

Approved

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, October 15, 2012**

Present: Board members: Paul Stecker, Sharon O'Connor, Jackie Folsom, Ry Hoffman, Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Karen Stewart, Principal; Pat Johnson Knoerl, Curriculum Director; Heidi Cookson and Kasandra Morse, Student Representatives, Absent: Chris Tormey;

Call to order: The regular meeting of the Cabot School Board was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by Jackie Folsom,

Public Input

The board received a comment regarding early communication of changes in the school. There was a reminder that the Community Forum will meet on Wednesday, October 25. The suggestion was made to post minutes before approval on the web-site. In regard to a question of public participation in meetings, Jackie clarified that the board welcomes input during the Input item on the agenda, but board meetings are meetings of the School Board which are held in public and are not public meetings.

Consent Agenda

Revised minutes of the Cabot School Board October 1, 2012 meeting were approved.

Reports

Superintendent Report: Nancy welcomed the two new student representatives and described how the Twinfield student representatives report to their board. Negotiations are ready for a final meeting followed by ratification at the next meeting. Nancy gave a brief description for a new supervision and evaluation plan which she will be proposing to a group of teacher representatives and bringing back to the supervisory union board.

A student discipline hearing is needed and the Cabot Board will have to meet within 9 days. The board set October 18 for the hearing.

Principal Report : See attached.

Karen discussed looking at different ways to acquire PE credits. A credit cannot be granted from an outside activity if it is not under the supervision of a licensed teacher. The Department of Education is working on criteria for use of activity outside of the school for credit. The school needs to look at what are the standards, and what are the goals for PE at any grade level. This will be a board discussion, but how to work in the outside credits is also a statewide issue. There was a request for PE discussion to be added to the Nov 5th agenda.

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Facility Committee Report: The Committee met on Tuesday, October 9 where they discussed the cost of fixing or replacing the satellite buildings and other issues from the 2011 Facility Report from Black River Design. It was reported to be about \$200 per square foot for classroom style building. A follow-up meeting hasn't been set yet, but other meetings will be held before Town Meeting.

Presentations

- a. Common Core and Smarter Balanced Assessments – Curriculum Director, Pat Johnson Knoerl presented information regarding the new standards that have been adopted by 46 states, including Vermont. The Smarter Balanced Assessments will take the place of NECAPs in 2015. The standards and the assessments will require much more integration and application of learning.
- b. Business Manager, Rob Billings gave an Act 68/Education Finance refresher for the board. Nancy shared new legislative incentives for collaboration among schools and supervisory unions. These changes are a follow up to Act 153 to encourage collaboration and governance consolidation to create increased efficiency and effectiveness. The incentives include reimbursement on consultant or legal services as well as tax incentives if districts actually merge.

Board Discussion:

- a. The second reading of policy D10 - Complaints against Personnel, was read and discussed.
- b. School improvements of Green Mountain Star Indicators, and the next steps were discussed.
- c. Communication. The board decided that communication next steps would be best discussed at the November 5th meeting.
- d. New teacher approval. Lisa Liard has been chosen to fill the open 3rd grade position.
- e. Surveys: Nancy shared information regarding commercial options for school climate surveys that are both valid and reliable. The board expressed interest in using the same tool for both Cabot and Twinfield and possibly budgeting for the survey for next year's use.

Board Action:

- a. A motion was made to adopt D10 - Complaints about Personnel. Motion passed.
- b. A motion was made to hire Lisa Laird, candidate for the 3rd grade teaching position as recommended by the superintendent. Motion passed. She will start Monday, October 22.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Future Meetings:

Washington Northeast Supervisory Union Board: Thursday, October 18, 2012, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Cabot School

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Cabot School Board: Monday, November 5, 2012 in the school library