

**NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL
and NORTH COUNTRY UNION JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
North Country Career Center, Room 380
October 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT

School Board Members:

Richard Cartee, Newport City
Maggie Griffith, Newport City
Tim Cartee, Newport City
Scott Boskind, Derby
George Swanson, Lowell
Rose Mary Mayhew, Troy
Le-Ann Tetrault, Jay
Dwight Brunnette, Newport Town
Jackie Young, Derby

Administration and Staff:

John A. Castle, Superintendent of Schools
Glenn Hankinson, Director of Business and Finance
Nicole Corbett, NCUJHS Principal
Eileen Illuzzi, NCCC Director
Chris Miller, NCUHS Principal
Colleen Storrings, NCUJHS Assistant Principal
Liz Butterfield, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Press: Ed Barber, Newport Daily Express

I. The NCUHS meeting was called to order by board chair Rose Mary Mayhew at 6:30 p.m.

The NCUJHS meeting was called to order by board chair Richard Cartee at 6:31 p.m.

Chair Mayhew led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and called for additions or adjustments to the agenda: Dr. Corbett added a request by Junior Hoops to the Junior High agenda. Personnel items were added to the Joint Executive Session. Ratification of the teachers' negotiated agreement was added.

II. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens: None.

Continue as NCUHS Board Meeting

III. **Motion** to approve the NCUHS Minutes of September 19, 2017 (*Attachment A*) BOSKIND/SWANSON. Maggie Griffith asked that the minutes reflect that she inquired about freshman humanities, not humanities.

APPROVED

IV. NCUHS Teacher Representative Report: Amy Pickering was present to give an update on work-based learning. She explained that she and Joe Batista are working together to develop the program. In the past, it was a fluid program, as needed, and they are now working on developing a "proposal of learning" format. This fits in with development of transferable skills. The student meets with Amy and Joe, they look at habits of work, and Joe makes a connection with the employer. Joe does a series of evaluations with the student and employer, and Amy monitors academics. There are currently six students in the program. Two are unpaid: one is placed at a physical therapy facility, and one is placed at an elementary school. Principal Miller explained that the key is in trying to provide systems and structures in the building to have students connect work in building with work outside of the building. He said, "College costs money: this can provide real world experience and assist the student in making an educated decision about where and what to do for college. They can quantify their experience."

In response to a question, Amy explained that kids must supply their own transportation, so it is currently only juniors and seniors participating, who generally tend to be more mature. In the future, it may be possible to use Barr Grant monies to support transportation by purchasing school-owned transportation. Amy said that if we do identify freshmen or sophomores who are interested, we will assess the flexible pathways and find a way. Our capacity is not known at this point, we will figure that out as the program develops and grows. The more students begin to understand the program, the more will want to participate. Amy and Chris cautioned that it is not a "freebie", everything must be documented, and it must correlate with the student's secondary education goals. Dwight asked what the criteria is for participating in the program. Amy explained that some of the criteria are: time available in the student's schedule; a need to fulfill elective credit; having good habits and succeeding now; but it can be a way to motivate and connect with long-term goals. Amy and Joe ask the student what their intention

is for joining the program - to get away or to gain experience? Some just want to work, and it will take time to shift the culture. Mr. Miller said the key is to create a comprehensive system, 9-12, to gain employable skills: resume, interview, cold-call, develop relationships, open doors.

V. Financial Reports and Recommendations: None.

VI. Committee Reports & Recommendations

A. NCUHS Business Operations

Information/Discussion:

1. Minutes of October 10, 2017 (*Attachment B*)

Action:

1. **Motion** to approve transfer of \$30,000 from SpEd to Support Services for a behavior team assistant, which was previously paid from Medicaid funds. Scott asked about the training required and the superintendent explained that the support staff BTA trains with the Behavior Team to work with the population. CARTEE/TETRAULT, **APPROVED**

B. NCUHS Curriculum & Instruction

Information:

1. Minutes of October 3, 2017 (*Attachment C*) Jackie said it was a great meeting, as usual. “Anita is doing an outstanding job”.

Action:

1. **Motion** to approve awarding 1 Fine Arts credit {up to 2 credits} for any 2 of the following PTF classes (*Attachment D*):

- PTF Woodworking
- PTF Metalworking
- PTF Construction
- PTF CADD
- PTF Video Game and Web Design

Jackie commented that this supports flexible pathways.

YOUNG/TETRAULT, **APPROVED**

Jackie also shared her impressions of the M3 program, that was presented at the C & I meeting. The three M’s are mindset, motivation and meta-cognition. The program fosters a positive attitude and teaches students that there is no such thing as “can’t”. Each session is 10 weeks, and all students have the opportunity to be exposed. Maggie commented that the presentation by the students was “mind-boggling”. The M3 program is presented during flex-block: the students present in a classroom, with a teacher in the room. There are currently 21 trained student facilitators. They teach self-talk, positive reinforcement, growth mindset, and using stress as a tool. Mr. Miller promised to bring a presentation to a board meeting soon.

