

**Act 46 Working Group
October 17th, 2017 Meeting
Cabot School Library**

Minutes

In attendance: Karen Larsen, Billie O'Connor, Roz Daniels, Susie Socks, Jenn Boucher, Chris Tormey, Rory Thibault, Angela Ogle, Aimee Ducharme, Kosje Searles

Karen Larsen called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Public Comment: None

Draft Minutes from the 10/3 Meeting were approved without amendment.

Discussion: Review of progress on research assignments for AGS application:

- a. Angela reported that she has made progress in documenting Cabot's innovative teaching/learning practices over the past several years.
- b. Susie reported that she had begun to make some headway with obtaining data on Cabot (range of home values, range of incomes, etc.). She will convert her handwritten notes into electronic form.
- c. Aimee reported that she has had continuing conversations with Cabot alumni in her age group about ways to apply their recollections/realizations about Cabot School towards marketing efforts

Update on Act 46 Process/timeline:

- d. Rory gave an update on the Act 46 process. The Cabot School Board met on Monday, October 16 to review and discuss the results of a survey mailed to 600 Cabot households asking for input on two potential routes forward for Cabot School. Of the approximately 300 individuals that responded, 55% favored keeping the high school and submitting an Alternative Governance Structure proposal to the State Board of Education detailing how Cabot would meet the goals of Act 46 without merging with other districts. Forty-five percent of respondents favored the option in which Cabot High School would close and the

town's high school students would be tuitioned to high schools of their choice. After reviewing the survey results and discussing their own perspectives, the Board voted unanimously to pursue the option to keep Cabot HS open and develop an AGS proposal. Chris added that the Danville School Board was scheduled to hold a community forum during the following week to discuss the possibility of their district merging with the Blue Mountain Union School District. As a result of that development, Danville has chosen to hold off for the time being on making a decision on collaborating with Cabot within an enlarged supervisory union.

Plan for further research related to AGS Application:

1. Group members agreed to work over the next week to complete the research they have begun on specific parts of the AGS proposal, and to use the next meeting on October 26th to review that progress and to see what other parts to work on next. They agreed that it would be useful to **plan a retreat with the Cabot School Board in early November to review progress on the AGS, discuss next steps, and move forward in collaboration. In the meantime, members agreed to continuing gathering the data and materials likely needed to construct a compelling AGS.**
2. Members reviewed the work that various members had agreed to do:
 - a. Statistical data regarding the community: Susie and Chris
 - b. Subjects offered along with depth/breadth of offerings: Chris (w/ help from Dave)
 - c. Types of non-traditional learning experiences available: Jen, Angela, Aimee
 - d. Evidence of career and college readiness: **Karen** with help from school counselor
 - e. Various programs offered by the three potential "Career Technical Education" centers potentially available (Barre, Lamoille and St. J) Roz
 - f. Transportation concerns related to access to extracurriculars: **Karen with outreach to St. Johnsbury Academy.**
 - g. Survey questions of graduates of past decade: Kosje, Karen, **with assistance from Julia Hewitt. Linked to task "d".**
 - h. **Board Liaison members Chris and Rory noted that the initial 'heavy lift' of the Board would focus on the 'mission and vision' section of the AGS proposal. Rory will construct a draft.**

Action steps:

- a. Members agreed to continue the research they have been doing to assist in building the pieces of a strong AGS proposal

Unapproved

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 26th at 6:30 PM in the Cabot School library

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted, Chris Tormey