

“Approved”
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, May 22, 2023
Cabot School – Zoom and In-Person
6:00 p.m.

Call to order by Rory Thibault at 6pm

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:

None

Consent Agenda:

Meeting Minutes from

- May 3rd, 2023
- May 15th, 2023

A correction to the spelling of Sharon Kulsick’s name on the **May 3rd** minutes, and a grammatical change suggested by Ellen Cairns. A **motion** to approve the revised minutes by Chris Tormey, seconded by Jason Monaco. Motion passed.

A motion to approve the **May 15th** minutes by Rory Thibault, seconded by Jason Monaco. Motion passed with Frank Kampf and Ellen Cairns abstaining as they did not attend the meeting.

Student Report – Camryn Hoffman was present. Some classes highlighted:

Botany of books -

- Working on garden planning native plants in the front garden
- Analyzing poems with our specific native plant in it
- Advanced credit tbd

Bread and roses -

Strike stuff + Milk w/ Dignity Campaign

- Sending postcards to Hannaford

Weather report -

- Making videos of daily weather report + 3-day forecast

Indie film -

- Concluding shooting of the two short films
- Continuing the editing process of the short films
- Start on “marketing” (film posters, info posters)
- Building up to the screening of the two films on June 9th

Journalism -

- Yearbook done

AP Exams -

- Completed exam, now doing a project on an environmental disaster (make a rap, short story, website, video)

Principal Report – Becca was present to highlight a few items from her written report:

- Visits by the AOE Act 67 Community Schools team and the Upper Valley Educators Institute
- The establishment of three Habits of Character that are important to us (Respect, Responsibility and Perseverance)
- Changes for next year, including
 - Shifting to Semesters and quarters - this will help us align to surrounding schools, give students the opportunity to engage in more project studios, and align more aptly to offerings.
 - Deeper curriculum work in context based literacy. Using the EL Education Curriculum as a guide, we are aligning our projects to literacy learning (this work was started this year and will deepen in the elementary grades next year).
 - Habits of Work and Learning that are taught, celebrated and reflected on regularly and reported on report cards. This work is aligned to the behavior response matrix that we are working towards having more transparency and clarity around for the fall.
 - All students in grades k-6 will utilize Illustrative Math as a core math curriculum.
- A review of upcoming events from a very busy end-of-year calendar

Superintendent Report – No additional discussion as this report was covered when the Board met on May 3rd.

Board Discussion:

- BLM and Rainbow Flags: Continuation Camryn Hoffman reported on the survey of high school and staff regarding the continued flying of the BLM and Rainbow flags. Jason Monaco expressed again his disagreement with these flags, as he feels they are divisive. Discussion turned to the appropriateness of flying these flags on the same flagpole as the U.S. Flag. Frank Kampf had a number of questions about the policy that addresses the flying of the flags, and which outlines the process for reaffirming their presence every year. The policy calls for making this decision immediately following the annual reorganization meeting, but that did not happen this year due to a series of complex board agendas that had not allowed time to address this until now. Frank questioned the timing of the decision, and the fact that students who are graduating have a voice in whether the flags will fly *next* school year, and wondered if it made more sense to make this decision in the fall at the start of the school year. Rory pointed out that changes to the flag policy itself was not warned for discussion or action on this agenda, and then moved to approve the continued flying of these flags. Motion seconded by Chris Tormey. A brief discussion of whether it would be possible to install a second flagpole; Mark said he would look into the cost. Rory called the motion, and it passed 3-1 with Jason voting no and Frank abstaining from the vote.
- Cabot Child Care Center - R.D. Eno from Cabot Community Association (CCA) and Aaron Page from Cabot Creamery appeared to outline a request for the Board to approve the use of a

portion of the driveway that runs between Cabot School and the church that will be the site of the Cabot Childcare Center that is proposed by CCA. Child Care licensing requires the installation of a fenced-in play area for the facility, and the proposed area between the buildings has been scoped out by licensing, the Town Fire Chief and the Fire Marshall to ensure the plan does not impact fire lanes. There was some discussion about using the soccer field that is behind the wood chip plant; that idea had been vetted and deemed problematic because it would require the center workers and the children to cross school property just to reach it. Discussion of the need to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the school and the CCA to ensure the school is held harmless in the case of problems in the play area. Mark will have our attorney draft an MOU. Motion to approve the plan by Chris Tormey and seconded by Ellen Cairns. Motion carried unanimously.

- C29-District Equity Policy - The CCSU Board recommended that District Boards adopt this model policy, and the question came before this Board. Cabot already has its own policy, which was adopted around the time that the BLM and Rainbow flags were first raised, and the Board briefly discussed whether this policy was also needed. Jason had some questions about the difference between equity and equality; this was discussed. Rory recommended this policy be adopted for continuity with the rest of the CCSU districts. He moved the adoption of the policy, Chris seconded, and the motion carried 4-1 with Jason voting no.
- Update on PCB Mitigation - Mark reported that we are still waiting for formal advice from DEC on the options for fixing the gym roof. The Legislature agreed to fund testing, mitigation and remediation at 100%, but that is embedded in the Appropriations bill, which had not been signed at this date.
- Update on Hiring - Rebecca briefly outlined her progress on filling positions. Many candidates are in the pipeline.

Other Business

- Future Agenda Items - Discussion of flag policy; Board goal setting

Future Meetings Cabot Board Retreat, Wednesday May 31st, 4pm

A **motion** to adjourn by Rory Thibault. Seconded by Chris Tormey. Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

Mark Tucker