

APPROVED

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 9, 2013, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Cabot School Library**

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Paul Stecker, Jackie Folsom, Ry Hoffman, Sharon O'Connor; Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent, Karen Stewart, Principal, Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Director; Student Representative: Hugh Burke; Absent: Cassandra Morse, Heidi Cookson

Call to Order – Chris Tormey - 6:05 p.m.

Public Input

Michelle Delaney, Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, along with several parents spoke to the Board regarding the athletic budget and buses for team travel. Currently, the athletic budget does not afford for transportation or additional equipment and new uniforms. Parents are the main source of transportation for student athlete travel and are concerned over safety, efficiency, inability to transport entire teams to away games due to lack of parent transportation, and time taken from parent's work-day. Karen Stewart explaining that Cabot School has only two buses, which are generally transporting students from school to home when sports teams are due to travel. Karen invited parents to meet with her and the athletic director to discuss. Chris Tormey explained the budgeting process and invited parents to be part of the process this fall for the next school year. Chris suggested the formation of a Booster Club to raise money throughout this year, along with fund raising that parents wish to do.

New Employee Introductions

Nancy Thomas opened the floor for three new teachers to be introduced:

- Michael Hendrix is the new high school science teacher offering AP Biology, Biology, Earth Science and Physics classes this year.
- Kaitlyn O'Donnell is the new high school World Language teacher offering French and Spanish classes.
- Lisa Liard is the new grade 1-2 Elementary Teacher, Lisa was in Cabot School last school year as a long term substitute in PreK.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve August 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes – Jackie Folsom moved to accept the minutes as written, Paul Stecker seconded – unanimously approved

Reports

- a. Superintendent Report – Nancy Thomas

- The search for a Business Manager continues. A second candidate was offered the position and declined the offer.
- Central Office is preparing for upcoming changes in health care with the Affordable Care Act and its impact on Schools. We are working with VSBIT to model current employee status and will receive in depth analysis of health care costs which will be reviewed by and with the Supervisory Union, Board Members and the Union Representatives.

- b. Principal Report – Karen Stewart

- The total enrollment for 2013-2014 school years is 184 students.
- "Back-to-School" night will occur on September 12. Presentations on math expectations, Senior X and advocating for a community/parent group are among the offerings.

APPROVED

- c. Student Report – Hugh Burke
 - Soccer season has begun.
 - Seniors will attend a college fair at St. Michael’s College on Thursday.
 - Senior X has begun, students working on “Habits of the Heart and Mind”, developing a study plan this semester and will work on a project of interest next semester.
- d. Curriculum Assessment and Professional Development – Pat Knoerl
 - On-Demand writing assessments have been given to students. This will be done again in January and May. This exercise will identify next instructional steps for students.
 - At the end of last school year, grades 2, 3, 8, 11 were given math progress assessments. Teachers will now review those assessment results to help focus instruction this year.
 - Cabot School was not selected to take part in a field test assessment in the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium through the State of Vermont. Therefore we will administer NECAP in October.
 - Teachers will participate in Math Lab offerings and observations throughout the region.
 - A team of 5 teachers will take part in common core training during school hours three times in the school year.
- e. Budget Update – Nancy Thomas, Christina Kimball
 - Nancy reported on each line item for the Board.
 - The Innovative School’s Grant deficit is less than first anticipated.

Presentation

- a. Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Information – Pat Knoerl – Postponed due to time constraints. Pat will e-mail information to the Board.

Board Discussion

- a. Community Conversation Discussions – Chris Tormey
 - A summary of the Spring discussions have been posted to the Cabot website.
 - On-going conversations throughout the summer have identified goals that this group would like to help Cabot School realize: 1) Ongoing communication from the school to parents and the community about what the school is doing; 2) Parents and community members interested in helping teachers realize important goals; 3) Develop a CPIE group.
 - The group discussed how to best address the goals listed.
- b. Retreat Planning
 - The group set a tentative date of October 21 for the Retreat.
 - Agenda topics will be discussed at the next meeting.

Board Action

- a. None

Executive Session

- a. None

Adjournment 8:35 p.m. **Future Meeting:** October 7, 2013

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber