

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, January 9, 2012

Present: **School Board:** Chris Tormey, Sharon O'Connor, Paul Stecker and Jackie Folsom.

Administration: Karen Stewart, Principal and Nancy Thomas, Superintendent.

Faculty/Staff/Students: David Schilling, BTC/SEED Coordinator, Peter Stratman, Middle School Teacher and Heidi Cookson, Student. **Absent:** Linda Gabrielson.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.
2. Public Comment: none.
3. Bread Oven Presentation: The middle school would like approval, from the board, to purchase a bread oven and build a timber frame shelter around it. They have received grant money from Vermont Rural Partnership to cover the cost of the project. Yestermorrow will construct the shelter in the winter and bring it to Cabot in the spring. They believe a bread oven will create an atmosphere of communication and togetherness with students and the community. The board believes this is a good project, but they want additional information about liability, building a structure on possible wetlands and the long term interest in supporting and maintaining the bread oven. The board has requested more information before a formal decision is made.
4. Consent Agenda: Jackie made a motion, seconded by Paul to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with a vote of 4-0.
 - a. Approve December 12, 2011 minutes;
 - b. Employee resignation: Linda Walbridge, Crossing Guard.
5. Reports:
 - a. SEED's Café Update: Dave Schilling announced that the SEED's café will have it's grant opening on Thursday, January 12 at 6pm. The students will make a presentation about what they have learned and what they are doing. There will be beverages and baked goods served. The baked goods will be prepared by the Barre Technology Center bakery. Nancy suggested the SEED's program make a presentation at the February WNESU board meeting as well.
 - b. Principal's Report: See written report. The board inquired about how prepared the school is to successfully graduate seniors with the transformation concept. Karen believes with the technology requested in the FY13 budget, current faculty and scheduling in place, the school is on target. They still need to resolve community internship and transportation issues.
 - c. Superintendent's Report:
 - i. Nancy received the Picus Group report, an independent study to evaluate the effectiveness of Act 60 & 68. The study reinforced the belief that Act 60 & 68 are

- equitable funding systems that provide equitable resources for students and the community thru taxes. Administration will continue to concentrate on school improvement by trying to improve student results and vigilance in budgeting.
- ii. Friday, January 13th will be an inservice day. For support staff, this inservice will focus on Act 1 in the morning and Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) will be discussed in the afternoon. Bus Drivers, Custodians and other support staff will be attending.
 - iii. Special Services Manager, Amy Sykas' husband passed away this morning.
 - iv. The Earth Tones, a men's acapella group from SUNY Albany, is scheduled to perform at Cabot on Tuesday, January 10th. After the performance the group will conduct a workshop for those interested in participating.
- d. Teacher's Association Report: none.
6. Board Discussion:
- a. Security Camera Policy: The board had the second reading of this policy.
 - b. FY13 Proposed Budget: Rob distributed a draft of the proposed FY13 budget. He updated the board about the following changes: the maintenance projects have been included, student enrollment has increased and the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) rate has increased to 99.10%. All these changes contribute to a proposed budget of \$3,573,325, with an estimated residential tax rate of \$1.3847. The estimated residential tax rate is a decrease from the FY12 tax rate.
 - c. Town Meeting Presentation: Chris will draft the presentation and email it to the other board members for review and discussion at the next meeting.
 - d. School Board Members: Jackie and Sharon have indicated they will run for school board members in March 2012.
7. Board Action:
- a. Security Camera Policy: Chris made a motion, seconded by Jackie to approve this policy. The motion carried with a vote of 4-0.
 - b. Winooski Valley School Choice: Jackie made a motion, seconded by Sharon to approve participating in the Winooski Valley School Choice. Voted 4-0.
 - c. Announced Tuition: Sharon made a motion, seconded by Paul to approve the announced tuition rate of \$14,000.00. The motion carried with a vote of 4-0.
 - d. Next Board Meeting: The board agreed to reschedule the next board meeting to January 23, 2012.
 - e. Sharon will write a Thank You letter to Linda Walbridge for her many years of service to Cabot School.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Epinette
Transcriber