

NEWPORT CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Newport City Elementary School
Monday, November 13, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Board Members:

Victoria Lantagne
Kathy Nolan
Chris Royer
Mary Ellen Prairie
Wendy McGillivray

Administration and Staff:

Elaine Collins, NCES Principal
Deb Beaupre, NCES Assistant Principal
Sam Knight, NCES Bookkeeper
John Castle, NCSU Superintendent of Schools
Leanne Desjardins, NCSU Director of Special Education
Liz Butterfield, substitute recording secretary

The meeting was called to order by chair Victoria Lantagne at 6:00 p.m. The chair called for additions or adjustments to the agenda: Kathy Nolan asked that an update on NCSU EC and Full Board meetings be added.

II. **Motion** to approve the minutes of October 18 and 30, 2017 (*Attachments A1, A2*)
NOLAN/ROYER, **APPROVED**

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

IV. **Financial Report** (tabled to end of meeting)

Action:

- A. Approve the Warrants
- B. Financial Report

V. **Director of Special Services Report (Leanne Desjardins):** Leanne is visiting NCSU board meetings this fall to give a better picture of the NCSU Special Education Department and the services they provide. She shared an illustration that shows the different cogs of the NCSU Special Education wheel, and spoke about funding, budget, Behavior Team Specialists and Assistants, UDL (Universal Design for Learning), and the ACE program at NCES, which utilizes one behavior team specialist and one full-time SpEd teacher. Leanne said she is hearing really good things about ACE, that the students are showing progress and success.

Leanne shared that NCSU was the first SU in the state to have an Eval. Team. We now have 615 students in the SU eligible for services, who must have a re-evaluation every three years. Leanne explained that an IEP is like a prescription: there are different services provided, funded through Medicaid, at different levels. We bill Medicaid and are reimbursed for services. Those funds come back to the schools and are used for programming for ALL students, at approximately \$500,000/year. The money is used for Encore, guidance, ski programs, Farm-to-School, etc. The only stipulation is that the programs that are funded be accessible to all students. Leanne spoke about the BEST grant, which is now around \$10,000/year for the SU. Staff go to the BEST Institute each summer, for PBIS and trauma training. NCES sent teams the last two years. There is also an Innovation Grant, now in our second year, which focuses on MTSS, complementing our focus on trauma and positive climate. There are "Train the Trainer" sessions, which Deb Beaupre attended and felt were very valuable.

Leanne distributed an illustration of the NCSU Continuum of Instruction. She also handed out a description of the duties of the BT Specialists and BTA's, and the NCSU Framework for Positive Learning Environment. Leanne answered questions from the board, such as, "How do we reconcile the numbers with the Secretary's statement that there are too many students on IEPs?" Leanne is confident that we are identifying a need. The state average is 15%, ours is 22%. Leanne does feel we need to look at the use of para's, look at the data: are there students who need support only in certain classes, rather than full day? It is difficult to schedule, but

should be looked at. Elaine commented that there is a trend upward for emotional disturbance, with bigger needs, and it is hard to not have a para with some of these students all the time: those students can be a safety risk to others or themselves. Drug addiction is a huge factor: many children are born addicted and/or live with addicted parents. Alternative placements are even more expensive. The more complex the needs, the greater the cost. Leanne stated that we are building capacity at the Central Office to avoid sending students to outside placements. Chris asked about short-term needs, those who need services early, but can then go into regular ed or have decreased services. What are the results, what is the success? Leanne agreed that is a good question and will look into it. She said our paras are being trained to be “Independence Facilitators”. We are teaching them strategies, giving them a “tool kit”. Chris said the statistics would be helpful for budget season. Deb added that besides the “big behaviors” there are many other behaviors that need to be addressed every day, much more so than 10 or 20 years ago. Then: few students were affected by trauma, now: many are. Elaine said ACE is a step in the right direction, starting with younger kids, and we are seeing success. Chris asked if it would be helpful to have a BTA at NCES to help classroom teachers to implement plans that a BTS has designed? Leanne replied, “Perhaps. It’s something to think about.” There is a “Floater” (Celine Cote) who checks in from time to time.

