

“Approved”
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 27, 2023
Cabot School – In person & Zoom
6:00 p.m.

Call to order at 6:02 by Mark Tucker

Reorganization of the Board

In attendance: Rory Thibault, Ellen Cairns, Frank Kampf, Jason Monaco, Chris Tormey, Superintendent Mark Tucker, Principal Rebecca Tatistcheff, Community Coord Sonia Scherr, Student Rep Camryn Hoffman.

Nomination for Board Chair – Chris Tormey nominates Rory Thibault and seconded by Ellen Cairns. Nomination passed.

Nomination for Vice Chair/Clerk – Ellen Cairns nominates Chris Tormey and seconded by Rory Thibault. Nomination passed.

2 CCSU Board Representatives – Ellen Cairns nominated by Rory Thibault and seconded by Chris Tormey and Rory Thibault nominated by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Chris Tormey. Nominations passed. Chris Tormey will serve as alternate.

Negotiations Council – Chris Tormey nominated by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Rory Thibault. Nomination passed.

Central VT Career Center Representative – Jason Monaco nominated by Rory Thibault and seconded by Chris Tormey. Nomination passed.

SB Rep for Community Investment Fund – Chris Tormey nominated by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Frank Kampf. Nomination passed.

Set regular board meeting schedule: No Change from 2022

Discuss timing for annual board retreat: Will table until later.

Designate official newspapers and posting locations: No Change from 2022

Discuss and adopt Code of Ethics: No Change from 2022

Communication practices & handling complaints: No discussion

Discuss board development opportunities and attendance: Event coming up in May – Mark Tucker shared information on the event in Burlington.

Appointment of the voting delegate for statewide health insurance: Not necessary this year.

Signers of Warrants: Frank Kampf is the primary signer with Ellen Cairns as the backup signer.
Nominated by Rory Thibault. Nomination passed.

Adoption of vision statement: No Change from 2022

Public Comment – none

Consent Agenda:

Meeting Minutes from

- January 23rd, 2023
- January 25th, 2023
- February 22nd, 2023

A **motion** to approve the 3 minutes noted above by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Chris Tormey. Motion passed.

Student Report – Camryn Hoffman was present.

5 project studios currently running:

- Unions/Big Business – looking at labor laws, strikes, how the union serves the business world.
- Botany of Books – plant and animal evolution and the different eras.
- Indy Film – learning about lighting, camera and sound work, creating characters.
- Locals Field Guide – General VT history course.
- Weather Station – learning about the composition and structure of the atmosphere.

Year-round classes: AP Environmental Science, Journalism, Spanish and Senior X (internships being completed). Seniors are finalizing their final projects. Board discussion on Senior projects and the meaning of early college. Camryn spoke to the board about her internship at the Danville Health Center.

Spring sports are beginning.

Principal Report – Becca was present to highlight a few items in her report.

- Becca mentioned that the Community Schools Grant funds a lot of the items from the project studios noted above. Currently have one more year with the grant.
- Faculty learning about schools that operate in the same format as Cabot School. Teachers have traveled to Maine to see other project based schools and share thoughts and ideas.
- Spring will be a busy time. Becca discussed what each of the grades are working on.

Sonia Scherr – Vermont Afterschool youth driven projects – Cabot was one of the communities selected.

Cabot formed a youth council, they are doing research to see what Cabot already has for resources and what they are missing that can be created/purchased. Funds will then be used for resources that are identified as needed.

Playground update – enough funds have been raised to start the project.

Superintendent Report – Mark Tucker was present to highlight a few things from the report.

- Pcb remediation cost is still being worked out.
- The second round of source testing for pcb has taken place at Cabot.
- Grant funding to fix the wood chip plant – fell about \$20k short. Will need to use Capital Reserves to cover the shortfall. Grant was for around \$200k.
- The SU did not make it through the first round of the Renew America Grant. When it is opened up again, Mark Tucker will resubmit.
- Becca has signed a two-year contract extension with Cabot School.

Discussion on providing spec ed paras for students that belong to Cabot but attend a different school.

Discussion on staff openings foreseen for FY24. Board discussion on finding candidates and factors involved. The Vermont housing market creates an issue for candidates thinking about moving into the State.

Question on if the pcb is in the ceiling, if it is sealed and repainted, will it continue to be tested? Mark Tucker is not sure what the full process will look like, but it will be monitored for a period of time.

Student Service Report – no discussion

Board Discussion

Monsanto Lawsuit (Discussion/Possible Decision to Join) Lawsuit is for school districts in Vermont that are affected by pcb. There is no financial risk. The CCSU board advises that any school affected should join. Each school can decide on their own.

A **motion** by Ellen Cairns to join the lawsuit and seconded by Chris Tormey. Motion passed. Rory Thibault and Frank Kampf abstained.

Climate Survey Results (Discussion) – Board discussion on the results. Becca noted that the staff is working hard to build an intentional, positive environment. Cabot is a divided community, it will take time to build a cohesive, positive culture. The staff is working hard towards that goal. Staff is visiting other schools, some will be attending the Best Institute, and using resources available to improve the culture. The survey results are not falling on deaf ears. Discussion on accountability and holding students accountable for certain behaviors. The school worked with Lamoille County and the feedback came back that there is not enough consistency within the model used. The board does not like to hear that students would prefer not to attend Cabot. Discussion on what can be done to make sure that students want to stay. Discussion on staffing and utilizing staff.

Planning for Annual Board Retreat (Discussion/Possible Action) – Would like to invite the Leadership Team and any staff that would like to attend. Rory spoke on the issues that will be addressed at the board retreat. Looking at Wednesday, May 31st at 4 PM.

Planning for Teacher Appreciation Week (Discussion) – Will look at school hoodies for the staff.

Future Meetings: Cabot Regular Meeting: Monday, April 24th, 2023

A **motion** to adjourn by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Chris Tormey. Motion passed.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nicky Cole