

APPROVED

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 3, 2014

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

Call to Order : Chris Tormey, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

- Ann Smith from the Friends of Winooski shared information regarding their application to the State Department of Environmental Conservation for grant money to study Storm Water Runoff at the Cabot School campus. The information will be shared with the Board. The Friends of Winooski will apply directly for funds for possible future projects and work with staff and students as they have with other projects.
- Michelle Delaney came to request that the Board add the Cabot Youth Sports back into the school budget and manage the program out of the school for the next school year.

Presentation - Cabot Connects Mentoring, Kathleen Hoyne, Director

- Kathleen presented information regarding the mentoring program which currently has 21 mentors. She thanked the school for their support of the program. Mentors Lynn Rockwell, Mark Christianson and Peter Ackermann shared their experiences with the program and expressed support and thanks. Kathleen will come to talk with new teachers about the program.

Consent Agenda

Approve October 23, 2014 Minutes - Heidi noted that she was absent for that meeting. Chris moved approval and Sharon seconded - Approved.

Reports

a. Superintendent Report - Nancy Thomas

- Nancy reported on the School Boards/Superintendent conference held last week. Bill Daggett was keynote speaker. Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary of the Agency of Education as well as other presenters discussed the many challenges and opportunities facing Vermont education. Her presentation and the VSBA Situational Analysis are available on the VSBA website.
- The Preschool and Pizza Universal Preschool Informational meeting held last week was very successful with 20 parents of prospective 3 and 4 year olds attending. We anticipate a high number of children enrolling in the preschool next year. The law also requires that tuitions be made available for families who want to have their child attend "Pre-Qualified" private programs.

b. Principal Report – Gail Curtis and Dave Schilling

- Wellness interviews were conducted last week.
- Gail is on target to complete new teacher evaluations this fall.

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- Interviews are being scheduled for the long term sub position for middle school during Peter Stratman's sabbatical with the Rowland Foundation.
 - They are still looking for boys varsity basketball coach.
 - Gail and Dave are following up on truancy issue.
 - Dave reported on the LIS networking meeting in Massachusetts. LIS team is working to prepare final submission for LIS grant. Visit from the LIS team is November 19.
- d. **Student Report** – Gage Sironi, Megan Walker, Heidi Cookson
- Rowland Foundation conference went well with students and teachers attending.
 - Belize auction is December 6. Six students are scheduled to go on the trip.
 - "Lillian" musical author, Ben Lear, has been contacted by the students working on the project and he is going to come from L.A. to see the Cabot production.
 - Seniors are applying to colleges now.

Board Discussion

- a. **Principal job description**
- The Board reviewed the draft job description and discussed the list posted on the website for input into the desired qualities for the position.
- 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 has drafted a letter to be sent to all Postal Patrons, inviting their participation.
 - The forum will share the results of the Facility Assessment and gather input on next steps, provide snapshot of current costs, retiring loan on cafeteria/library.
- d. **VSBA Situational Analysis**
- This presentation can be seen on the VSBA website along with Sec. Holcombe's presentation
- e. **Preliminary Budget Discussion**
- Preschool: many families intend to send their 3 and 4 years to the Cabot preschool. Looking to expand to 2 sessions to meet needs. Act 166 allows for counting anticipated students. May not be able to use Title 1 funds.
 - Dual enrollment: schools will have to plan to absorb half the cost this next year (\$600/course).
 - Teachers' retirement: \$1073 for each teacher new to the Vermont retirement system.
 - Teacher requests: Christina and Nancy met with faculty to discuss department budgets.
 - Health Insurance increase will be about 4%.
 - Small schools and small schools sustainability grants. (\$160,000) No change for next year, however legislature continues to talk about eliminating this. May need to prepare for phase out.
 - Pete Ackermann shared building needs: Paint main building, drainage for back side of library, roof for cafeteria, heating units for gym spaces

Executive Session : The Board moved to go into executive session for a personnel matter at 8:43 p.m. The Board came out of executive session at 8:58. No action taken.

Adjournment - The board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Thomas, Notetaker