

**Monday, March 6, 2023**  
**School Annual Meeting**

Pursuant to the Warning as recorded and legally posted, the legal voters did meet at the time and place indicated and the following business was transacted:

The March 6, 2023, Cabot Annual School Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by the School Board Chairperson, Rory Thibault.

**Article 1** To elect a School District Moderator for a term of one (1) year.

Motion made and seconded to elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Jeanne Johnson was nominated with a second by Will Ameden. There were no other nominations. Declared nominations closed; Jeanne Johnson elected Moderator unanimously by voice vote.

**Article 2.** To elect two School Directors, one for a three year term and one for a two year term. **(To be voted on by Australian Ballot)**

**Three years: Ellen Cairns, 300; Write-ins 14; Undervote 104**

**Two years: Rory Thibault, 323; Write-ins 20; Undervote 75**

**Article 3.** Shall the voters of the Town School district approve the minutes of the February 28, 2023 Annual School Meeting.

**Motion by Lee Blackwell with a second by Will Ameden, motion carried.**

**Article 4.** To hear a report of the School Directors.

**A motion was made by Lee Blackwell with a second by Amy Hornblas. Motion carried.**

Rory Thibault planned to keep it informal. General overview of education funds. There is a large pot and quite a few things funnel in this fund. Current fiscal year \$900,000 comes from Cabot homestead. Vermont rural schools have been underfunded for years. The funding will be changing in the next fiscal year. Make sure that you receive the benefit of the homestead exemption. Cabot also has a non-residential tax rate the State sets.

The board can control only one level. Most items are controlled by the State. We had to raise some items due to a big inflation. This is a lean budget. The buildings need repair and general maintenance throughout the campus. If this budget is approved, it will be \$.02 over 2019. The only one that is lower is Montpelier.

Rory then asked to have a motion for the Principal, Rebecca Tatistcheff, to speak.

**A motion was made by Lee Blackwell with a second by William Ameden to have Rebecca speak. Motion carried.**

Rebecca then spoke about a post-pandemic time, which means something different than return to normal.

The Playground: They dismantled the previous playground for safety reasons. Rebecca went over the new playground and the fund-raising that has taken place.

She went over what the students have done over the past two years to prepare for their future with a few pictures of students in action.

Karen questioned about trips that the children could go on. Rebecca stated we are phasing this back in. A Boston trip is scheduled to visit a college.

**Article 5.** Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Cabot School Board to expend three million six hundred twenty thousand sixty one dollars (\$3,620,061.00) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. **(To be voted on by Australian Ballot)**

**256 Yes, 146 No, Undervotes 10**

**Article 6.** Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Board of School Directors to hold any audited fund balance as of June 30, 2023 in a reserve fund to be expended under the control and direction of the Board of School Directors for the purpose of operating the school?

**(To be voted on by Australian Ballot)**

**286 Yes, 110 No, Undervotes 22**

**Article 7.** Shall the voters of the Cabot School district authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2024 in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes?

**A motion was made by William Ameden, with a second by Lee Blackwell. Motion carried.**

**Article 8.** To transact any additional business that may legally come before this meeting.

Kathy Besch wanted to know about the school library position. Rebecca stated that it is an .8 position.

Amy wanted to know about the health budget line. Rory explained there is an increased cost for nursing. This is to provide a nursing coordinator. The nurse coordinator has been in place since April, 2022.

During COVID-19 this was a COVID coordinator. After that we found we needed a nursing coordinator. The person that holds this position, Molly Brock, is a shared expense with the district.

There was no other business.

A motion was made by Lee Blackwell to adjourn with a second by Brody Moran. Motion carried. We adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Town Clerk

Approved by:

Jeanne Johnson, Moderator

Rory Thibault, School Board Chair