

APPROVED

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, May 22, 2017**

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

**Call to Order** Chris Tormey, chair called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

**Public Comment:** Rory Thibeault reported on the Cabot Select Board meeting. There was discussion that the time preparing the Act 46 proposal was not a waste, even though the end result is not supported by the Cabot Board. Will Walters offered a comment he had heard from a Twinfield student concerned about .

A community member shared a website with the board where work is being done to share information with the community about reason to vote, "no" for the Act 46 merger.  
[www.cabotalternatives.org](http://www.cabotalternatives.org)

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve May 15, 2017 Minutes – Randilee Raynor moved to approve the minutes of May 15 following amendment. Lisa Olson seconded the motion. Minutes approved with amendments.

**Board Discussion**

- a. Chris suggested that the Board begin to look at what options might be if the Act 46 vote is defeated:
  1. Stand alone without changes,
  2. Close high school and become a tuitioning town and join Barnet/Walden/Waterford (Caledonia Cooperative) if their proposal passes,
  3. Find other partners to work with Cabot to come up with a plan more supported by the Cabot Board.
- Chris shared steps for closing the high school, becoming a choice town, possibly joining the Caledonia Cooperative (CC). Then Cabot would need to convince the new district to allow them to join. Their vote will be on May 23.

**Options and actions:** The Board discussed steps they will take:

- Closing high school: After the 5/23/17 vote, contact the CC. Is it possible to become a district with the CC if CDT isn't approved. Jackie will contact the CC. Nancy will contact Donna Russo Savage about possibility of other structures with the CC: 2 x 1 or 3 x 1

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- Look at other partners, remaining as Pre K to 12. If the CDT vote fails, contact Twinfield if they are interested in keeping Cabot High School open. Do they have new ideas?
- Join Craftsbury? Join Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union as a district in their SU? OSSU districts are putting together an alternative plan. Chris will meet with the OSSU Executive Committee. Sharon will attend a Lakeview Meeting.
- An additional option is to close the high school and create a private academy. Maintaining Pre K – 8, privately run high school. Private money, possible residential could be considered. Sharon will contact Sharon Academy for how they started.

The Board also discussed inviting Senator Ann Cummings to a Board meeting. The Board would like to speak with her about both the Ashe Amendment and Act 46 challenges. The Board also considered talking more with Rep Kitty Toll.

The Board discussed including information about alternatives at the June 14 Act 46 Forum. They also discussed putting out a survey to get local feedback. Angela suggested doing an exit poll coming out of the voting poll on June 20. Regardless of how you voted, what do you want for the students of Cabot? Do you want to keep the high school? Would you want to be able to tuition out? Open or designated? They also discussed holding another forum to share options and discuss them with residents. What do you want most from the school?

Jackie suggests bringing ideas to the June 5 meeting to discuss what steps to take next in terms of doing forums or surveys to share ideas and get input.

Dave updated the Board regarding the hiring process. There is a finalist for the 5/6 position. There are ongoing interviews for the high school Math and Science positions

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Thomas , Superintendent