

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Present: **School Board:** Chris Tormey, Ry Hoffman, Jackie Folsom, Sharon O'Connor and Paul Stecker. **Administration:** Karen Stewart, Principal and Nancy Thomas, Superintendent.

1. Nancy Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:03.
2. Reorganization of the Board:
 - a. Board Chair: Jackie nominated Chris Tormey, seconded by Sharon. No other nominations were made. The nomination carried with a vote of 4-0.
 - b. Vice Chair: Jackie volunteered to be vice chair. Chris made a motion, seconded by Paul to accept Jackie as Vice Chair. The motion carried with a vote of 4-0.
 - c. WNESU Representative: Chris, Sharon and Ry volunteered to be on the WNESU Board and were confirmed by the board.
 - d. Regular Meeting Date/Time: The board agreed to continue meeting on the first and third Monday at 6:00pm, of each month.
 - e. Official Newspapers & Posting Locations: The board agreed that the Cabot Chronicle, Hardwick Gazette, The World and Times Argus would be the official newspapers for public notices. The school, Willey Building (Town Clerk's Office), post office and Cabot Village Store would be the official posting locations.
 - f. Committees: Chris and Paul volunteered to be on the Facilities Committee; Jackie volunteered to be on the Policy Committee and Jackie also volunteered to be on the Negotiations Team, along with former board member Linda Gabrielson.
 - g. Signing Contracts: Chris made a motion for a board member and/or the superintendent to sign employment contracts, seconded by Jackie. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0.
3. Public Comment: Lisa Olson was present to discuss the Home Schooling Policy as it is related to off-site learning opportunities. Chris, Nancy and Karen will review the present policy. Lisa would like to participate in the discussion when this policy is brought to the board.
4. Consent Agenda: Jackie made a motion, seconded by Chris to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0.
 - a. Approve February 6, 2012 minutes;
 - b. Approve February 13, 2012 minutes
 - c. Approve February 22, 2012 minutes and
 - d. Approve Pamela Ricker as the Drivers Education Teacher.
5. Reports:

- a. Superintendent's Report:
 - (i) Nancy distributed the school board member information list and requested any updates in addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.
 - (ii) Nancy was been invited to represent superintendents at the Northeast Rural Districts Alliance to discuss rural school issues.
 - (iii) Nancy distributed a copy of the VSBA Legislator Bulletin and Education Legislature Report. She brought to the board's attention several issues that are of particular interest to Cabot School: summer unemployment insurance, twelve month wage payments, mandatory agency fees and school choice.
 - (iv) Nancy met with the Principals, Transportation Coordinators and Business Manager to brain storm ways the two schools could collaborate by sharing a class and the logistics of transporting students to those classes. They are researching transportation possibilities and have estimated a \$32,000 expense for both schools, if a new employee is hired. Rob is also looking into contracting the service. This expense was not included in the budget. She will keep the board apprised of their progress.
 - b. Principal's Report: see attached.
6. Board Discussion:
- a. Code of Conduct: Nancy distributed a copy of the Code of Conduct created by Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) for the board to review and sign. The board signed the Code of Conduct.
 - b. School Security: Karen is seeking input from the board. There have been twelve episodes where it was necessary to lock down the school as a result of angry parents disrupting classes. She would like to research the logistics of door bells to gain entry into the building or have a teacher stationed at each door. The board authorized her to continue looking for options that will keep the students, faculty and staff safe.
7. The board went into executive session at 7:54 pm to discuss the negotiations update.
8. Executive session was concluded at 8:15pm.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Epinette
Transcriber