

Approved

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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), Rob Billings (Business Manager) Hugh Burke (Student Representative), Holly Kruse (Librarian, Technology), Edward Lewis (Grade 6 Teacher) Will Walters (reporter)

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Tormey with introductions.

Public input: None

Consent Agenda: minutes for 11/5/2012 approved.

Reports:

- Superintendent's Report: Submitted in writing to board members prior to meeting.
- Principal's Report: Karen's focus in the past 2 weeks has been on budget development.

Presentations and Discussion:

Ed Lewis presented the grade 6 apple project. This is an ongoing project with the end result being a brochure that the sixth grade will produce and sell the rights to Burt's Apple Orchard. The students were required to visit the orchard then research the apple varieties that are grown and sold at the orchard. Ed relayed the skills and content areas addressed; writing, technology and economics.

Board Discussion:

- a. The Board heard first reading on the following policies:
 - Policy F21 Weapons: the board suggested including the definitions in the body of the policy.
 - Policy F23 Participation of Home Study Students: the superintendent was asked to provide information on the state board rules.
 - Policy F24 Hazing: no revision necessary.
 - Policy F25 Student Attendance: the board discussed the need to add reference to the truancy protocol to the policy.
 - Policy F30 Prevention of Bullying of Students: The new law requires that by December 30th this policy needs to be passed. The bullying policy is parallel to the harassment policy.

- b. FY 2014 School budget First Draft: Business Manager, Rob Billings provided a preview of the 2014 budget with the following highlights:
 - No personnel changes
 - Increase in 15% for insurance
 - \$65,000 for facilities work
 - There has been a decrease in the number of students which will affect the tax rate
 - If there is no busing contract there will be a need to look at purchasing a new large bus. \$30,000 for the busing contract or bus purchase has been added.

- Holly Kruse discussed an emphasis on technology with an increase for purchase and upkeep of new computers and a server by way of a 4 year replacement cycle with a \$60,000 placeholder.
- Overall there does not appear to be a lot of changes to the budget.

c.) Petition to close the High School circulating: The board recognized that there is a petition circulating to close the high school. Rob presented a preliminary estimate of \$805,000 for tuitioning the 9-12 grade students out to local schools. He will have a further analysis of potential net cost changes at the next meeting. The board discussed ways to communicate current program information and costs as well as comparative costs.

Board Action: The board voted unanimously to hire long term science substitute teacher Chelsea Agee.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:10 .

Respectfully submitted, Stephenie Manning