

NORTH COUNTRY UNION JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NCUJHS Library

November 28, 2017 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board Members:

Maggie Griffith, Newport City

Tim Cartee, Newport City

Le-Ann Tetrault, Jay

Richard Cartee, Newport City

Scott Boskind, Derby

Jackie Young, Derby

Richard Nelson, Derby

Ronnie Murphy

Administrators and Staff:

John A. Castle, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Nicole Corbett, NCUJHS Principal

Colleen Storrings, NCUJHS Assistant Principal

Glenn Hankinson, NCSU Director of Business and Finance

Liz Butterfield, Exec. Assistant to the Superintendent

Kevin Hodgeman, NCUJHS

Annette Cross, NCUJHS Administrative Assistant*

Ronnie Murphy, NCUJHS Teacher*

Peggy Stevens, NCUJHS Teacher*

Press:

Ed Barber, Newport Daily Express

*Partial Attendee

I. Chair Richard Cartee called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M., led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and called for additions or adjustments to the agenda. Dr. Corbett asked that a request to extend a maternity leave be added.

II. **Motion** to approve the minutes of October 17, 2017 (*Attachment A*) BOSKIND/T. CARTEE, **APPROVED**

III. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens:

A. Staff members Ronnie Murphy and Peggy Stevens asked that the rental fee be waived for space in the library for yoga, a few times each month, after school. The yoga instructor comes from Burke, is paid by the participants, and the sessions are open to staff. A few community members also participate. The teachers said that this fits in with the NCUJHS mindfulness goals. They are out of the library by 5:00 p.m., they move the chairs, etc., and put everything back. Originally, the school paid the instructor, but now participants pay.

Motion to waive the rental fee for the yoga group. YOUNG/BOSKIND, **APPROVED**

B. Annette Cross and Kevin Hodgeman asked to speak to the board. They said they are confused about the health insurance offerings, and are wondering what the board's intent is. They said they, "Are on the lowest step on the totem pole", will be paying more and wondered why there are three different plans.

John explained that they are exempt employees, and the plans still fit in the spirit of what was conveyed in the spring. This was the recommendation of the negotiations team, and the Executive Council made the decision, understanding that local boards would honor what the E.C. decided. The NCUHS, NCUJHS and NCCC came down, and gave up quite a bit. The Junior High board was represented by Scott and Richard. John said we are moving toward parity, but some people have moved up and some have moved down. Annette and Kevin parallel others in the SU, at 85/15. The Central Office support staff are in the same group, in fact, some will experience a net loss. John pointed out that the premiums are less, though the percentage is higher. Annette expressed that she would like to see it equalized for all in the future.

C. Nicole shared that she was in communication with a parent today concerning assemblies. She clarified that the shift from assemblies has nothing to do with the honor roll. A letter is going home concerning student-led conferences, new grading tools, celebrations of learning, etc. By 2020, all teachers and classes will have shifted, but this year some are, some are not, which would make it difficult to hold the traditional assemblies.

IV. Financial Report

Action:

A. **Motion** to approve the Financial Report of October 2017 (*Attachment B*) Glenn reviewed the report briefly. NELSON/BOSKIND, **APPROVED**

B. Motion to approve the Warrant (*Attachment C*) NELSON/T. CARTEE, **APPROVED**

Information/Discussion:

A. FY19 Budget Context and Considerations.

Nicole and Glenn reviewed the proposed budget and answered questions. There will be no reduction in staff or programs for FY19. Enrollment is projected to be 249 students, an increase of 14 from this year. "Equalized Pupils" lags behind - we will be catching up next year and the following year, so the junior high will feel the pinch of the previous years' declines. The chair encouraged the board to take the budget home and study it, and ask questions of Nicole and Glenn. Richard asked that board members call him if they have questions, and if necessary, he will call a special board meeting to discuss the budget.

V. Principal's Report (*Attachment D*)

Dr. Corbett reviewed her report and answered questions. Richard asked how the staff was doing with the new shifts in learning design and grading. She replied that it's mixed, and it will take time to get used-to and understand. Some have really embraced it. They are piloting programs and learning. Most teachers feel this talks more about the student as learners, not just completing tasks or passing tests. Are they proficient, do they understand? It promotes independence, using your learning in a variety of situations, and builds proficiency.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Review and Input to Act 46 Alternative Governance Structure Proposal (*Attachment E*)

Ed Barber said that he wanted to "take off his reporter's hat" and comment on a personal level: he said the Narrative and Context are done at an incredibly high level, a doctoral level, and sets a high bar for others. Ed thanked the SU staff and boards for trying to preserve the democratic process.

B. Fall Forums: John reported we have had many forums at local boards, with two or three people at each one and good conversations.

VII. Building Committee:

Information/Discussion:

A. Minutes of October 31, 2017 (*Attachment F*)

B. Review 5-year plan (*Attachment G*)

Scott thanked Kevin for his attendance at this meeting. He said \$115,000.00 has been put in the budget for the projects scheduled for FY19. Nicole ran through a breakdown of the projects. Richard Nelson asked that if there is a surplus in the future, it be set aside in a capital reserve fund for future projects and/or emergencies. Scott agreed that it would be helpful, especially in light of possible issues encountered recently with the alarm system. Kevin and Richard Cartee reported that the fire alarm system/smoke detectors are out of compliance/out of code. It will cost \$85,000.00 to bring to code. They said this is because some requirements have changed lately and some will be changing in the near future. Kevin spoke to the Assistant Fire Marshal, who said we don't need an architect for this. The inspection was done this year by an electrical contractor, Jordan Electrical, who said these are potential violations over the next two or three years. Richard Cartee wants to make the changes now, using some money in the current budget and the next few budgets. Scott suggested that if the budget stays below level funding, to bring it up to level to cover the loan for the first few years, if we go ahead with this. Richard Nelson said he is more concerned with cost per pupil than level funding. Kevin said we currently do not have any CO detectors. Jordan Electrical will bid, and others will also. Many board members requested that Kevin ask the state Fire Marshal to do an inspection, to see what is required. Kevin will contact the Fire Marshal.

Bus Circle Concrete: Little Acres Construction gave Kevin an estimate to replace the concrete by the bus circle. Kevin is still researching the best way to repair.

VIII. Unfinished/New Business

Action:

A. Consideration of Leave Request:

Motion to grant the employee three days of unpaid leave in January. GRIFFITH/TETRAULT, **APPROVED**

B. Added item: Request to extend maternity leave. The employee is asking for an extension: to go from the end of October, when her FMLA expires, to after Christmas break, with no benefits, simply job protection. This would be an extension of approximately two months. Dr. Corbett says she can cover it, especially with this much early notice.

Motion to grant the maternity leave extension, as requested. BOSKIND/TETRAULT, **APPROVED**.
(Griffith, **Abstained**)

VIII. **Other Business:** none

IX. **Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting:** December 19, 2017

- Joint meeting with the NCUHS board
 - NCUJHS Library, 6:00 p.m.
 - Nicole asked Liz to let board members know that the back circle will be reserved for board member parking, and the door by the bus lobby will be unlocked (there is a concert that evening).

X. **Executive Session** (*if needed*): Not necessary.

XI. **Motion** to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. NELSON/BOSKIND, **APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield
Recording Secretary

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCUHS/NCUJHS Joint Board	Tuesday	December 19	6:00 p.m.	NCUJHS Library
NCSU Negotiations Planning	Thursday	December 21	5:00 p.m.	NCCC Room 380
NCSU Full Board	Thursday	December 21	6:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 380