

## **CABOT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, February 6, 2012

Present: **School Board:** Chris Tormey, Sharon O'Connor, Paul Stecker and Jackie Folsom.

**Administration:** Karen Stewart, Principal, Rob Billings, Business Manager and Nancy Thomas, Superintendent. **Absent:** Linda Gabrielson.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.
2. Public Comment: none.
3. Consent Agenda: Sharon made a motion, seconded by Paul to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0 and one abstained.
  - a. Approve January 25, 2012 minutes;
  - b. New Hires: postponed until the next meeting.
4. Reports:
  - a. Principal's Report:
    - i. American Immigration Experience occurred last week. It was a live museum exhibit where students represented immigrants and shared their thoughts and experiences about being immigrants. This was a great example of project based learning. Karen would like to congratulate the students on a job well done.
    - ii. Building Maintenance: Peter has discovered several leaks, in the main building and gym, that were not fixed. He is addressing these problems.
    - iii. Chemistry Class: Ella Malamud has registered her class in the Chemistry Olympiad. She believes her class will do well.
    - iv. League of Innovation Schools: In March, a group of teachers and students will travel to Norwood, MA to attend and present at one of the Innovative Schools Regional meetings. Performance Based Assessment will be the focus of the presentation.
    - v. Middle Eastern Conflict: Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, Muhaideen Batah, a representative of the Vermont Islamic Society, will be a guest speaker at the high school. He will discuss the conflicts that are happening in the middle east and why it is important.
  - b. Superintendent's Report:
    - i. SAP Counselor: Nancy informed the board that they were unsuccessful in hiring an SAP counselor this year. Due to the lateness in the school year and the fact that next year's grant is a competitive grant, they will stop searching for a counselor for this year. There is no guarantee there will be funding for the next fiscal year. They intend to apply for this competitive grant next year.

- ii. PreK Needs: Nancy attended a meeting regarding preschool transition. Cabot has a very good prekindergarten transitional program. One area the school could work on is to develop better communication with local day care providers to promote early learning opportunities. In addition, she would like to see increased opportunities for 3 year olds.
  - c. Teacher's Association Report: none.
- 5. Board Discussion:
  - a. Preparation for the Informational Meeting: Ed Smith, Town Moderator, was not able to attend this meeting but had shared some thoughts with Chris. Ed suggested keeping the presentation short, highlighting the important parts. Ed wanted to remind the board that the audience should address questions to the moderator and the moderator will request clarification from the board, as necessary. When the board speaks, they need to speak to the group, not the individual asking the question. The board feels having the business manager present, to consult as needed, is very beneficial.
  - b. Community Involvement: The board would like to see increased community involvement in the school. Some suggestions made were to have community members mentor students as they did in the IOTA program. Another idea is to insert a flyer in the Cabot Chronicle each month that discusses what has been happening at the school and upcoming events. Also, one board member suggested that they distribute a survey to get input from the community. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.
- 6. The board went into executive session at 7:55pm to discuss contract negotiations.
- 7. Executive session was concluded at 8:25pm. No action taken.
- 8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Epinette  
Transcriber