

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 Burt, 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)