Jackie also addressed freshman humanities, saying that, unfortunately, it cannot happen at this time. She mentioned that sophomores, juniors, and seniors can take AP classes.

C. NCUHS Human Resources

Information/Discussion: Did not meet.

Maggie asked if there is a girls’ hockey coach for the LI and NCUHS team. Mr. Miller shared that Steve Roberts from Newport Center has been hired.

VII. NCUHS Unfinished/New Business

Discussion/Action:

A. Consideration of drawing on principal from scholarship funds: Mr. Miller shared that Donna Blais has expressed concern because there are a handful of scholarships that we are having a hard time awarding. The principal is there, but the awards are drawn from the interest. Some are drawing such low interest that the award is less than \$100.00. Mr. Miller would like to draw some principal to continue to award the scholarships. In most

cases, those who established the scholarships are no longer living. Richard Cartee would like to see this discussed at Business Ops, and Chris agreed to put it on next BO agenda.

Motion to table. CARTEE/GRIFFITH, **APPROVED**

Action:

A. Member to Member approval:

Mr. Miller has received two requests from LRUHS: one senior for boys' hockey; and two females for girls' hockey. **Motion** to approve the Member to Member requests. BOSKIND/GRIFFITH, **APPROVED**

Motion to ratify the teacher's negotiated agreement. CARTEE/BOSKIND, **APPROVED**.

This was also ratified last week by the NCSU Executive Committee and the union has also ratified. There was discussion about some of the aspects of the agreement. It was anticipated that these conversations would continue with the next round of bargaining.

VIII. NCUHS Future Agenda Items, Date of Next Meetings:

- November 21, 2017
- Board retreat: Oct 30th, Pie and Pasta
- Scott: would like preliminary discussion concerning chaperones, now that negotiations are done.
- Approve NCSU AGS Proposal

IX. NCUHS Executive Session (*if needed*): not needed.

Continue as NCUHS/NCUJHS Joint Board Meeting

X. Joint Financial Reports and Recommendations

Action:

A. **Motion** to approve the Warrant (*Attachment E*) CARTEE/SWANSON, **APPROVED**

XI. Director's and Principals' Reports

Information/Discussion:

A. Nicole Corbett (*Attachment F*) Dr. Corbett reviewed highlights from her report. She said the Junior High had 9 spots out of 20 for the for Facilitative Leadership professional development. She and the group appreciate that all teachers have an opportunity to have their voice heard, and to understand the different roles, "To think about challenges and topics in new ways using different routines."

B. Eileen Illuzzi (*Attachment G*): Ms. Illuzzi spoke of the Celebration of Community, a collaboration with NCUHS. She said that those involved really enjoyed having it on the same night as the board meeting, and people appreciated having the board participate. She said that parents of some LR students came, to see what might be available next year. The College and Career Fair was big hit last week, another joint effort with NCUHS.

C. Chris Miller (*Attachment H*): Chris announced that we have been awarded a Barr Foundation Grant. He said that the Barr Foundation is changing their mission, to invest in schools that are investing in their local eco-system: in our case, flexible pathways. This is a two-year intensive planning and re-design grant that Great Schools Partnership helped us to apply for. Three of our teachers and Anita Mayhew are heading to Pawtucket, RI, to the Blackstone Academy Charter School tonight. BACS has similar demographics to ours, but 90% of their graduates are admitted to four-year college. Chris wants to know how they achieve this, considering their exposure to trauma.

Mr. Miller also shared that there are 18-25 new athletes (not already involved in a sport) interested in an indoor track program. Chris will investigate, look at club vs jv/varsity, costs, etc.

XII. Personalized/Proficiency Based Learning

Information:

A. Update on work with Great Schools Partnership

Chris will be going to the League of Innovative Schools conference on Thursday with GSP, to share ideas, resources, and learn how to implement equitable personalized learning systems. Don Weafer, from GSP, was here for PD last week. The team will be looking at how to provide feedback on formative assessments, next. Jackie would like to have Chris at a Curriculum & Instruction committee meeting soon, to go through the process from beginning to end. Chris agreed, and said the key is: what are the smaller grain sizes, mini standards that point us to the larger standards? By end of year, we will be in implementation mode, in small steps. "We're at a tipping point with this work. Our teachers are working hard to implement." This also speaks to the M3 work, changing mindset.

