

“Approved”
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 3, 2023
Cabot School – In person & Zoom
6:00 p.m.

Call to order by Rory Thibault

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.

Public Comment:

Brittany Butler: Concern over bathrooms that are not gender specific.

Sharon Kulsic: National failure of children’s literacy instruction. What is the school doing to lift literacy throughout the whole school district?

Frank Kampf: Question on why the Cabot agenda does not have a section called Other Business? That can be added.

Consent Agenda:

Meeting Minutes from

- March 6th, 2023
- March 27th, 2023

A **motion** to approve the minutes noted above with the corrections noted for March 6th by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Chris Tormey. Motion passed.

Student Report – Camryn Hoffman was present.

Some classes highlighted:

- Meteorology Class
- Film Class
- Botany of Books
- Bread & Roses
- Music Class – Spring concert will take place
- Senior Projects

Students are working on finishing up their internships.

Discussion on how the project studios get selected.

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

- Literacy work

- School gardens are being worked on
- Playground moving forward
- Exhibitions will be taking place
- Graduation

Discussion on open positions that are being hired for and turnover at the school. Discussion on what might be causing the turnover.

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

- School facility analysis – visiting Cabot in July.
- PCB testing – engineer working on corrective action plan. Mark is cautiously optimistic that the State will fund 100% of the remediation costs
- State school wide testing has started. New platform - many issues with the testing platform.

Question on gym ceiling dealing with the PCB. Mark noted that even though it possibly sounds like it could be a straightforward fix, when dealing with PCBs, it is not an easy fix.

Indoor Quality Project - A **motion** to approve the indoor air quality project in the amount of \$56,598 to be funded by a grant from Efficiency Vermont by Chris Tormey and seconded by Ellen Cairns. Motion passed.

Student Service Report – no discussion

Curriculum Report – no discussion

Board Discussion

School Culture and Discipline – Board and public discussion on the school culture and the discipline action plan that is in place. Some talking points are below.

Mark spoke on the trauma factor for certain students and what Cabot does to help these students. It has been noted that some feel like students are being rewarded by being removed from the classroom. Students are removed so that they can work on self-regulation and calming practices. Discussion on approaches used and which ones work and which ones do not. The same approach does not work for all students. Cabot leadership team meets once a week to address issues that arise. Discussion on space and how it is used. Discussion that removing a child from the classroom can be viewed from the student's point of view as a reward. Student discussion that there is not consistency for behaviors. Thoughts on the school having a form that needs to be signed and returned by the parent to acknowledge that they received the information on a child's behavior. Discussion on cell phone use in the classrooms.

BLM and Rainbow Flags: Tabled until next meeting

C29-District Equity Policy: Tabled until next meeting

Tax Anticipation Note –

Mark gave a brief description of what the TAN is and the function of the TAN. Passumpsic Savings Bank had the best bid. Cabot needs a TAN in the amount of \$925,387.

A **motion** to approve the TAN noted above with PSB by Rory Thibault and seconded by Frank Kampf. Motion passed.

Superintendent Interim Hiring Authority - Allows the Superintendent to hire candidates after a discussion with the board chair or vice chair vs having to wait for a board meeting.

A **motion** to authorize the Superintendent interim hiring authority after discussion with board chair or vice chair by Frank Kampf and seconded by Ellen Cairns. Motion passed.

Planning for Annual Board Retreat (Discussion/Possible Action) –Wednesday, May 31st at 4 PM.

Brock Miller Leave of Absence 2023-24 SY – A **motion** to approve the leave by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Chris Tormey. Motion passed.

Lauren Watson Leave of Absence 2023-24 SY – A **motion** to approve the leave by Rory Thibault and seconded by Ellen Cairns. Motion passed.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee – VSBA will handle the evaluation process. Ellen Cairns will represent the Cabot board. A **motion** to appoint Ellen Cairns by Rory Thibault and seconded by Chris Tormey. Motion passed.

Discussion of the childcare center at the adjoining Church – would like to take some of the driveway space and create an outside play area. Board will consider granting access to school property once a clear plan is drafted.

Future Meetings: Cabot Regular Meeting: Monday, May 22nd, 2023

A **motion** to adjourn by Frank Kampf and seconded by Ellen Cairns. Motion passed.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nicky Cole