

APPROVED

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 3, 2013 School Library

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Board Members: Chris Tormey, Ry Hoffman, Sharon O'Connor, Jackie Folsom;
Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent, Karen Stewart, Principal, Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Director; **Student Representatives:** Heidi Cookson, Cassandra Morse; **Absent:** Hugh Burke, Paul Stecker

Call to order Chris Tormey, Chair, 6:05 p.m.

Public Input None

Consent Agenda

a. Approve May 20, 2013 minutes - Sharon O'Connor moved to approve, Ry Hoffman seconded unanimously approved

Reports

a. **Student Report - Heidi Cookson, Cassandra Morse**

- J-term is going well, students are enjoying learning new skills.
- Last week the Hands On The Land group visited the State House in Montpelier and the Vermont Historical Museum to interview people on the topic *What Does Vermont Have To Offer and What Is Great About Vermont*. The group will interview people on Church St. in Burlington June 4.
- Students attended a bookmaking class last week, creating accordion books to convey ideas without using words, this was an exercise in using your right brain vs. your left brain.

b. **Superintendent Report - Nancy Thomas**

- Nancy asked Pat Knoerl to report on the School Climate Survey. Parents of Cabot School students received surveys by e-mail and for those without e-mail addresses, they received paper copy. Two Robo-Calls were made to encourage participation. Parent response is currently at 37%, student response is currently at 65% , staff response is currently at 51%, the survey is still open.
- Nancy reported that she, Chris Tormey and Patrick Healy attended School Board/Superintendent training on May 22. Participants were provided time to discuss legislative updates regarding the World Class Education Initiative. Chris noted that sharing information with and hearing from other Vermont schools was valuable. Nancy and Chris will prepare discussion points for the Board, to share information they received at the training.
- On May 23 and 24, Nancy and Laurence Carnahan attended the VT Superintendent's Association/VT Council of Special Education Administrator's Spring Conference at Lake Morey.

c. **Principal Report - Karen Stewart**

- On May 29, grades 3,4, 5 and 6 held parent orientation. Parents heard about summer learning expectations and classroom culture.
- Circus SmIrkus workshops for grades K-8 began today. Performances will be presented on Friday afternoon for the school and in the evening for parents.

- Kindergarten round up occurred last week. Parents and students toured the school and received an orientation.
- Pre-school screening will occur June 4.
- Middle school graduation will be held at 5:30 p.m. on June 13.
- High school graduation will be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 14

Board Discussion

a. Community Conversations – Chris Tormey

- Chris expressed thanks for hosts who conducted these meetings. In all 40-45 people have attended the various meetings to date. A broad range of positive discussions took place, lists were generated at each meeting encompassing thoughts on the big picture for Cabot School. Chris will gather all notes from the meetings, and discuss at the next Board meeting.

b. Hiring Update

i. World Language Position

- Interviews are underway with two viable candidates. Karen will make a recommendation to the Board on whether to consider one of these candidates or re-open the position for further applicants.

ii. Science Position, FTE Discussion

- Interviews were conducted with strong candidates. The interview team has decided to recommend Michael Hendrix for the position. Michael has a Masters degree in biology with a certification in general science. Chris Tormey requested Michael's praxis score.
- FTE discussion for Science Position Nancy requested moving this position from .80 to 1.0 FTE. It would be beneficial for this position to become full-time to meet scheduling needs and class preparation work to be done, in addition to the ability to move ahead with project based learning and the science program in general.

c. High School Course Requirements and Schedule – Karen Stewart

- Karen distributed the final high school course schedule for the 2013-2014 school year.
- The group discussed course requirements for each grade.
- Chris asked Karen to send an explanation to parents of seniors so that they understand what is senior year and courses entail
- Jackie asked Karen to outline for parents what the general requirements are for each grade, and to explain the schedule for parents.

d. Foreign Exchange Student

- Karen Mueller-Harder Explained that the process with Youth for Understanding is on track to bring Laura, age 16 from Germany, to Cabot School for the 2013-2014 school year. Laura will be a junior. The Host family is waiting for final approval.

e. Tax Anticipation Note – Rob Billings

- This agenda item has been postponed for the next Board meeting.

Board Action

- a. Approve Tax Anticipation Note – Postponed for the next Board meeting.
- b. Approve Hiring New Science Teacher – Chris Tormey moved to approve Michael Hendrix, subject to receiving his praxis score, Jackie Folsom seconded - unanimously approved.
 - Nancy Thomas asked for approval to change the Science position from .80 FTE to 1.0 FTE. Chris Tormey moved to approve, Ry Hoffman seconded – unanimously approved.
- c. Approve Foreign Exchange Student – Chris Tormey moved to approve, Sharon O’Connor seconded - unanimously approved.

Executive Session for negotiations - The Board went into Executive Session at 8:02 p.m.
Returned at 8:10 p.m.

Future Agenda Items

- a. Tax Anticipation Note
- b. Community Conversation
- c. High School Course Requirements
- d. Senior X – English Exploration

Adjournment 8:10 p.m.

Future Meetings:

1. **Cabot School Board**: Monday, June 12, 2013, 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Cabot School Library
2. **WNESU Board**: To Be Determined

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber