

APPROVED CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 12, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Twinfield Union School Library

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Paul Stecker, Sharon O'Connor, Jackie Folsom, Ry Hoffman;

Administration:

Nancy Thomas, Superintendent, Karen Stewart, Principal, Rob Billings, Business Manager, Pat Knoerl,

Curriculum Director; **Absent:** Kassandra Morse, Heidi Cookson, Hugh Burke

(Chris Tormey Delayed, arrived 6:42 p.m., Jackie Folsom called the meeting to order)

Call to order: Jackie Folsom, 6:06 p.m.

Public Input

Lisa Olson complimented J-Term. She voiced concern about Psychology/Sociology replacing History for juniors and Seniors next year. Lisa also commented on behalf of Sue Hammer who requests a French Trip next year.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve June 3, 2013 minutes – addition to **Board Discussion** D-4 the exchange student host parent is *Karen Mueller-Harder*. Sharon O'Connor moved to accept the minutes as amended, Ry Hoffman seconded – unanimously approved

Reports

- a. Student Report – Student Representatives were not present
- b. Superintendent Report – Nancy Thomas
 - The Cabot Teachers Association has ratified the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Nancy presented Employee Contracts to Chris Tormey for signature.
 - The Climate Survey response rate from parents has been low with total responses close to 40%. The results of survey comments will not be ready for the end of the school year as hoped, but will be presented later.
- c. Principal Report – Karen Stewart
 - Karen shared information on the experiences of students participating in J-Term activities.
 - Karen distributed copies of Cabot School yearbooks.

Board Discussion

- a. Tax Anticipation Note – Rob Billings
 - Rob recommended Pasumpsic Bank for Tax Anticipation and Deficit Retirement notes.
 - Jackie moved to accept the Passumpsic Bank line of credit for Tax Anticipation and Deficit Retirement notes, Ry seconded - unanimously approves.
- b. Renew Grant Anticipation Note – Rob Billings
 - Rob recommended renewal of the Peoples Bank Grant Anticipation note.
 - Jackie moved to accept the People's United Bank, Ry seconded-unanimously approved.
- c. Cabot Church Use of Wood Chip System - Rob Billings
 - Rob explained that there is a plumbing fitting in the school that might be used to convey a pipe to the church.
 - Chris Tormey explained the church's need to acquire affordable heating.
 - After discussing alternatives and options, Rob was asked to research the possibility and legality of assisting the church with heat from our wood chip system.
- d. Community Conversations – Chris Tormey

- Chris thanked board members for attending and/or facilitating community conversations.
 - The conversation groups developed lists of thoughts that encompass the big picture for Cabot School and Senior Students
 - Next steps will be to pare down the lists into action items, publicize them and approach the administration/faculty with action items in hopes of partnering to accomplish goals.
- e. Senior X – English Exploration-Karen Stewart
- Karen distributed sample information packets explaining schedules and sequencing for each class, along with descriptions of PE and Independent Study outline and information on deadline for dropping and adding classes.
 - This information should be finalized in a week or two for distribution to parents.
- f. World Language Candidate- Nancy Thomas distributed the Resume of Kaitlyn O’Donnell
- Chirs Tormey recused himself from discussion and vote on this candidate.
 - Nancy discussed Kaitlyn’s qualifications, noting that she speaks three languages (Spanish, Italian, Portuguese).
 - Kaitlyn does not currently speak or teach French, however, she has a proven ability to learn new languages quickly.
 - If approved, Kaitlyn would attend the Middlebury College Language School this summer to participate in the French Immersion Program.
 - The group discussed how this immersion program would prepare Kaitlyn to teach and know what supports she might need.
 - Sharon moved to offer a contract to Kaitlyn, Ry seconded–approved with three yes, one abstention, one recusal.
- g. TLC- Nancy Thomas and Rob Billings
- Nancy informed the group that 21st Century Grant funding was not received this year due to federal sequestration.
 - Due to lack of funding there will no longer be program director.
 - Due to low participation, the Cabot TLC Program will close, but the Twinfield program will continue on a limited fee for services basis.
 - The group discussed possibilities and options for the Cabot program.
 - Karen will inform parents of the program closing and tell them that more information concerning the program may be coming at a later date.
- h. Co-Curricular Stipends
- The Board was asked to approved a 3% increase in the Co-Curricular Stipends for 2013-2014 school year. Chris moved to accept, Paul seconded-unanimously approved

Executive Session: The group went into executive session at 8:49 p.m. for a legal matter. The group returned at 8:58 p.m.

7:55 p.m. **Future Agenda Items** Community Conversations

8:00 p.m. **Adjournment – 9:00 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber