

APPROVED

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 7, 2016**

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Lisa Olson, Ry Hoffman, Sharon O'Connor **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent **Student Representatives:** Isabella McCallum, Alisha Celley, Megan Walker **Absent:** Jackie Folsom

Call to Order: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

Reorganization of the Board:

- a. Elect Chair – Ry Hoffman nominated Chris Tormey. Lisa Olson seconded the motion. Chris Tormey elected chair.
- b. Elect Clerk/Vice-Chair – Sharon O'Connor nominated Jackie Folsom for vice chair/clerk. Chris Tormey seconded the nomination. Jackie Folsom elected vice chair/clerk.
- c. Elect 3 WNESU Representatives – Chris Tormey, Ry Hoffman and Sharon O'Connor were elected to be on the WNESU board.
- d. Committee Assignments, including Central Vermont Career Center Representatives – Chris Tormey and Jackie Folsom volunteered to be on the negotiation committee. Ry Hoffman volunteered to be on the Central Vermont Career Center Board.
- 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 – Tabled for further discussion.
- g. Designate official newspapers and posting locations – Official newspapers will be the World, Times Argus and 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 – Board Members voted to adopt the Code of Ethics for Vermont School Board Members. All members signed and dated the oath and returned them to Nancy.
- i. Identify Communications practices – Open Meetings, inviting community to forums and informational meetings, Cabot School Website.
- j. Discuss board development opportunities and attendance – Board Chair Development Opportunity will be taking place in May.
- 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: None

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve February 15, 2016 Minutes - Lisa Olson moved to approve the minutes of February 15th. Sharon O'Connor seconded the motion. Minutes approved as written.

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Reports

a. Student Report - Isabella McCallum, Alisha Celley, Megan Walker

- English classes for upper classmen just finished up a mixed tapes project. Students interviewed community members. Jackie from WGDR helped the students to set-up interviews. Every Thursday at 11:00am the interviews will air on WGDR.
- Basketball has wrapped up for the season and a banquet will be held on March 16th.
- Alisha Celley scored her 1000th point!!!
- The Limes had a concert on Saturday. They opened for Madeila.
- There will be a Limes concert at Main Street Middle School in Montpelier on March 31st.
- The Limes will be start recording their album and students are excited.
- The statistics class will be putting on a gameshow this Friday, March 11th. The gameshow is video game themed and the contestants are Cabot Students.
- Last Friday there was a competition in Advanced Arts. Students made a lampshade with materials that were given to them.
- The Friday before February vacation a Big Husky/ Little Husky event was held in the afternoon. High School students paired up with elementary students and could play basketball, flag football, ice skating, watch a movie together.

b. Superintendent Report – Nancy Thomas

- Nancy attended the Limes concert and it was incredible.
- Consultants from Everyday Democracy visited and offered some great feedback and suggestions for community engagement work.
- The budget passed last week. This was a demonstration and acknowledgement of how hard the school board has done in addressing what students need and the best way to fund it.
- Work is continuing around Act 46 and possible mergers.

d. Principal Report – David Schilling

- Two more ski days are scheduled. Wednesday Ski day will still take place however the weather for Thursday is not looking good because of steady rain.
- X-Day is underway and going well.
- David thanked Lynn Lehoe and Tamara Feldman as well as their families for the work they did on the gym bathrooms. They made amazing improvements to the facility.
- The Community Engagement coordinators are organizing a movie series. The movies will be on Friday nights and will include dinner and discussion of the changes in education.

Board Discussion

a. School District Report, Meeting and Budget Vote Review

- The board will continue to publish budget information in the town report, but it will be proofed by the school before it is officially published.
- There will be a special “validation” meeting to be held at the beginning of the first Cabot Board Meeting in April to confirm the vote on February 29. This is required due to the fact that 7 pages of the Annual Report was not delivered with the report in February.

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b. Tuition Waiver Request

- Nancy recommended approving a tuition waiver for a kindergarten student until the end of the school year. The child moved with a family member as a temporary custody arrangement. For continuity it makes sense for the child to finish the year in Cabot.
- Nancy also recommended approving a tuition waiver for a family who has moved. The two children are in the sixth grade and 8th grade.

c. Act 46 Study Committee Update and Forum Preparation

- The goal is to share what the two committees (one with Twinfield and one with Danville) have found that could be beneficial for elementary and high school students together with both.
- The board developed notes for the presentation. Chris will then go over the notes and develop slides with all necessary information.
- The slides will include benefits of a merger for the students as well as what the mergers might look like.
- The board has received very valuable feedback from students about possible mergers.

Board Action

a. Act on Tuition Waiver Request

- Chris moved to approve a tuition waiver for a student in kindergarten. Sharon seconded the motion. Tuition Waiver approved.
- Chris Moved to approve the tuition waiver for the sixth and eighth grade students. Sharon O'Connor seconded the motion. Tuition waivers approved.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber