

**Act 46 Working Group
Sept. 5th 2017 Meeting
Cabot School Library**

Minutes

In attendance: Karen Larsen, Fran Voigt, Rory Thibault, Susie Socks, Roz Daniels, Aimee Ducharme, Angela Ogle, Jenn Boucher, Chris Tormey

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

Public Comment:

- a. Chris announced that the School Board is hosting a back-to-school barbecue at noon on Saturday (Sept. 9th) at the Rec Field. The Cabot girls and boys soccer teams will be hosting Chelsea for a double-header that day, with the girls' game starting at 11AM and the boys' game at 1PM.
- b. Jenn referenced several conversations she had with the community members noting that the perception that the existence of a vital functional school was an economic (not just an educational) consideration for local business owners and property owners.

Draft Minutes from the 8/29 Meeting were approved without amendment.

Discussion:

- a. Karen reported that a follow-up discussion with Dave Schilling about potential enhancements to the school did not occur due to start-of-school time constraints; outreach for this conversation will be renewed this week..
- b. Outreach to various stakeholder groups: Group members reported out on outreach they had made to community members concerning the things they value about the high school, as well as ways it could be improved. ***Alternative- schooling families*** valued the small class sizes, individual attention, and emphasis on project-based learning. They also valued school curriculum that was tightly embedded in the community, a recognition that not all students are on a traditional 'college path', and an interest in educational models that value the 'whole' person as well as citizenry and interpersonal relationships. The opportunity for arts and second language studies was also mentioned frequently. The fact that several families were unaware of the opportunities available at Cabot highlighted a general need for better communication about Cabot's strengths. Conversations with the ***Church Fellowship*** are pending following an informational contextual discussion with Dave Schilling. ***'Choice Inspired'*** stakeholders articulated concerns about taxation levels, curricular diversity, small cohort size, concern

about pending infrastructure costs, and the value of a PBL centered curriculum. *Peer* reflections are pending. *Alumni* reflections are pending.

- c. Fran Voigt reported on the status of the “Cabot Academy” proposal that he and several other Cabot residents have been working on. The group is refining its plan and is considering introducing a November 7th article for Cabot voters to approve the use of UDAG funds as seed money (both grants and loans) to launch the Academy concept.
- d. Chris gave an update on outreach efforts for collaboration with neighboring schools. Dave Schilling and administrators from Danville are to meet in the next 10 days to discuss opportunities for program-sharing. Chris made a brief presentation to the Washington Central/ U-32 School Board last week about Cabot’s interest in collaborating with their high school.
- e. Rory introduced the outline that he prepared about the elements of an AGS proposal, and mentioned that the success of recent graduates should be included in some way in that proposal.
- f. Group discussion closed with a recognition that –however the Act 46 process concluded- effective marketing and enhanced outreach needs to be a strong part of both the Act 46 process and the resultant product of what Cabot School becomes. We need to do a better job both highlighting the excellent work that is happening in Cabot as it both validates and institutionalizes successes and attracts students and families to our school and community.

Action steps:

- I. Chris will speak with the church fellowship following a conversation with Dave Schilling
- II. Karen will reach out to Dave Schilling to reschedule a reflective conversation on potential enhancements to the high school curriculum.
- III. Jenn will continue attempting to reach 'choice inspired' families for feedback
- IV. Susie will drop her notes from conversations with 'alternative schooling' families into a GoogleDoc. The rest of the group will use/update that document as an archive for community stakeholder feedback.
- V. Angela will begin to frame out what a marketing plan for Cabot Schools might look like
- VI. Fran and Karen will connect with the 'Cabot Academy' group (the A Team) to develop an article for the Cabot Chronicle which lays out the framework for the Academy concept as well as bring working group suggestions for clarification and development to Academy development process.
- VII. Roz will reach out to former alumni with a template for reflection on positive experiences in Cabot (and the lives that education leveraged) for use in future marketing campaigns.

Unapproved

- VIII. Roz and Bille will reach out to: the School Board, the Working Group, the A-team and Cabot School students to collect alternate naming ideas for the 'Cabot Academy' concept.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 12th at 6:30 PM in the Cabot school library

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Tormey