

## **CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, October 3, 2011

Present: **School Board:** Linda Gabrielson, Sharon O'Connor and Paul Stecker.

**Administration:** Pat Johnson-Knoerl, Curriculum, Assessment & Professional Development Coordinator; Karen Stewart, Principal and Nancy Thomas, Superintendent. **Absent:** Chris Tormey and Jackie Folsom.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm.
2. Public Comment:
  - a. Todd Jones was present and expressed his appreciation for Austin Fay in the 5/6 grade team.
3. Consent Agenda: A motion was made to approve the consent agenda, by Paul, seconded by Sharon. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.
  - a. September 20, 2011 minutes;
  - b. September 27, 2011 minutes;
  - c. Adopt Policy F20: Prevention of Harassment of Students.
4. NECAP Presentation: Pat Johnson-Knoerl was present to explain the structure and expectations of the NECAP testing. She provided examples, from the spring administration of science tests, of questions that students are expected to answer and how a student's response will be graded. She explained that the scores are based on the student's ability to answer the questions and provide an explanation as to how they arrived at their answers.
5. Reports:
  - a. Cabot Teacher's Association: Julia Hewitt, Co-President of the Teacher's Association, shared with the board: in September the teacher's union communicated to the superintendent their intention to negotiate; the faculty/staff are proud of the student's participation in "Playing for Change" event; in September a team of teachers attended the high school transformation conference; in October three teachers will be attending a writing workshop and the teachers are looking forward to the Principal's "Round Table" discussions that Karen has initiated.
  - b. Principal's Report: was provided to the board in writing.
  - c. Superintendent's Report:
    - i. Roots of Success: Nancy distributed the executive summary of the Department of Education's "Roots of Success" study and encouraged the board to review it. The report provides eight key findings of factors present in

schools that have been successful in narrowing the gap when the majority of the families are at a financial disadvantage.

- j. Volunteers: Nancy requested the board's support as the school is initiating implementation of processing background checks on all volunteers and work study students, under Policy D7.
- k. Act 153: Nancy discussed the changes that needed to be implemented as a result of Act 153. By law, collective bargaining is being done through joint negotiating councils at the supervisory union level this year. Nancy is proposing to initiate the movement of maintenance and transportation functions to the supervisory union in FY13. Given the fact that negotiations are going on during this year, Nancy is proposing to move the special education functions to the supervisory union in FY14.

6. Board Discussion:

- a. Faculty Early Retirement Incentive: The board discussed offering the early retirement incentive to faculty.
- b. Cabot School Alumni Survey: postponed

7. Board Action:

- a. **Faculty Early Retirement Incentive:** Sharon made a motion to decline to offer the early retirement incentive to faculty, Paul seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.
- b. **November Meetings:** The board agreed to meet on November 7, 2011 for the board retreat and again on November 14, 2011 for the regular board meeting.
- c. **Student Activities Account Signers:** Paul made a motion to remove Camilla O'Brien and Susan Polen as authorized check signers on the student activities account and to authorize Irene Harvey and William Tobin as signers, seconded by Sharon. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Epinette  
Transcriber