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**Act 46 Working Group
October 3rd, 2017 Meeting
Cabot School Library**

Minutes

In attendance: Karen Larsen, Billie O'Connor, Roz Daniels, Susie Socks, Jenn Boucher, Chris Tormey, Dave Schilling, Angela Ogle

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

Public Comment:

- a. Karen reported about a meeting that she'd had earlier in the week with a grant-funded consultant (Peter Fairweather) who is interviewing residents as part of a "Cabot Village revitalization" project. Karen noted that his charge is economic vitality, and that part of the discussion centered on the best use of physical property in the village: specifically, might some of the school's buildings be better used for housing than for educating students. During other parts of the discussion, it was acknowledged that a healthy local school drives economic development.
- b. Dave Schilling talked about the potential of using the school facilities to benefit the larger Cabot community while also generating income for the school. He noted that the buildings stand empty and unused for evening/weekend and summer time blocks, and suggested several ideas: use of the school library's collection to supplement the Cabot Library in the Willey Building, use of the woodshop for adult classes, use of the CSPAC for movie showings. Billie O'Connor responded that she would bring the summer-sharing idea up at the next meeting of the library trustees (of which she is a member).

Draft Minutes from the 9/26 Meeting were approved without amendment.

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

- a. Jenn Boucher reported that she is working on documenting Cabot's non-traditional programs: Dave Schilling responded that he would email Jenn Cabot's "School Profile" and Program of Studies that should provide a good overview of that information.

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- b. Susie reported that she had been largely unsuccessful in obtaining information about demographics from the Cabot Town Clerk's office. Chris offered to try to help with info previously collected for school budget presentations.
- c. Angela reported that she is continuing to work with Dave Schilling on developing marketing efforts. A discussion ensued about improving the ability of the Cabot School website to showcase what's going on of interest at the school. Billie suggested that interested students might be excited to help in improving the website; she and Angela decided to speak with Dave about that possibility.
- d. Karen reported on a conversation that she'd had with Ann Watson, a Montpelier High School teacher who recently used part of a sabbatical year to develop a system to recruit and place students from other countries at Montpelier. Karen summarized that there is a "robust market" for students from China who are interested in coming to high school in the U.S. as a stepping stone to college in this country, but that current visa regulations allow foreign students to spend a total of two years in public school settings in the U.S., and only allow for one year at a particular public school. Although both Stowe and Montpelier High School have had some success in attracting Chinese students, Karen cautioned that Cabot's educational model would likely be less attractive to these students.

Update on Act 46 Process/timeline:

- e. Chris gave an update on the Act 46 process. The Cabot School Board met recently with the members of the Danville School Board, and discussed ways that both schools' students could benefit from future collaborations between the two schools. Danville is considering developing an Alternative Governance Proposal, and is interested in increasing the options available to their students as part of that proposal. Danville board members were positive about the idea of Cabot potentially joining their supervisory union as part of our AGS proposal, and made a commitment to get back to our board for sure about that by October 16th. Chris also discussed the upcoming community forum October 5th at the CSPAC to present information and answer questions about the two main options the school board has been researching: closing the high school and merging with the Caledonia Cooperative District, or continuing to operate the high school and filing an "Alternative Governance Proposal" with the state by late December. After the forum, the School Board will solicit input from community members on the two proposals through a survey, before deciding as a board on one of the options on October 16th.

Action steps:

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- a. Members agreed to continue the research they have been doing to assist in building the pieces of a strong AGS proposal.
- b. Members agreed to get the word out to friends and neighbors about both the upcoming forum and mail-back survey.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th at 6:30 PM in the Cabot School library

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted, Chris Tormey