

UNAPPROVED

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD
Wednesday, January 14, 2015
Cabot School Library

FY16 SCHOOL BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC FORUM

PRESENT: Chris Tormey, Jackie Folsom, Ry Hoffman, Lisa Olson, Sharron O'Connor **Administrators:** Dave Schilling, Principal Intern; Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Christina Kimball, Business Manager; Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Director

Welcome:

Chris Tormey welcomed 15 community members to tonight's public forum. Chris stated that the Cabot School Board is here tonight to present a draft proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016, to give the community background around the choices for this draft and to receive feedback from the community.

Topics of Discussion:

- a. Eliminate Design Tech Position
 - No Comments
- b. Reduce High School English and Social Studies Positions from fulltime to .62 FTE
 - Comment: With the reduction in positions to .62 FTE, do we still meet the required state contact hours?
 - Answer: There are no longer contact hour requirements from the state. But, it does meet what they are currently doing. State Standards have shifted to proficiencies. We will continue to look for credit hours for graduation.
 - Comment: I still firmly believe that we need to have a full time English Teacher and a full time Social Studies Teacher.
 - Answer: Remember we were in the position of cutting nearly \$200,000 from the budget.
 - Comment: what happens to the curriculum when we switch to block scheduling?
 - Answer: It shouldn't change it at all. We basically operate this way now.
 - Comment: It is only reasonable and responsible if all students are here those 3 days and all staff is here those 3 days. The big hole is when kids are out or teachers are out. Then there are big holes.
 - Answer: We are not unique in moving to a block schedule. Most schools have a block schedule of some kind and you are going to run into that situation no matter what you do.
 - Comment: Is science required for four years? This can't be shared among other disciplines?
 - Answer: Science is required for 3 years. Social studies and English are easily combined into a humanities course but the Math and Science curriculums and requirements are so different it is not possible to combine the two.
 - Comment: Could we share classes with Twinfield?
 - Answer: We are continuing to look at how we can make this happen. The problem with the economics class was that students were required to drive their own vehicles. That will no longer happen. How can we bus the children and make it affordable?

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- c. Reduce Guidance Position from full time to .8 FTE (four days a week)
 - No Comments
- d. Reductions in supplies, books, equipment, professional services, etc.
 - Comment: What are professional services?
 - Answer: Professional services include costs for field trips, maintenance items, classroom speakers, special education, etc.
 - Comment: Why has there been an increase in professional services over the last few years?
 - Answer: A majority of the costs have been due to an increased need for special education services.
- e. Overall Budget
 - Comment: Why are there no paraprofessional cuts?
 - Answer: We do have two paraprofessional cuts. One para left at the beginning of the school year and the position was not filled. There will be one more paraprofessional position eliminated from the budget next year.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber