

APPROVED

## CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, September 17, 2012**

**Present:** Board members: Chris Tormey, Paul Stecker, Sharon O'Connor, Jacki Folsom Absent Ry Hoffman. Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Karen Stewart, Principal; Pat Johnson Knoerl, Curriculum Director.

**Call to order:** The regular meeting of the Cabot School Board meeting was called to order at 6:10 on 9/17/2012 in Cabot School Library by Jackie Folsom

### **Public Input**

Cecilia voiced her concern about real world project based learning, such as the Belize trip. Her concern was that the OSLO's should continue for everyone and not become an elitist trip. Karen assured all that the trip is definitely happen. The trip arrangements are moving forward.

### **Consent Agenda**

The minutes from previous meeting were approved as distributed.

### **Reports**

Superintendent Report: With an early Student release on Wednesday Cabot and Twinfield have a large block of time for staff to work on vertical and group projects. She encouraged board members to attend the upcoming School Boards Regional meeting on October 4 in Montpelier and the annual Vermont School Boards Association and Superintendent Association on October 25 and 26 in Lake Morey. Several teachers, Karen and a student from Cabot will present on the transformation to project based learning and assessment. The latest edition of the "Board Room" was shared as it had relevant articles on project based learning, the transformation at the high school level and the transition towards proficiency based education. The Thursday night presentation at the Washington Northeast Board will be in part about a frame work for quality education in VT schools and the Common Core. Handouts will be provided for board members that can not attend the in service. The Washington Northeast Board U has suggested a Legislative workshop in either January or February.

### **Principal Report:**

Nancy has asked both Principal's to do 1 written report per month, and one verbal report. Principal's update was done verbally this week. Back to school night went well with a new format. Teachers talked about their syllabi and expectations for the year. Karen received some positive feedback from parents on how creative the syllabus were. Karen relayed the parking situation is working well. At Wednesday's professional development, Pat Johnson, the Curriculum Director will meet with middle school on the Tarrant Foundation work. The secondary team will be working on a project tuning, a protocol for presenting a project that a teacher has designed and wants to use. Development of writing prompts will be worked on throughout the school. The elementary team will do a vertical alignment in science and social studies. Principals Round Table will meet to work on a school improvement plan with a progress report to be presented to the board. Everyone will work on a text protocol with the book, "Ethics of Excellence" to discuss the expectation of excellence in work from all students. Karen discussed the steps taken for skills practice and integration of foreign language into the humanities classes. The 3 hour block for Physical Education for 9<sup>th</sup> graders and the challenge for students to get the other ½ credit was discussed. The question of PE credit for athletics or independent study was posed.

## **Board Discussion**

### a. Early Retirement Incentive for Support Staff

The Board discussed the collective bargaining agreement requirement to consider offering early retirement of support staff. Given the financial implications, Nancy recommended not offering it this for the 2014 school year.

### b. Parent, Senior and Staff Surveys

The Board discussed restructuring the parent & senior surveys. There was discussion of grade level specific questions to be created to be used at Parent Teacher conferences. The school is looking for input on what did or did not work well for their child. More discussion on this matter at the next meeting.

### c. Planning for Community discussions of visioning for the future

The board discussed a facility committee that could be asked to look at the short term needs of the campus. The board recognizes that the town has always been supportive of the school, but a large bond vote for the repairs is a challenging process. The board discussed the need to raise community support and backing of the steps that have already taken place. The decision was made for an October 10 meeting in the school library 6:00 pm to form a team to assess the school's physical needs.

### d. Policies for First Reading

The policies for first reading were distributed. 6 – 8 required policies will be read each month leading up to common adoption of all mandated policies in February.

B3 Board Member Conflict of Interest

D6 Substitute Teacher

D7 Volunteer and Work Study Students

D8 Alcohol & Drug Free Workplace

D11 Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees

D13 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Compliance (HIPAA)

## **Board Action**

### a. Act on Early Retirement Incentive for Support Staff

Jackie moved to offer early retirement for the 2013 - 2014 school year. Motion was defeated 0 - 4.

## **Executive Session:**

A motion was made to enter executive session for contract negotiation update at 8:10 and came out at 8:35. No action was taken.

The Board adjourned at 8:35.

**Future Agenda Items:** Discussion of surveys, PE credit, student reps for the Board, Language curriculum and schedule, Green Mtn. Star and the Action Plan, Visioning for the future, Follow-up on Facility Issues.

**Future Meetings:**

**Washington Northeast Supervisory Union Board:** Thursday, September 20, 2012, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Twinfield Union School

**Cabot School Board:** Monday, October 1, 2012, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Cabot School Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephenie Manning