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CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 18, 2013, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Cabot School Library

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

Call to Order – Chris Tormey – 6:03 p.m.

Public Input

Lisa Olson commented on the first meeting of Cabot Partners In Education (CPIE). Twelve to fifteen parents attended, and discussed how to aide teachers in the classroom .

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve November 4, 2013 Minutes – Student Representatives noted that the Café name should read....*People of The Beans Café*..... Jackie Folsom moved to accept the minutes as amended, Ry Hoffman seconded – unanimously approved.

Reports

- a. **Superintendent Report** – Nancy Thomas

- Nancy Asked Pat to speak about Professional Development activity.
 - Pat announced that Mahesh Sharma will hold a workshop and classroom teaching demonstration for all grade 3-6 math teachers of Cabot and Twinfield Schools on Thursday.
 - January Early Release and In-Service days will be used to work with teachers to move forward with the concepts learned during the Mahesh Sharma workshops.
 - Last week, Pat, Mike Crocker, Peter Stratman and Holly Kruse attended the Tarrant Foundation IPAD summit in Boston, learning how to utilize IPAD minis in the classroom for PBL.
 - On-Demand writing assessments will occur in December/January.
- Nancy reminded the board of the upcoming Affordable Care Act Webinar on Tuesday in the Cabot Library.
- The Agency of Education reviewed the food service program last Thursday. Areas identified to be improved upon were; eligibility of students between free and reduced lunch, and assurance that each qualifying student is choosing food from each food group.

- b. **Principal Report** – Karen Stewart

- Karen acknowledged the many parent volunteers who have been refurbishing the gymnasium. The sound system has been repaired by a parent volunteer and a wireless

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microphone has been donated by another, still more volunteers are sanding and painting.

- Parent Teacher conferences went well.
- Report cards have been distributed.
- Grade 5-6 teachers are working to streamline homework by assigning all homework on Monday for completion on Friday.

c. **Student Report** – Hugh Burke, Heidi Cookson, Kassandra Morse

- The Winooski Valley Music Festival will be held at U-32 on Thursday and Friday, three Cabot students are attending.
- The AP Biology Chicks project was successful, achieving desired results.
- The LIMES are returning. The band is working on bookings and scheduling, writing songs and lyrics, 21 students are involved with the band.

Board Discussion

a. Budget Draft #1

- World Language program, the group discussed adding to staff, introducing foreign language to begin in K-1 grades, offering only one foreign language, possibly partnering with Twinfield Union School via computer link. Chris Tormey requested further discussion after the January 20 budget meeting.
- SEED Program, the group discussed ways to continue this program at Cabot School, moving SEED program into grades 5-6, adding to staff, and funding possibilities.
- Athletic Director/Activities Coordinator, Nancy informed the group that adding this position will not occur in the next school year. Chris Tormey will present a comparison at the next board meeting of how the athletic program had been funded in the past and how it is funded currently.

b. Review Budget Timeline

- A revised 2014-2015 Budget Timeline was distributed and discussed.
- Nancy stated that George Cormier advised holding budget discussions in January after receiving the revenue information from the Agency of Education and VSBIT in December.

Board Action

- a. None

Executive Session

- a. None

Adjournment 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber

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