

“Approved”
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ BOARD MEETING
Monday, January 23, 2023
Cabot School – In person & Zoom
6:00 p.m.

Call to order at 6 PM by Rory Thibault

In attendance: Rory Thibault, Ellen Cairns, Frank Kampf, Jason Monaco, Chris Tormey, Superintendent Mark Tucker, Principal Rebecca Tatistcheff, Director of Finance Michael Concessi, Community Coordinator Sonia Scherr and members of the public

Public Comment –

Amy Hornblas – mask update – Amy asked the Agency of Education, in Public Records request, for any documents in their possession that “prove” that masks are safe for children. She said they had no such documents, and she takes this to mean therefore that masks are unsafe. She continues to argue against the wearing of masks as a protection from Covid-19, despite the fact that the school does not require anyone to wear a mask. She also argues that we should be discouraging anyone from wearing a mask.

Consent Agenda:

Meeting Minutes from

- February 28, 2022, Informational Meeting
- January 4, 2023

A **motion** to accept the minutes of February 28, 2022 by Frank Kampf and seconded by Ellen Cairns. Motion passed. Jason Monaco abstained due to not being a board member during that time.

A **motion** to accept the minutes of January 4, 2023 with a small typographical modification by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Frank Kampf. Motion passed.

Student Report – Lyndsay Maxfield was present to go over project studio courses.

- Adventure Story Class – with different endings
- Home Cooking – interviewing community members and their connection with certain foods. Students will create a recipe book and have a potluck with the recipes provided.
- Creating Sustainable Communities – fixing up gardens etc.
- Blood Bank – students are researching diseases from all over the world. They will hold a blood drive.
- Music Theory – creating melodies.
- Band – learning to self-direct small and forming break out bands.
- Financial Literacy Class – learning about banking, handling funds and retirement.

Principal Report – Rebecca was present. Some points highlighted.

- Younger grades are learning about the sun, moon, and stars.

- 3rd and 4th graders are still working on the playground plans and prepping for an auction.
- Multiple grades will be collaborating with an artist.
- Winter Wellness is finally getting underway.

Becca also noted the woodchip plant has not worked reliably all year and the school is still navigating a roof leak in the building. Cabot is looking for a long-term sub that will start in March and also still hiring for a paraeducator.

Superintendent Report – Mark was present. Some points highlighted.

- Detailed facility analysis – Cabot has not appeared on the State schedule yet.
- US Renew America’s Schools Grant – Mark is still finishing up the concept letter. Cabot would be looking to replace the wood chip plant and the heat loss that is taking place underground, replacing lighting and replacing windows. These projects would total about 1.3 million. If awarded the grant, the school would have to pay 5% of the cost of any project. Question from the board on the timeline – projects can be staged over the performance period of the grant – several years.
- PCB testing – recommendation to the Legislature from AOE and Dept of Environmental Conservation proposes that remediation money be provided at an 80/20 cost share. Mark will testify against this in the Legislature. State also mentioned that money allocated would be at a first come, first serve.

Question for Becca – When will the playground be started? Looking to be after the last day of school.

Student Service & Curriculum Reports – no questions. The board appreciates the reports.

Planning for Annual Meeting presentations – Board discussion on when to hold the next meeting.

Budget Informational Meeting will be February 22 from 7-8 PM. Question on if the warning needs to be updated and signed due to language being removed? Will look to regenerate and resign. Cabot School Board will call a **Special Meeting for Wednesday, January 25th at 5 PM.**

Rory went over the written budget information/explanation. The information shows what the school can control budget wise and the factors that the school has no control over. Michael explained the homestead tax rate and shared a table with all the figures that showed taxes owed using income and home value.

Finalizing School Climate Survey – Board reviewed the survey. Will add a demographic selection section to the survey. Board also discussed how to disperse it. It can be sent out through school messenger. Survey will be open for two weeks.

Collective Bargaining Agreement with teachers, 2022-2025 – 3-year agreement. Mark Tucker went over the main details of the agreement that was settled. No teacher in the settlement is getting less than a 3% increase. Everyone is getting at least 3%.

A **motion** to approve the 2022-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with teachers by Rory Thibault and seconded by Chris Tormey. Motion passed.

Board discussion on getting as much information as possible out to the community.

A **motion** to adjourn by Frank Kampf and seconded by Chris Tormey. Motion passed.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nicky Cole