XIII. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Castle reported that the Barr Grant is for \$267,000.00, in a two-year grant cycle. These funds will continue to pay for work with GSP. We had submitted a Nellie Mae grant application, which we did not get, so we may fund some items that were included in that with Barr Grant monies. John added to Nicole's mention of Facilitative Leadership, saying we may run a cohort for either the high school or the entire SU, as no high school teachers participated this time. Nicole reiterated that she highly recommends it.

A. AGS Progress: John hopes to send a draft of his narrative to boards this week. He wants feedback and proofreading. The AGS will be approved next Thursday at the NCSU EC meeting.

B. Fall Forums: John is encouraging local boards to have Fall Forums, and would like to see HS/JHS board members attend the local forums. They will be publicized by newspaper, Facebook, web sites, etc. Liz will include HS/JH board members in the local board packet distributions. John would like the Fall Forums to be a permanent practice, something that would complement Town Meeting, less formal, to facilitate conversation. The topics can be of SU-wide interest or specific to that school.

XIV. New/Unfinished Joint Board Business

Action:

1. **Motion** to approve renewal of the food service management contract with the Abby Group. (*Attachment I*)
YOUNG/BRUNETTE, **APPROVED**

2. **Motion** to approve the VEHI and VSBIT Proxies (*Attachment VEHI/VSBIT*)
TETRAULT/BOSKIND, **APPROVED**

3. **Motion** to authorize the chair to sign the support staff interim health plan. John reported that a meeting was convened today with the union, which Richard Cartee and Scott Boskind attended, as well as Troy and Newport City representatives. Derby could not attend. We must have equivalent plans to what we have now.

R. CARTEE/TETRAULT, **APPROVED**

4. **Motion** to adopt the following revised NCSU Common Board Policies:

1. E.12 Monitoring Devices on School Property and Busses
2. J.7 School Nutrition and Fitness
3. G.7 Educational support system

*Policies being reviewed can be found at <http://www.ncsuvt.org/ncsu-full-board/policies-being-reviewed>.

R. CARTEE/JACKIE YOUNG, **APPROVED**

Information/Discussion:

A. NCUHS/NCCC/NCUJHS Oct. 30th Retreat planning: Will take place at VT Pie & Pasta, 6:00 p.m. John will create a Google doc with the principals, for planning.

XV. **Motion** to go into Joint Board Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss negotiations and personnel matters.

R. CARTEE/YOUNG, **APPROVED**

The chair took the board out of Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. No action was taken.

Continue as NCUJHS Board Meeting

XVI. **Motion** to approve the NCUJHS Minutes of September 26, 2017 (*Attachment J*)
YOUNG/TETRAULT, **APPROVED**

XVII. Financial Reports and Recommendations

A. **Motion** to approve the September 2017 Financial Report for NCUJHS (*Attachment K*)

T. CARTEE/YOUNG, **APPROVED**

XVIII. Committee Reports & Recommendations

A. NCUJHS Building Committee: did not meet, but Scott will be scheduling a meeting soon to go over recommended projects for next year. Chair Cartee asked junior high board members to let Scott know if you want to be involved.

XIX. NCUJHS Unfinished/ New Business

Action:

A. Approve a request for additional unpaid time. (*Attachment L*)

Dr. Corbett and the superintendent explained that this was an emergency request. John had granted the request because of the timing, involving a death in the family due to an accident. Dr. Corbett explained that this employee is the sister-in-law, is a new employee, and has limited days available.

Motion to ratify granting additional unpaid time. R. CARTEE/M. GRIFFITH, **APPROVED**

B. Junior Hoops. NEK Hoops is requesting to use gym on Saturdays in Jan. and Feb. We have waived rental and custodian fees in past (the custodian comes in later, anyways).

Motion to grant the Junior Hoop request, under the same conditions as previous years.

T. CARTEE/TETRAULT, **APPROVED**

XX. NCUJHS Future Agenda Items, Date of Next Meeting:

- November 28, 2017
- Approve NCSU AGS Proposal

XXI. NCUJHS Executive Session (*if needed*): not needed.

XXII. **Motion** to adjourn the NCUHS and NCUJHS Board Meetings at 8:25 p.m.
BOSKIND/TETRAULT, **APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield
Recording Secretary

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCSU Policy Committee	Will not meet	in October		
NCSU Executive Committee	Thursday	October 26	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
NCUHS/NCCC/NCUJHS Retreat	Monday	October 30	6:00 p.m.	VT Pie & Pasta
NCUHS Curriculum Committee	Tuesday	November 7	5:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 316
NCUHS Business & Ops. Comm.	Tuesday	November 14	5:00 p.m.	NCCC Room 316
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	November 16	5:30 p.m.	NCSU A207
NCSU Executive Committee	Thursday	November 16	6:30 p.m.	NCSU A209
NCUHS Board	Tuesday	November 21	6:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 380
NCUJHS Board	Tuesday	November 28	6:00 p.m.	NCUJHS Library