

CABOT SCHOOL SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 2, 2015

Cabot School Library

Present: Chris Tormey, Sharon O'Connor, Ry Hoffman, Jackie Folsom, Lisa Olsen, **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Dave Schilling, Principal; Christina Kimball, Business Manager **Student Representatives:** Alisha Celley, Isabella McCallum, Megan Walker **Twinfield Board Members:** Patrick Healy, Jack Hoffman **CCSU Administrators and Staff:** Mat Forest, Patrick Pennock, Jodie Eliot, Andrea Wasson **Danville Board Members:** Kerin Hoffman, David Towle, Peter McAlenney, Walter Smith, Sandy Hauserman, Diane Chadderton.

Call to Order Chris Tormey, Chair called meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Public Comment:

None

Discussion with Danville School Board

a. Act 46 Merger Options

- Cabot and Danville School boards met to discuss possible options for an Act 46 Merger. Before discussion began Superintendent Mat Forest shared a short presentation with the group.
- Explore options for a RED side by side. This would include two PK-8 Schools, Barnet and Walden. This merger could possibly include Peacham with school choice for grades 9-12. The RED would also consist of two PK-12 schools with Cabot and Danville, and the option of incorporating Twinfield.
- Cabot and Danville could apply jointly for a \$5,000.00 stipend to conduct a study and explore what a partnership with Cabot/Danville would look like. Once the study is complete and the boards feel that they would like to look further at what a partnership would look like there is the option to apply for a larger study grant in the amount of \$20,000.00. With the larger grant, a committee would be formed and incorporate input from the community.
- The Cabot Board discussed conducting two studies. One study that would look at Cabot and Twinfield working together and applying for a waiver. The other study would look into a merger with Danville. If only one study is able to be done then Cabot will look more at a merger with Danville and will conduct an internal study looking at more collaboration with Twinfield and a waiver.

Consent Agenda:

Approve October 19, 2015 Minutes. Chris moved to approve minutes as written. Sharon seconded the motion. Minutes approved as written.

Reports:

a. Student Report

- X-day is underway. Occasionally there are some struggles with space.
- Fall festival took place last Thursday which included a parade of costumes, activities and a Madila Concert.
- Varsity Basketball will start on November 16th. Third and fourth grade basketball started yesterday and K-2 basketball will start on Saturday.
- There have been 2 Limes Concerts so far this year.
- The Café has been a great success since its opening. Students are utilizing it regularly.
- The soccer season has come to an end.

b. Principal Report

- David and Nancy had a great meeting with the Agency of Education School Effectiveness Coordinator, Megan Grube.
- David attended an LIS Conference in Norwood Massachusetts.
- All School Hike took place a few weeks ago and was a great success.

c. Superintendent Report

- Working on putting together information for preschool offering. Pizza and Preschool will take place November 23 this informational meeting will help to solicit interest in 3 & 4 year old programs for next year and determine numbers for next year's pre-k.

Board Discussion:

a. Budget: First Draft – Christina Kimball

- Christina shared Cabot FY17 Budget Draft #1 and some highlights.
- Overall changes - Teacher salary increases have yet to be determined because negotiations have not taken place. The Support Staff increases are based on FY17 wage schedule. There will be a health insurance increase of 7.9%. There is a minimal increase on Dental Insurance.
- Regular Education – The 3 year average cost of substitutes has gone up. The 6 Semester average for tech center enrollment has decreased.
- Regular Education Pre-K – Increase Preschool teacher position to 1.0 FTE to add a session for 3 year olds. The Para-educator position increased to .80 FTE
- Special Education- Reduction in Assessments. Supplies and Materials moved to SU.
- Co-Curricular – Added JV Boys Coach. Athletics equipment increased.
- Psychological Services – Anticipated state placed Behavior Interventionist contract. Anticipated 5% overall contract increase. Additional contract for WCMHS Behavior Analyst.
- Library – Reduced Position from 1.0 FTE to .60 FTE. Anticipated retirement incentive.
- Technology – No increase to the Wildbranch contract. Added supplies and equipment for satellite buildings. Added Sonic Wall.
- Fiscal Operations – Increase in assessments; also increase in Revenue Anticipation Note Interest.
- Operations – Moved salary and benefits of custodial staff to Supervisory Union – now shown as an assessment along with transportation costs. Increase in waste water.
- Transportation – Moved Salary and benefits of bus drivers to the Supervisory Union – now shown as an assessment as required by Act 153.
- Construction Services – Maintain budget for projects.
- Debt Service – Reduced because Bond Retired, Deficit note retired.

b. January Board Dates

- Date of January 18th meeting will not change.
- A public budget forum will be held on January 11th.

Board Action:

Executive Session: Board moved to executive session at 8:47 pm.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber