

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, October 17, 2011

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

Administration: Rob Billings, Business Manager, Peter Ackermann, Director of Operations, Karen Stewart, Principal and Nancy Thomas, Superintendent. **Absent:** Linda Gabrielson

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm.
2. Public Comment: none.
3. Reports:
 - a. Superintendent's Report: Nancy emailed her report to the board. No questions were asked.
 - b. Principal's Report:
 - i. Karen updated the board on the break in that occurred over the weekend. The police were notified. The majority of the items stolen were technology related. It is estimated that \$5,000-\$8,000 worth of equipment was stolen.
 - ii. Weekly Round Table discussions will begin October 26th and will include six rotating faculty members. The first meeting will discuss inter-team communications and school wide program improvements.
 - c. Teacher's Association Report: Carolyn Deasy and Donna McSweeney were present and indicated they were looking forward to the Principal's round table discussion.
 - d. Facilities Update:
 - i. Peter was present and updated the board on the progress being made with the roof repairs. Ben Dunham, the roofer, indicated that the roof was in need of major repairs beyond the section that was leaking. The roof over Karen's office has been repaired, the gym roof has been patched, the area around one of the pipes on the roof has been repaired and the second pipe will be repaired. Other sections of the roof are in need of repairs. Peter will get more information about the cost involved to repair the other sections. The Historical Society suggested budgeting a little money each year to repair the roof. They may be able to help finance some of this expense.
 - ii. The rest of the drainage project is scheduled for the spring.
 - iii. Peter suggested the board consider purchasing cameras, changing the locks on all the outside doors or installing a key-card system to discourage more break ins.
4. The board went into executive session at 6:50pm to discuss health and safety issues.
5. Executive session was concluded at 7:15pm.
6. Board Discussion FY13 Budget:

- a) Rob distributed a report comparing FY11, the current FY12 status and potential FY13 expenses. He indicated that the deficit from FY10 and FY11 will need to be addressed in the FY13 budget.
 - b) Nancy reviewed with the board the basis by which the school receives reimbursement for special education expenses. The state will reimburse the school based on three levels: 1) special education expenses are reimbursed by the state at about 56%; 2) if the expenses for a specific student exceeds \$50,000, the amount over \$50,000 is reimbursed at 90% and 3) the state will reimburse the school district 100% for state placed student expenses.
 - c) Nancy also distributed the list of Core Principles developed by the WNESU Board by which the board base their decisions. Nancy encouraged the board to review this list when discussing the budget.
 - d) Karen outlined considerations for budget development for FY13. This included continued preparations for 21st Century skills.
 - e) Nancy informed the board that a portion of the preschool expenses need to be included in the budget this year. The school cannot continue to fully fund the preschool program with federal funds.
 - f) Act 153 mandates that transportation be operated by the supervisory union by FY14, at the latest. Nancy and Rob recommend moving this function, as well as maintenance, to the supervisory union in FY13. They are exploring the possibility of contracting with a bus service and hiring a person skilled in long-range planning, possibly part-time. These two options will allow Peter to focus on the day to day maintenance of the building.
 - g) Nancy distributed a copy of the request she received from Cabot Connect Mentoring Program to help support the mentoring program in Cabot.
 - h) November 7th Retreat: At this retreat the board will discuss the budget priorities/goals. The board will also discuss how the success of the transformation will be measured. Jackie suggested asking one of the legislature members be present at a forum meeting to explain why Act 153 was created.
7. Consent Agenda: **Paul made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Sharon. The motion carried with a vote of 2-0.** Chris and Jackie were not present at the October 3rd meeting, therefore abstained from voting.
- a. Approve October 3, 2011 minutes.
8. Board Action:
- a. **Chris made a motion to approve waiving tuition charges for Bill Tobin's son, seconded by Sharon. The board approved the tuition waiver with a vote of 3-1.**
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Epinette
Transcriber