

APPROVED

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 15, 2014, Chris Tormey's Home**

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Ry Hoffman, Lisa Olson, Jackie Folsom, Sharon O'Connor;

Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Gail Curtis, Interim Principal; Dave Schilling, Design Tech Teacher and principal intern; Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Director; Christina Kimball, Business Manager

Call to Order: Chris Tormey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda:

None

Board Discussion:

The Board began by sharing their goals for the retreat and for the year. This included better understanding of new legal mandates, keeping budget issues visible, progress on addressing facility needs, principal search planning. Goals for the year include having more students apply for college, all students taking college courses during their last 2 years in high school, community presentations about the work the school is doing with the League of Innovative Schools and finding ways to interest more students in attending Cabot School.

Superintendent, Nancy Thomas, shared the Vermont Education Quality Standards and how they articulate multiple pathways, personalized learning, work based learning and dual enrollment. The standards require Proficiency Based Graduation beginning in 2020 and Cabot is working to begin a year earlier with the help of the LIS. Pat presented information on the Common Core Standards, giving an example of how the Vermont Proficiencies are built on the Common Core. The Board reviewed the letter from Agency of Education Secretary, Rebecca Holcombe regarding the federal accountability system. The Board reviewed Gov. Shumlin's letter to Sec. Holcombe, outlining challenges facing Vermont education and education financing.

Nancy shared information regarding the new Universal Pre-K law. Draft regulations have been issued, but leave many questions unanswered. In budget development, the Board will need to plan for inclusion of 3 year olds in the current program at Cabot School and possible tuition payments for families wishing to enroll their pre-K children in 10 hours/week at a different, approved public or private program. Nancy will be working with the pre-K staff to gather input and information from families of young children regarding how best to serve Cabot families.

The Board reviewed the summary of the Facility Assessment done in 2011 and discussed consideration of replacement of the satellite buildings which no longer meet the needs of the school and are in poor condition. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to move ahead with next steps in planning construction of a new facility to replace the satellite spaces, maintain all grades pre-K through 12: including community information and input meetings and development of the "Education Specifications" which are needed to begin planning a school

APPROVED

construction project. Given the fact that payments on the last school renovation project will be finished at the end of 2016, the Board discussed a possible March 2016 bond vote.

The Board expressed their appreciation for Gail's leadership in this interim year. They discussed the upcoming search for a long-term principal. It was decided not to use an outside consultant. Nancy will coordinate the process. The timeline will be the following. October 20, 2014 Board meeting: Gather community input in the first hour of the Board meeting. November: advertise and form interviewing committee to include staff, parents, students, board members. December: Interviews, visits, Board interview. Superintendent will make recommendation to the Board for their final decision before the December vacation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Thomas, Notetaker