

APPROVED

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Jackie Folsom, Sharon O'Connor, Randilee Raynor, Lisa Olson; **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent, Mark Tucker, Special Services Director, David Schilling, Principal; Christina Kimball, Business Manager **Student Representatives:** Cameron Mueller-Harder, Taylor Abbott;
Absent: Isabella McCallum

Call to Order: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Reorganization of the Board:

- a. Elect Chair – Jackie Folsom nominated Chris Tormey for Chair, Randilee Raynor seconded the nomination. Chris Tormey elected Chair.
- b. Elect Clerk/Vice-Chair – Sharon O'Connor nominated Jackie Folsom for Clerk/Vice Chair. Chris Tormey seconded the nomination. Jackie Folsom elected Clerk/Vice Chair.
- c. Elect 3 WNESU Representatives – Chris Tormey, Lisa Olson and Sharon O'Connor were elected to be on the WNESU board.
- d. Committee Assignments: Negotiations Council-Chris Tormey and Jackie Folsom; Central VT Career Center Rep-Lisa Olson will be the CVCC Representative; UDAG-Jackie Folsom will serve.
- e. Set regular board meeting schedule – Meetings will continue to be on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00pm in the Cabot School Library.
- f. Schedule annual board retreat – Will be held in July 2017.
- g. Designate official newspapers and posting locations – Official newspaper will be The Hardwick Gazette. The posting locations will continue to be the Front Porch Forum, post office, Cabot School and The Cabot Store.
- h. Discuss and adopt code of Ethics – Tabled for the next meeting.
- i. Communications practices & handling complaints – Nancy discussed the Policy D10 Public Complaints about Personnel. Board members discussed communicating board information on Front Porch Forum and Websites.
- j. Discuss board development opportunities and attendance – VSBSA will hold a Board Training on the Essential Work of School Boards, on April 6 at 5:30pm in Montpelier.
- k. Discuss local and statewide education advocacy responsibilities – All board members receive the education legislative report. Jackie has been very active in working with Rep. Kitty Toll on education issues.

Public Comment:

Community Member, Dale Newton addressed the Board expressing concern regarding the tax increase. He stated we need to let go of some traditions and combine schools/teachers/money to increase opportunities, and get away from part time teachers.

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Consent Agenda

- a. Approve February 20, 2017 Minutes – Sharon moved to accept the minutes as written, Jackie seconded the motion. Minutes approved as written, with Lisa Olson abstaining.

Reports

- a. Student Report – Taylor Abbott
 - Basketball – Playing at the Auditorium and support from the fans was really great
 - High school had their last ski day last week.
 - First ever pep rally with a Samba band was held Friday.
 - During this semester Brian Boyes is holding class on script writing for a musical. The performance will be in May.
 - Softball practice begins Monday.
- b. Superintendent Report – Nancy Thomas
 - Nancy will be discussing the work that is being undertaken, listed under Board Discussion.
- d. Principal Report – David Schilling
 - Grades 3 and 4 are participating in Creative School initiative studying sound in science and writing a play about it. They are working with a local play write through a local Acts Council Grant.
 - Grades 5 and 6 are back from a trip to Winooski studying textiles and history of labor in Vermont including a unit on simple machines.

Board Discussion

- a. Prepare 2018 Budget for Revote
 - Nancy gave update on timeline for budget revote.
 - Jackie mentioned Cabot Chronicle noted a need for the Town to hold a budget revote as well, should we align School vote with Town.
 - Nancy asked for detail on that vote for the next meeting on March 20.
 - Administrators have been working on budget revision.
 - Christina reviewed the budget revision options:
 - Added one tuition revenue.
 - Eliminated Behavior Support position.
 - Changed full time Special Education position to 50% Special Education/50% Behavior Support.
 - Removed classroom blinds from facility list.
 - Increased equalized pupils based on information from the Agency of Education.
- b. Plan Budget Hearing and Information Distribution
 - Tabled until next meeting March 20
- c. Act 46 Study Committee Update
 - Chris updated the board on the last meeting.
 - Looking at costs saving of merger. Moving to just one Supervisory Office would be substantial savings. Cabot would see significant tax rate savings through the combining of the districts.

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d. Negotiations Update

- ULP Hearing was March 6, 9am-5pm.
- Nancy Thomas, Patrick Healy, Nicole Mace (VSBA) as well as Terri Vest and Rebecca Emerson testified for the Labor Board.
- March 31 deadline to enter further information, Labor Board will make a ruling by May.

Board Action

- a. Act on Proposed 2018 Budget for Revote
- Tabled until next meeting March 20

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber