

APPROVED

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 31, 2017**

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Sharon O'Connor, Rory Thibault, Lisa Olson, Jackie Folsom

Administrators: Mark Tucker, Superintendent; David Schilling, Principal Cabot

Student Representatives: Taylor Abbott; Cameron Mueller-Harder

Call to Order Chris Tormey, chair called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve July 10, 2017 Minutes – Sharon moved to approve the minutes of July 10 as written, Lisa seconded the motion. Minutes of July 10 approved as written.
- b. Sharon moved to approve the minutes of July 17 following amendments (Cabot Players to Cabot Community Theater, Joint meeting with Twinfield August 14 agenda to be determined) Lisa seconded the motion. Minutes of July 17 approved.

Reports

- a. **Student Report** – Cameron Mueller-Harder, Taylor Abbott
 - Summer Soccer for the Varsity girls is underway. The team scrimmaged Lyndonville and tied as well as winning their scrimmage against Hazen.
 - The summer basketball team won their scrimmage against U-32.
 - Taylor has helped out this summer at Soccer and Basketball Camp.
 - Cameron helped out at theater camp and two plays were performed.
- b. **Superintendent Report** – Mark Tucker
 - Mark shared with the board that a successful candidate has been found for the available High School Math position. Richard Halada has been teaching for 28 years and is looking forward to working at Cabot. He has lived in the community for the past 2 years.
 - Robin Miller has been hired for the Fiscal Services Bookkeeper position, she is a great addition. Central office is now fully staffed.
 - Hiring Recommendation: Mark Tucker recommended Richard Halada for the position of High School Math Teacher.
- c. **Principal Report** – Dave Schilling
 - Summer repairs are underway and the entryway is getting a make-over.
 - The curtain drain project for satellite building may be more complicated than originally thought; additional excavation around the building will need to be done. (Jackie suggested talking with the Town about drainage options for water from Danville Hill) David will see if Pete Ackermann can attend the Cabot Selectboard Meeting.

APPROVED

- There are some great new hires at Cabot and there is a wonderful write up in the Cabot Chronicle about them.
- Siskin programming on Thursdays for all students.
- The summer camps have been a great success this year and may have even helped a little with recruiting.

Board Discussion

a. Act 46 Updates

- Vermont Academy Proposal –
- The Board heard a presentation from Mike Rushman and Fran Voight on the potential for forming a "Vermont Academy" - a Regional Education District comprised of a yet to be determined number of towns that currently operate PK-12 schools. The basic premise of the idea is to allow continued independent operation of the individual schools while addressing the need to increase enrollment at each school through establishment of a tuition-based program aimed at attracting out of state students who would live in the towns where they attend school. Tuition garnered from each student would be split between a tuition payment to the school, a room and board payment to the host family, and a contribution to an "enrichment" pool that would be used to increase course and extra-curricular opportunities for all students at the school. It was left to the Cabot Board to decide if they want to reach out to other similarly-structured schools to explore this idea. The Board took no action on next steps but added this idea to the list of possible approaches to meeting the goals of Act 46.
- Other Updates – Chris had been in contact with Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union to discuss the possibility of a merger. The chair of the executive council at Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union said they will discuss possible course sharing at their next meeting.
- Chris spoke with Bruce Melendy from Danville, they are currently looking into options for students with St. Johnsbury Academy, possibility of collaborating with Blue Mountain Union as well as the possibility of an alternate structure stand-alone district.

b. Review Community Survey Results

- The board reviewed and discussed the responses to the Act 46 survey that was sent out to community members. A link to the results will be posted on the school website and Front Porch Forum.
- Some of the highlights are as follows:

c. Forum Preparation

- The public forum will take place on August 9th in CSPAC at 6:00pm. Ken Templeton will be the facilitator.
- The results from the recent survey will be shared.
- Fifteen minutes of the forum will include information about all other options pursued and why they are not a possibility for merger options.
- Also briefly share some new possible options such as The Vermont Academy.
- Ask public for their questions or comments on next steps.

APPROVED

Board Action

Hiring Recommendation – Sharon made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s hiring recommendation. Lisa seconded the motion. Motion approved

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber