

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 30, 2012

Present: School Board: Chris Tormey, Ry Hoffman, Sharon O'Connor and Paul Stecker.

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.
2. **Public Comment:** Several parents attended to express their concern about the school: the possibility of classes not being offered due to lack of class enrollment, the project-based learning curriculum, lack of communication, etc. The board indicated that there would be a discussion about shared classes at this meeting. The parents are welcome to stay for this discussion. Karen suggested scheduling a public meeting to update parents about project-based learning. The board welcomes parents to attend board meetings to discuss their concerns and/or speak with Karen. Also, Nancy and Chris assured the parents that there were no plans to merge with Twinfield. There have been discussions in moving Cabot forward and making it stronger, including collaborating with Twinfield. The agenda for each meeting can be found on the new Cabot School web site, www.washnesu.org/cabot/.
3. **Consent Agenda:** Paul made a motion, seconded by Ry to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with a vote of 4-0.
 - a. Approve April 2, 2012 minutes; Nancy updated the board regarding a misunderstanding that was communicated at the last meeting. Transportation costs for shared classes between Cabot and Twinfield are not eligible for reimbursement by the state. Therefore, the whole cost to hire a driver/custodian would be borne by the schools.
 - b. Accept Cecilia Gulka's resignation; The board wanted to express their appreciation for all Cecilia's years of service.
 - c. Approve Rebecca Nally, Special Educator.
4. **Reports:**
 - a. Principal's Report: see attached
 - b. Superintendent's Report: see Board Discussion.
5. **Board Discussion:**
 - a. **Shared Courses:** Twinfield has declined to participate in shared classes with Cabot at this time. The science courses are not in line sequentially. Individually the schools meet state standards and address issues with NECAP assessments, but cannot be effectively joined, at this time. Transportation is still an issue, both financially and liability wise.
 - b. **Board Goals:** Nancy distributed a copy of "Essential Work of School Boards", a new resource for board members from the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA). The manual will be helpful in setting a vision for the school.
 - c. **Public Meetings:** The board has scheduled the following public meetings to update parents and community members: Report Night May 7th 6pm-7:30pm to share assessment results,

including NECAP and a presentation of performance based assessment in project based learning; May 21st to discuss the architect's report on the state of the school buildings and formation of a facilities committee; a possible meeting on May 24th to meet with High Tech High, San Diego, CA students and faculty to share project based learning curriculum information. There will also be a meeting in late May or June to discuss project-based learning for next year and the program of studies for FY13.

- d. Surveys: The board discussed the advantages of surveying the community, students, parents and staff on what is working and not working with project based learning as they move forward.
 - e. Supervisory Union Joint Meeting: Nancy informed the board that John Nelson, Vermont Education Policy Service, through the VSBA, will audit both Cabot and Twinfield policy manuals and make recommendations for improvements that will bring them into compliance with state and federal requirements. This is in preparation for consolidating most policies into a single manual for both schools. Laura Soares, Executive Director of VSBIT is available to work with the boards to develop policies that will guide them by incorporating their goals. Nancy will schedule a joint meeting for later this spring.
6. Board Action:
- a. FY13 School Calendar: Paul made a motion, seconded by Sharon to approve the FY13 School Calendar as presented. The motion carried with a vote of 4-0.
 - b. FY13 Tuition Waiver: Chris made a motion, seconded by Sharon, to approve a tuition waiver requested by Bill Tobin, for his son. The motion carried with a vote of 3-1.
 - c. May 25th: Chris made a motion, seconded by Sharon to approve giving the middle and high school students the day off from attending school so the teachers will have the opportunity to meet with the folks from High Tech High. The motion carried with a vote of 4-0.
7. The board went into executive session at 8:54pm to discuss a personnel matter.
8. Executive session was concluded at 9:25pm.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Epinette
Transcriber