

## **APPROVED**

### **CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES Thursday, October 23, 2014, Cabot School Library**

**PRESENT:** Chris Tormey, Lisa Olson, Sharon O'Connor. **Administration:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Christina Kimball, Business Manager; Gail Curtis, Principal; **Student Representatives:** Gage Sironi and Megan Walker; **Absent:** Ry Hoffman, Jackie Folsom and Heidi Cookson

#### **Community Forum: Principal Search**

Chris Tormey opened the forum. Superintendent, Nancy Thomas explained the schedule and process for hiring the long-term principal to begin July 1, 2015. Four Cabot residents: Leonard Spencer, Linda Savoca, Paul Stecker and Frank Kampf, as well as board members and administration participated in brain-storming leadership needs for Cabot School and desired characteristics for the new principal.

**Call to Order** Chris Tormey – 6:30 p.m.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve October 6, 2014 Minutes - Gage noted that his name needed to be corrected. Lisa moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Sharon seconded - Approved.

#### **Reports**

- a. **Superintendent Report** - Nancy Thomas
  - Nancy reported that Pete has completed the catch basin, saving money by doing much of the work himself.
  - The Pre-K Act 166 information session will be Monday, October 27, 2014.
  - Professional development continues this month with full days in Cabot with Writers' Workshop and at Twinfield with Mathematics with Mahesh Sharma.
  - Cabot had a visit from an LIS coach preparing for the application for the Gates grant. A full visit from the LIS team will be November 19. Notification of acceptance will be in mid-December. Brian and Peter will be representing classroom teachers at an Education Summit in November.
- b. **Principal Report** – Gail Curtis
  - Gail congratulated the Boys' Soccer Team on their game on Monday. She applauded the Girls' team for their good sportsmanship in their final game with Proctor.
  - Rural Schools Partnership held their meeting at Cabot this week.
  - Gail reported her progress in initiating PEP plans and evaluations with new staff.
- d. **Student Report** – Gage Sironi, Megan Walker, Heidi Cookson
  - Gage and Megan reported on the 4 short films done for "How my school builds Character". One of the films was selected as one of 4 winners in a competition sponsored by the Rowland Foundation. The Rowland Foundation Conference will be held October 30 at UVM and the team will attend.
  - Cabot Band and chorus are working with the Twinfield chorus to prepare for the musical "Lillian" in December.
  - Senior X is moving along.
  - Three students auditioned for and were accepted into Winooski Valley music event.

#### **Financial Report**

## **APPROVED**

- Christina Kimball shared the unaudited FY 14 report. The year ended in a \$102,---- deficit. The administration is working to reduce that during the year and will include a deficit reduction plan in the FY16 budget.
- Auditors will be at the central office beginning November 10 and anticipate a draft report in mid-December.
- FY15 is on track for both revenues and expenditures.
- There is concern regarding one of the two busses which was under repair for a number of days already this year. She is looking into purchasing a new bus this year and making the first payment in the next fiscal year.
- The business office is also looking into a joint bid with Twinfield for contracted transportation services.
- Christina will be meeting with the faculty on Friday morning to discuss the budgeting process for FY16.

### **Board Discussion**

#### a. Principal Search – Next Steps

- The Board will review the draft job description at its November 3, meeting. Nancy will seek volunteers for the Interviewing Committee. Interviewing and hiring is anticipated to be done by the end of December.

#### b. Discuss Support Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement

- Nancy reviewed the summary of changes for the Collective Bargaining agreement. This will be a three-year contract.

#### c. Plan Community Facility Conversation

- The Board will do a Community Forum regarding initiation of facility renovations/replacement at its November 17th meeting, 6 - 7 pm.
- Chris will draft a letter to be sent to all Postal Patrons, inviting their participation.
- The forum will be an opportunity to share the results of the Facility Assessment and gather input on next steps.

### **Board Action**

#### a. Ratify Support Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement

- Chris moved to approve the three year contract as proposed, Sharon seconded - approved

#### b. Hiring Recommendation

- Chris moved to accept the recommendation to hire Andrew Gagnon as Long Term Substitute for Brian Boyes, Sharon seconded – approved 3-0.

### **Executive Session**

The Board entered executive session at 7:56 pm for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. Jackie Folsom, negotiator, was included in the discussion by phone. The Board exited executive session at 8:33 p.m. No action was taken.

**Adjournment** - The Board adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Thomas, Note Taker