VI. Principal’s Report

Elaine distributed data concerning conflict resolution trends. Academics are kicking in, especially for kindergartners. 2nd and 3rd grade will be improving now that they have been separated. The kids are still learning how to play “the game of school”.

VII. Unfinished/New Business

Discussion/Information:

A. Basketball: Deb gave an update. Kylie Atwood, who played D1 at UVM, has agreed to work with us. Parent George Azur would like to coach the girls. Deb is helping to organize the girls’ team.

B. NCSU E.C. and Full Board update: Kathy Nolan.

Kathy shared that the NCSU Full Board approved a Resolution on Poverty, requesting that the AOE raise the poverty rating, maintain small schools grants, provide mental health services and support families in poverty. The resolution will be mailed next week to all legislators, the VT Board of Education, the Governor, and the Secretary of Education.

Kathy said that at the last E.C. meeting, some SpEd teachers asked for a change in their benefits, because of differences in the two contracts (secondary vs. elementary). The Executive Committee said no, all will be the same. They felt “we can’t make everybody happy, we are trying to work towards equity.” Kathy also updated the board on discussions that the EC had concerning health insurance benefits.

She said that for Negotiations we will meet with the teachers by January 15th. For the Support Staff, we are looking at December 14th.

Kathy said the Superintendent had discussed the budgeting climate with the EC. The state is looking at a 47-million-dollar shortfall in the Ed Fund and a 35 million General Fund deficit. We are looking at a 6-8 cent increase in the state tax rate. This is compounded for schools with declining enrollment. The Central Office will be recommending that boards budget for at least 10%, up to a 20%, decrease in CFP monies, plus the claw back, plus increases in the sped assessment.

C. Budget – updated proposals: Elaine agreed that this is a challenging budget cycle. Where do we make cuts or additions? Elaine said her duty is to present the needs and then have a conversation with the board of what is feasible. She has a vision of where the school should go, and said it is her responsibility to bring that to the board. Elaine reviewed the most recent iteration of the FY19 budget. The board asked questions and discussed possible scenarios. Budget figures for salaries had not been finalized at the time of this iteration, as contracts were just recently issued following ratification of the teacher’s negotiated agreement.

D. Hire 2 paras: Elaine said we are only hiring one, but still need to check references.

Motion to hire the para, once references have been checked. PRAIRIE/ROYER, **APPROVED**

E. Fall Forum planning (Forum on November 27) (*Attachment B*):

John said this is a period of public engagement and public discussion. He encourages dialogue about the Act 46 process, explaining to the public how we reached the conclusion to request that we remain a Supervisory Union.

The general disposition of our communities is to not centralize. The CO sent out information to the principals on publicizing the forums. John will be present, it will be informal, he will guide the forum. He suggests devoting 20 minutes. Wendy said she will bring it up at Parent's Club tomorrow night. John said he welcomes constructive feedback from the board concerning the proposal. Elaine asked if there are any particular groups that the board would like to invite. Suggestions included the City Council, Pam Ladds, and advertising on Facebook. The board should familiarize themselves with the narrative, context and index.

F. Teachers Negotiated Agreement (ratified at October 16th meeting) (*Attachment C*) Included as information.
Action:

A. Consideration of leave request (*Attachment D*) Mr. Castle said he does not feel this should be a discretionary day, but may be allowed as an unpaid day. The board asked John to make the decision.

VIII. Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting

- November 27, 2017
 - Fall Forum
 - Report on the Veteran's visit to NCES on Veteran's Day: invite John Wilson, teachers and students to present.

IX. **Motion** to enter Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. PRAIRIE/ROYER, **APPROVED**

The vice chair exited executive session at 8:51p.m. No action was taken.

IV.

A. Approve the Warrants (Tabled from earlier in the meeting):

Motion to approve the Warrants for the following amounts:

\$11,806.08 General Fund FY18

\$35,078.25 Food Service FY18

ROYER/MCGILLIVRAY, **APPROVED**

X. **Motion** to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. ROYER/PRAIRIE, **APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Butterfield

(subbing for Recording Secretary Nancy Griffith)

<u>Meetings:</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
NCES Board	Monday	November 27	6:00 p.m.	NCES Library
NCSU Policy Committee	Thursday	December 21	5:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 316
NCSU Full Board	Thursday	December 21	6:30 p.m.	NCCC Room 380