

APPROVED

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 7, 2014 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Cabot School Library**

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

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

Public Input

None

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve March 24, 2014 minutes – Chris moved to approve the minutes as written, Sharon seconded – approved with one abstention

Nancy Thomas took a moment to remember Dick Spaulding, who passed unexpectedly on Friday, April 4, 2014. Nancy commended Karen Stewart, faculty and staff for all they did to honor Dick's memory and help students deal with his loss.

Reports

- a. Student Report – Cassandra Morse, Heidi Cookson, Hugh Burke
- Grades 10 and 11 took a trip to Plymouth State College last Monday.
 - Spring soccer practice has begun, through the Cabot Youth Sports Program, the first game is in May.
 - The Limes t-shirts are now on sale \$15. Each. Fundraising is under way. Nancy noted that an on-line mechanism will be set up for ordering Limes music and depositing fundraising dollars.
- b. Superintendent Report – Nancy Thomas
- School choice lottery was held last week. Cabot received no new incoming students. There are seven out-going Cabot students, five of whom are in school choice this year; 3 students to attend Twinfield Union School, 2 students to attend Montpelier High School, 2 students to attend Danville School.
 - Last week the rain and ground thaw caused water to enter the Middle School wing. Peter Ackerman is working to address the source of water entry with Black River Design Architects and continues to monitor it during the spring rains. He worked to clean, dry and repair the affected area.
 - Nancy updated board members on Bill H-883-School Governance. The Bill has momentum and support of the Principals Association and Agency of Education. A hearing will be held at the statehouse on April 9 to discuss this Bill. Bill H-889 makes a number of finance changes and will affect small schools grant funding by eliminating this funding over a six year period. This will have an impact on Cabot's future funding. Jackie informed the group that an amendment vote was taken to leave small schools grant in place for three more years, phase out would begin in after year four.
- c. Principal Report – Karen Stewart
- Interviews are underway for elementary teachers.
 - Interviews for the design technology teacher will be held on Friday.
 - Hiring recommendations for elementary teachers and design technology teacher will be presented to the board at the April 21, 2014 board meeting.

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Presentation

Common Core Writing – Pat Johnson-Knoerl

- Pat explained the standards for English Language Arts which includes reading, writing, language, speaking and listening).
- Common core reading standards are divided into three areas; literature, informational text, and foundational skills. Pat's presentation focused on writing and its 3 genres; writing arguments to support claims, informative explanatory text and narratives.
- Writing instruction is aligned to the common core, teachers are involved in on-going professional development through writers' workshop and instruction is aligned to proficiencies.
- Pat shared examples of anchor standards and grade level breakdown of targets in grades K-5.

Board Discussion

- a. Hiring Recommendation for Design Technology Position-postponed to April 21, 2014 meeting.
- b. Interim Principal Update
 - Nancy will invite people to be part of the interview team this week.
- c. Harassment Policy Revision
 - Nancy distributed the Harassment Policy. She explained that in an independent review of a harassment complaint in Twinfield noted omissions in the policy. Two elements of the policy need to be added:
 - o Page 2 of the policy, two footnotes to be added,
 - o Page 6 of the policy, under item VI, third paragraph was inadvertently omitted, that paragraph has been added.

Board Action

- a. Harassment Policy Revision
 - Jackie moved to approve the revision, Ry seconded – unanimously approved.

Executive Session for personnel issue, if needed – No Executive Session Called

Adjournment - 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber