

**APPROVED**

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, May 1, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Chris Tormey, Randilee Raynor, Sharon O'Connor, Lisa Olson, Jackie Folsom

**Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Mark Tucker, Special Services Director;

**Student Representatives:** Isabella McCallum, Cameron Mueller-Harder **Absent:** Taylor Abbott

**Call to Order** Chris Tormey, Chair – called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm.

**Public Comment:** A Cabot resident said he feels that there is insufficient support for the long-term funding of Cabot School, particularly for facility needs. He suggested that the Board study putting in an additional question on the ballot: If the merger is approved, shall the new school district support an additional debt of \$3.5 M bonded for school improvements? He explained that Cabot could vote on the bond before July 1, 2018 and the new district would absorb the costs.

Another resident addressed her concern that there was not sufficient language in the report to provide adequate protections for Cabot.

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve April 10, 2017 and April 12, 2017 Minutes – Sharon moved to approve both sets of minutes. Lisa seconded the motion. Minutes of April 10, 2017 and April 12, 2017 approved.

**Reports**

- a. **Student Report** – Isabella McCallum, Cameron Mueller-Harder
  - The students shared that the Costa Rica trip is coming up from May 25 – June 5
  - The student created musical will be held on May 18 and 19
  - Prom will be on Saturday, May 6, at CSPAC
  - Softball and Ultimate Frisbee are going strong
  - Izzie has been accepted to George Washington University
- b. **Superintendent Report** – Nancy Thomas
  - Letters of Intent have gone out to Twinfield staff, but Cabot staff have all received RIF letters with the clear message that we hope the May 2 vote will pass and allow the Central office to send Letters on Intent later this week.
  - There have been a number of resignations in both schools and interviews are underway.
  - Nancy explained the status of the Act 46 merger document

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### c. Principal Report – Dave Schilling

- Dave reported on the very successful 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington D.C. The students learned to make their way around Washington, were very well behaved and learned a great deal.

### **Board Discussion**

#### a. Review Act 46 Merger Articles of Agreement and Report

- Chris reviewed information from the last meeting. He had proposed that Option 2 be reconsidered, but the Committee voted down the proposal to reconsider.
- The Committee changed from each School District being advisory to necessary for the merger. This means that the merger does not go forward unless the majority of voters in each district vote affirmatively for the proposal. However, since the districts are advisory, the Boards can only give input at this stage and not vote on whether or not the merger proceeds through the process.
- Chris asked what this board would like to see changed in the report. He shared that he is working with Peter and the AOE regarding a different model for showing anticipated tax savings over the next 5 years, taking into account the income sensitivity payments. If the AOE approves it will be included in the report. Sharon expressed concern about how much influence Cabot would have regarding any proposed “restructuring” by the future board. Other board members expressed their concern about the possibility of moving other grade levels out of Cabot. Chris said he would bring this back to the Committee.
- Chris will share with the Committee that the Board does not support the proposal at this time. Izzie commented that she doesn’t see how this will create positive changes for students. Jackie hopes that S122 is passed allowing for time extensions so that other options can be considered. A resident commented that he would like to see the formation of another committee to look at other K – 12 options, including public/private possibilities and the Craftsbury model of making major improvements and attracting more tuition students.
- Jackie spoke to a better possible option with PreK8 merger with Barnet, Walden, Waterford.
- Chris summarized: Board unanimously against the current language with no protection for PreK to 8.

#### b. Staff Update:

- Dave has 6 positions open due to uncertainty, lack of budget.
- Grades 3/4, 5/6, HS Math, HS Science (moving out of state), Math interventionist. Health.
- A current employee has been offered position as 1 /2 teacher. Waiting to hear back.
- Interviews for Science Grade 3 /4 and 5/6 are proceeding.
- Randilee let the board know that she is applying for the 3 /4 position.

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**Board Action:** none

**Adjournment:** Ry Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Thomas, note-taker