Cabot School Sustainability Committee

Approved minutes of November 12, 2025 Meeting Cabot School Library

In attendance: Amy Richardson, Becky Nally, Melissa Pratt, Shannon Jenkins, Stef Burtt, Steve Owens and Chris Tormey

Meeting began at 4:07 PM

1. **Draft Minutes** of the committee's October 22nd meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. **This afternoon's meeting agenda** was reviewed and approved.

3. **Discussion:**

   A. **Act 73/Redistricting Update:**
   The State's Redistricting Task Force chose not to move forward with a draft map that would have placed Cabot into a merged "Supervisory District" comprised of students from the schools in Barre, Montpelier, Twinfield and the U-32 and Harwood school districts and governed by a single school board. The Legislature will make the final decision on how school districts will be organized when it reconvenes in January.

   B. **Planning for this year: building value in the community for Cabot School**

Shannon shared that increasing the amount of housing in Cabot would have many benefits, including increasing the number of students at Cabot School. Discussion ensued about current obstacles: High cost of new construction, challenging permitting process, and large number of pay-with-cash buyers.

Discussion next on three specific ways to build value this year:

I. **Make home-school families aware of Cabot School offerings**
   a. Value: *increased confidence/familiarity with Cabot School

*Increased learning opportunities for both home-school and Cabot School students

*Potential for increased enrollment

b. Making it happen:

*Contact Jackie Batten for menu of HS/MS project studios for Sem. II, and daily schedule of core classes/specials in Elementary grades

*Article describing opportunities/process for Cabot Chronicle and FPF (Chris) in the next month

II. Increase number of volunteers coming into school to share expertise

a. Goal: List of interested volunteers and their skills/experience that teachers can tap into when planning units

b. Value: * enhance learning

*broaden students' perspectives: potential careers

*Increase connection/understanding of school

c. Getting there:

- Nail down logistics of visitors in school:

Criminal background checks (check w/Jenn Tidd)

* Intro article asking for volunteers in FPF, Cabot Connects, and Cabot Chronicle (Chris and Shannon: draft for next meeting)

* Stef: phone connections

III. Plan, facilitate "Community Night" in gym on February 19, 2026

A. Goal: Get students, teachers, families and community members together to showcase student work across all grades

B. Value:

* Clearly inform: learning goals and how students students are working to reach them

* Opportunity for students to present "what and how" to families/community members

* Allow community members w/o kids in school to see how learning is taking place at Cabot

* Generally: Build understanding of school's teaching and learning ahead of school budget vote on Town Meeting Day

C. Getting there:

* Getting teachers on board:
  - Show "work in progress" w/o huge added burden
  - Event's hours count toward last day in June
  - Use P.D. time on 12/10 to present Event: Becky, Amy
  - Amy: will help students/teachers with presentation ideas

* Meal: - Work w/ Jennifer C. (spaghetti, lasagna?)
  - Our committee/School Board will prepare/serve
  _ Check w/ admin on funds for food

* Music: - Can use stage, but must clear off fitness equip.
  - Ask Jonny Flood about possible set

*Materials needed: tables, presentation stands (confirm we have enough)

*Logistics: -Students dismissed early 2/19 to allow teachers set-up time?
  - Our committee will help: setup & take down

  -Confirm w/ Jess N: no basketball that night

4. Next meeting: Wednesday Dec 3, 4:00- 5:15

Agenda: Nail down details of I, II, and II above

5. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM

(Draft minutes by Chris Tormey)

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