

APPROVED

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 19, 2016**

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Ry Hoffman, Sharon O'Connor, Lisa Olson **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Christina Kimball, Business manager **Student Representatives:** Cameron Mueller-Harder, Isabella McCallum **Absent:** Jackie Folsom, Taylor Abbott.

Call to Order Chris Tormey, chair called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve December 7, 2016 Minutes – The Board approved the minutes.

Reports

- a. Student Report – Isabella McCallum, Cameron Mueller-Harder
 - Basketball season has started. There have been 3 games.
 - Fundraising for the Costa Rica Trip is underway.
 - High School Students will be competing in an ugly sweater contest on Friday.
- b. Superintendent Report – Nancy Thomas
 - Nancy has been continuing to work on Act 46, Negotiations and budgets.
- c. Principal Report – David Schilling
 - Wednesday will be the K-4 winter concert.
 - Students in grades 5 & 6 will be selling wreathes at the concert to raise money for their trip to Boston.
 - Math opportunities have become a challenge and are a work in progress.

Board Discussion

- a. FY18 Budget 4th Draft – Christina Kimball
 - Christina shared the FY18 Budget 4th Draft highlights/changes from 3rd draft.
 - Regular Education – Reduced tech center tuition from \$12,500.00 to \$10,000.00 based on FY16 allowable tuition. This is a savings of \$16,675.00 from the 3rd draft. This increased the base amount for tech center tuition from \$9,459.00 to \$9,588.00. Savings of \$748.00 from draft 3.
 - Reduced professional services. This is a savings of \$5,000.00 from draft 3.
 - Supplies were reduced which created a savings of \$5,000.00 from draft 3. Equipment was reduced, saving \$3,575.00 from draft 3.
 - Special Education - Reduced special education assessments, savings of \$22,000.00 from draft 3.

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- Co-Curricular – Reduced equipment, savings of \$7,000.00 from draft 3.
 - Operations – Removed previously added, .50 FTE custodian from draft 3.
 - The proposed budget results in a per pupil cost of \$18,527. This exceeds the state set per pupil “penalty” threshold of \$17,386, so that costs above that amount are subject to a tax penalty. The tax increase for this draft proposal would be 5.16% without the penalty. With the penalty for exceeding the penalty, the tax increase would be 11.64%.
 - The current draft includes \$99,500 of needed facility repairs and upgrades. The Board asked that the administration look into creating a bond to fund these and other needed repairs that might be presented to the voters along with the budget.
- b. Act 46 Update
- The Committee voted 6 to 1 to go out to the communities with 2 options for merger for discussion and feedback.
 - The two options summarized are:
 1. Continue Danville and Twinfield High Schools building on their current program strengths and close Cabot High School. Students from all communities could choose which high school to attend. Transportation would be provided at the beginning and end of the day.
 2. Continue with Danville and Twinfield High Schools and also hold a Project Based Learning Program at Cabot School that would be available to students from all communities. The program would be a full day program and could be accessed for a semester, a full year or more. The administrators and committee members discussed a focus on performing arts and use of CSPAC and one of the satellite building as desirable, flexible space. The community discussions will also include the “no” option and what would be required for an “alternative structure” under the law.
 - As committee members prepare to go back to their communities with merger options for discussions and questions, Nancy shared that “Everyday Democracy” has offered to hold a facilitator training for students and community members.
 - The facilitator training would teach students as well as community members how to hold meaningful conversations about Act 46. There will be one training held for all three communities. The hope is to do the training in December or early January and schedule community forums in mid-January with the Committee coming back together in late January with the input from the forums.
 - At the Act 46 Study Committee Meeting held on December 12 Peter shared some example Articles of Agreement and familiarized the committee with the process of developing the Articles and associated report.
 - A project based learning brainstorming session will take place on Friday, January 13, 2017.
- c. Negotiations Update
- The Board briefly reviewed the Unfair Labor Practice charge that has been filed.
 - The WNESU Board approved the Unfair Labor Practice at the meeting last Thursday.

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Board Action: None

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber