

APPROVED

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 16, 2013, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Cabot School Library

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Sharon O'Connor, Paul Stecker, Ry Hoffman; Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Karen Stewart, Principal; Gus Dibble, Business Manager; Christina Kimball, Business Operations Manager; Student Representatives: Hugh Burke, Cassandra Morse, Heidi Cookson; Absent: Jackie Folsom.

Call to Order – Chris Tormey -6:04 p.m.

Public Input

- Parents and students were in attendance to request SEED Program teacher, Dave Schilling be retained by Cabot School. Nancy Thomas explained that Dave is employed by the Barre Technical Center, assigned to Cabot School to instruct the SEED program, that program is being relocated to the Barre Technical Center which takes Dave Schilling away from Cabot to continue the program in Barre. To maintain Dave as a teacher here, Cabot School would have to hire him as a new teacher in another capacity.
- Linda Savoca asked the Board to consider increasing the amount of hours per day for the nurse to be available to students. Currently the contracted nurse, through the Health Center, is working 4.5 hours for Cabot School. During the remainder of the school day, student medical needs are met by administrative staff.
- Michelle Delaney asked the Board what additional monies are being allocated toward athletics for FY15. Chris Tormey replied that a bus and driver for soccer transportation has been decided. At this time the board does not know what impact the final budget will have on the tax rate, as that becomes clear, the board may be able to re-visit athletic funding.
- Parents asked about the grade 5/6 staffing status. Chris and Nancy replied that an additional 5/6 teacher will be added to staff. Karen expanded on this in her Principal Report.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve December 2, 2013 minutes – Paul Stecker moved to approve the minutes, Sharon O'Connor seconded – unanimously approved.

Reports

- a. **Superintendent Report** – Nancy Thomas
 - Nancy complimented The Drive presentation for its inspiration and diversity.
 - Cabot's Speech Language Pathologist will be retiring due to health concerns.

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b. Principal Report – Karen Stewart

- Karen reported the sad news of the passing of the parent of a Cabot student. Staff have organized food and other support for the family.
- Holiday sharing coordinated by CPIE, teachers and staff is going nicely.
- The grade 5/6 opening for a long term substitute has been posted and interviews are beginning. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday morning to develop next steps for this position.

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

- The Senior X presentation of The Drive was a success and well attended.
- On Tuesday, December 17 The Limes will perform from 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. during the Jam-A-Van food drive event to benefit Vermont Food for the Holidays.
- People of the Beans Café will be submitting documentation to DECA for Gold certification of becoming a student run business.

Board Discussion

a. FY14 Budget Update

- Christina Kimball reported on the status of the current budget. The budget will continue to be monitored carefully.

b. FY15 Expense Budget Draft #2

- Nancy Thomas reviewed items for Draft #2
 - Instruction – increase PE teacher from .90 FTE to 1.00 FTE
 - Increase Worker's Comp
 - Professional Salaries –One teacher added for Grade 5/6; salary increases anticipated; increase in local funds for preschool costs due to Title I changes
 - Health – Increase the current health center nurse hours
 - Special Education – paraeducator costs are in the local budget, other costs are in the assessment from the supervisory union budget
 - Library – Salary increase for summer school preparation work
 - Technology – Decrease in Power School contract, reduction in server and web based software licenses
 - Professional Development – Increase for professional education and training based on the current usage
 - School Board and Assessment – Insurances are up as they were previously under budgeted
 - Fiscal Operations – Tax anticipation note to be paid
 - Principal Office – An increase between FY13 and FY14 was noted
 - Plant Operations – Salaries, benefits and insurances were under budgeted for FY 14
 - Transportation – Add rental bus and driver for Soccer transportation

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- Debt Service – CSPAC payments are complete
- Chris Tormey asked for comments and questions for Draft #3.
 - The board discussed the SEED program and BTC tuition costs. Could Cabot see a reduction in tuition by bringing Dave Schilling to Cabot for Technology offerings?
 - Discussion about adding to supplemental services/reading recovery
 - Invite Peter Ackerman to discuss remaining construction project priorities
 - Add 1 ½ hours to Nurse schedule
 - Remove \$15,000 from technology software

Executive Session: The board entered into Executive Session for personnel issue at 9:45 p.m. Returned from Executive Session 10:20 pm. No action taken.

Adjournment - 10:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber