay for NCUHS drivers; but those working for NCS/OENSU would receive \$12 to start and \$14 after 5 years; with occasional drivers getting \$15 per hour. He noted that most NCUHS drivers get full time benefits. He asked anyone interested in taking the classes to contact Gail Phillabaum at NEKLS or Sharon Rubino at NCS/OENSU: 334-5847.

R. Cartee reported the committee, after reviewing the bids submitted for the NCCC construction arbitrage note, recommended investment with TD Banknorth.

R. Cartee reported they were starting the budget process; that they asked Mr. Rivard to get the administration together as a team and make proposals to teachers that they formulate a budget they would like to present to the committee; noting the committee would work on it from there. He added it would be interesting to see what they come in with; and that they would like to start working on the budget by the first part of October.

K. Canning moved the board accept the minutes of August 23rd and 30th. The motion was unanimously approved (K. Canning/M. O'Gorman).

Personnel Committee

K. Canning moved the board accept the minutes of August 22nd. The motion was unanimously approved (K. Canning/R. Cartee).

S. Brochu moved the board accept the job description for Integration Technician, as written and included in the board packet. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/H. Morse).

S. Brochu moved the board ratify the hiring of Tiffany Russell, as a special educator. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R.M. Mayhew).

A. Amalixsen stated he would have the superintendent's evaluation completed tomorrow; and M. O'Gorman stated it would then be sent to Deb Cogan, who was collating the evaluations for review by the NCS/OENSU executive committee.

A. Amalixsen complimented the personnel committee for their work done this summer; he thanked the committee members and thanked M. O'Gorman for her leadership. S. Brochu stated the administration brought good candidates to them.

School Committee

S. Brochu moved the board approved the second reading/adoption of the NCS/OENSU Common Board Policy F.6: Student Records – Family Privacy. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee). K. Canning noted the policy had already been adopted by all other member schools.

K. Canning reported they made some amendments to the initial draft of the student hearing procedure; that he would re-type it and send it to Dr. Weston, who would send it to the board's legal counsel for review.

Negotiation's Committee

R.M. Mayhew stated they would discuss this in executive session.

NCS/OENSU Executive Committee Report

A. Amalixsen reported that he and R. Cartee, along with representatives from other districts attended a special executive committee meeting to discuss the superintendent search; he noted there were 7 vacancies in Vermont for superintendents. He noted they were working on establishing who would be part of the search committee. He stated he brought to the attention of the chair that he anticipated having representation based on number of students and teachers, as well as spending; noting NCUHS/NCCC/NCUJHS make up almost 50% of what is spent in this supervisory union. He stated there had been no announcement yet as to who would serve on the committee. P. Moskovites asked if the board was fully behind this; noting that all the elementary schools would out budget this district, as well as with the number of students. He noted this committee would weed out potential candidates and present them to the full NCS/OENSU board; adding this board could open up this can and have all the elementary schools complaining.

R. Cartee reported the committee would consist of: 6 board members, 3 principals, 2 teachers, 1 parent, 1 community member and 1 administrator from central office. R. Cartee reported that A. Amalixsen asked that there be at least 2 North Country board members on the search committee. D. Merrill asked how many votes this board gets at

the executive committee; A. Amalixsen stated they get 1; D. Merrill asked how many they get at the full board meetings; A. Amalixsen stated they get 2. D. Merrill noted that was exactly what all the other districts get. K. Canning noted that Dr. Weston comes to almost every NCUHS board meeting; adding they should have a large say on who is hired. Dr. Weston stated he goes to a lot of board meetings. P. Moskovites stated other boards could say we are hogging him; Dr. Weston stated they already say that.

R. Geisel stated he had paperwork sent to M. Pettersson that showed that NCUHS/NCUJHS/NCCC did not have the largest enrollment or assessment charges. He noted that the search committee would bring the most qualified candidates to the full board; that in his experience in hiring this was part of weeding out those who are not qualified. A. Amalixsen noted he didn't hear anyone saying to hold out for 40% representation, adding he would stand down on this issue. D. Merrill stated this was not saying this board should have no representation, but to have 2 or more was a lot when some boards won't have any representation. R. Cartee stated he was told by 2 other board members today that every board would have representation. A. Amalixsen noted this would be clarified at the search committee meeting on Thursday. P. Moskovites noted the meetings would be open meetings. Dr. Weston stated they would be, but that candidate information would not be public in the beginning of the process; adding the salary needed to be decided ahead of time and should be agreed upon at the September NCS/OENSU full board meeting. A. Amalixsen reported that at the special executive committee meeting they took a fair vote to allow the NCS/OENSU board chair to select the membership of the search committee.

At 7:35 p.m. R. Cartee moved the board enter executive session for a student hearing. The motion was unanimously approved (R. Cartee/M. O’Gorman).

At 7:53 p.m. D. Merrill moved the board return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved (D. Merrill/M. O’Gorman).

P. Moskovites moved the board accept the fact for Student A that the violation did take place, seconded by R.M. Mayhew. A vote was held: R. Geisel abstained; S. Brochu and R. Cartee voted against the motion; all others voted in favor. The motion carried.

At 7:55 p.m. D. Merrill moved the board return to executive session for part 2 of the student hearing for Student A. The motion was unanimously approved (D. Merrill/M. O’Gorman).

At 8:34 p.m. H. Morse moved the board return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved (H. Morse/M. O’Gorman).

R.M. Mayhew moved the board impose on Student “A” a 10 day suspension, with re-admittance to the tutorial program and welding program; that counseling be done through Tri Country, as recommended by the administration; that Student A also be suspended from transportation for 1 year and also be placed on administrative probation for 1 year, seconded by S. Brochu. A vote was held: R. Geisel abstained; all others voted in favor. The motion carried.

At 8:41 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board enter executive session for a second student hearing. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).

At 8:55 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).

S. Brochu moved the violation did occur for Student B. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).

At 8:57 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board return to executive session for the second part of the student hearing. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/D. Merrill).

At 9:22 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/R. Cartee).

K. Canning moved the board accept the administrations recommendation for disciplinary action for Student B. The motion was unanimously approved (K. Canning/S. Brochu).

At 9:25 p.m. S. Brochu moved the board enter executive session for negotiations issues. The motion was unanimously approved (S. Brochu/K. Canning).

At 9:45 p.m. D. Merrill moved the board return to open session. The motion was unanimously approved (D. Merrill/S. Brochu). No action was taken.

Arbitrage Note

Mr. Hankinson distributed the TD Banknorth paperwork to the board, which outlined the proposal. He noted the finance/operation's committee approved this bid from the 3 active bids they received. **K. Canning moved the board authorize the board chair, clerk and treasurer to sign the TD Banknorth bond anticipation note. The motion was unanimously approved (K. Canning/S. Brochu).**

There being no further business to conduct the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. (S. Brochu/K. Canning).

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Rubino
Recording Secretary