

Approved

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2012

Present: Paul Stecker, Sharon O'Connor, Jackie Folsom, Ry Hoffman, Chris Tormey, (School Board Members), Nancy Thomas (Superintendent), Karen Stewart (Principal), Pat Johnson Knoerl (Curriculum Director), Heidi Cookson, Kasandra Morse, Hugh Burke (Student Representatives), Deb Bothfeld (PE staff), Will Walters (reporter)

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Tormey with introductions.

Public input: Two guests attended with comments regarding the SEED program and the early retirement offering.

Consent Agenda: minutes for 10/15/2012 and 10/18/2012 approved as amended.

Reports:

Superintendent's Report:

- Nancy is on the Advisory Board of NERDRA as the superintendent representative for Vermont. This is an organization with members from ME/NY/VT focusing on structures (with an emphasis on technology) and school/community relationships
- She attended the VSBSA Annual Meeting – that focus was on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning and featured a Project Based Learning kick off with Cabot students and staff.
- Discussion of the Middle School grant offering by the Tarrant Foundation (for using technology in assessments). She will be developing a Professional Development Committee to train up to 5 staff.
- She updated the Board on research regarding the petition to close the high school (see handout)

Principal's Report:

- Karen is focusing on Professional Development issues with three shared leadership groups meeting weekly
- There is a rejuvenation of PreK-12 Community for PBL with more teamwork and bilateral discussion of project proposals.
- Primary grades are focused on behavior intervention for professional development and on writing.

Student Representative Report:

- Handout included information on PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support), 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Biology and SEED; the Café and the Boys Soccer Team

Presentations and Discussion

Julia Hewitt and Lee Penniman attended with much enthusiasm and many handouts regarding the 9/10 American Studies and 11/12 Contemporary Issues PBL plans. Handouts included "6 A's of Curriculum Design", "PBL Essential Elements Checklist",

Dave Schilling reported on the SEED project (Innovating American Experience and Roles of Startups and Entrepreneurs) as well as a study of Constitutional Issues. The students did research on Cabot and assisted with bus tours during the Foliage Day in town.

It was noted that one of the scheduled presentations conflict with the next School Board meeting and discussion was held to re-arrange meeting schedule times.

Board Discussion:

a.) Communication: Julia Hewitt has offered to work on the school website. Updates will cost about \$4,000. It was noted by Karen and Julia that several articles for the Cabot Chronicle were sent in prior to the deadline and none made the latest issue. There was concern that the school was making attempts to communicate with the community and several in attendance were going to visit with Chronicle staff to determine how to resolve the issue. It was noted the SEED program was reported extensively by the Caledonia Record. Julia also distributed copies of OUR VOICES.

b.) Community Involvement: A handout from the Community Forum was distributed which listed as a priority "Bring the Community into the School." All agreed this was an important issue and board and staff homework was to start compiling lists of Cabot residents who may offer learning experiences to students.

c.) 2012-2013 Teachers Collective Bargaining Agreement: Nancy distributed the grid accepted by the teachers union and salary information. The current contract is for one year only and includes a 6.5 hour day for students, a 7.5 day for teachers, a 185 day calendar (adding 2 days to Cabot for Professional Development), a new evaluation system for staff and concurrent activities with Twinfield staff.

d.) Early Retirement Incentive for Faculty : Nancy distributed information regarding eligibility for this program and answered questions from the board. Her recommendation is not to offer this program to the four staff who are eligible. Currently we do not have the authority to limit the number of staff who could take the early retirement due to the contract.

e.) FY14 Budget Schedule: Board was reminded of the budgetary timelines with a handout and scheduled a public forum on the second draft for December 10, 2012. The board would like to schedule a retreat but may not be able to until after Town Meeting.

f.) PE Credits issue was discussed with Deb Bothfeld attending. (See handout). The proposal would add .1 FTE (.05 per semester) and Deb was available for this. The total impact on the 2013-14 budget would be approximately \$3600.

Board Action:

- a.) The board voted unanimously to ratify the 2012-2013 Teachers Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- b.) The board voted unanimously to not offer an Early Retirement Incentive for Faculty.
- c.) The board voted unanimously to make the program change regarding the PE credits.

Executive Session: The board voted to enter Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:02 and voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,