

Unapproved Minutes
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 23, 2025

Call to Order by Chris Tormey

Present: Ellen Cairns, Jason Monaco, Alicia Heber, Chris Tormey, Principal Jennifer Blake, Asst Superintendent Mike Moriarty, Interim Asst Principal Eric Nelis, Superintendent Matt Foster.
Frank Kampf – reporter.

Consent Agenda

A **motion** to approve the agenda by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Alicia Heber.

Minutes from May 27, 2025

A **motion** to approve with corrections and added language on the legislative update by Alicia Heber and seconded by Ellen Cairns. Motion approved.

Public Comments: None

Superintendent Report: Matt and Mike were present to highlight items.

Phone upgrades – Chris asked if the savings of the new system would offset the expense of the upgrades. Trying to have to avoid rewiring to save costs. Goal is to have hotspots and phones on a wireless connection.

Summer intern was hired to update the websites.

Substitute teacher program selected – went with two platforms. PowerSchool for sub finding and Tyler Technologies for hours tracking.

Principals Report – Jennifer was present to highlight a few items.

- Year-end celebrations took place.
- Roofing complete on one building – moving on to the other buildings. Siding is also being done.

Student Service Report – no discussion.

CIP Final Data Report – Mike Moriarty gave a presentation

Academic Achievement Goal – we use STAR assessment to measure math and ELA. Mike showed slides that shared the assessment results from the fall, winter and spring. The assessment data shows the percentage of students at or above the benchmark, on watch, need intervention and need urgent intervention. Jennifer Blake noted that in the past interventionists would have to step in to fill substitute spots and this year, that has not been a practice. This has made a big impact. The slides showed growth rates for students in math and reading.

Safe and Health Schools Goal – tracks major behaviors and attendance. In the past there was inconsistency with behavior reporting across the different schools. Using Swiss to determine and record what is considered a minor and major behavior. Tracking reasons why students are absent/missing school. Spoke on the challenges and reasons why students miss school.

Principal – Jennifer Blake – improvements for next year. Some points highlighted.

- Literacy – bookworms' program will be implemented.
- Will continue with Ufli for K-6th for phonics.
- Act 139 – becomes law on July 1st. Ensures that schools notify parents when students fall below the STAR benchmark – K thru 2nd.

- Question on when families are notified about STAR assessment results? Conference time and end of school year.
- STAR assessment will extend to 9-11 grades.
- Fluent readers by grade 3.
- Math – focusing on All Learners' Network – they provide PD time and work with staff.
- K-11 will be taking the STAR assessment.
- Social/Emotional - PBIS, rolling out level 1 for next year. Will have a wellness space for students. 7-12 grades will have a UVM intern that will be bringing counseling services to Cabot.
- Scheduling for students and staff.
- Project based learning development.
- PBIS – based on positive learning experiences.
- Communication practices used. Message out about the importance of attendance.
- Still hiring – have a few open positions.
- Eric noted the importance of teacher's being onboard with the new systems. With change can come resistance. But noted Jennifer does a great good working with staff.

Legislative Update – Bill H.454 – Chris spoke on the following.

- Class size minimums – class size is an issue for Cabot.
- Foundation formula – the more students in the school, the more funds received. As school size decreases, the foundation formula becomes a challenge.
- Reorganizing district lines for Vermont – options being looked at by the State. There are 3 options being looked at. The option that has the merger of supervisory unions to have a total of 4k students, would probably be the best outcome for Cabot.

A letter was read by Alicia regarding high school choice and closing grades 9-12. Closing the high school could be a good option for Cabot. Acting now gives Cabot the best option. Families are actively submitting for the lottery to go to another high school but then being denied due to lottery limits. Ellen noted that with high school choice, also comes the tuition rates that Cabot must pay for those students to the receiving school. Is there a pathway where the school choice is limited to only certain schools. This pathway would allow some funding control for budgeting. Discussion on having a Regional High School. Could be a benefit to the students. Matt does not feel like we will have the numbers for a Regional High School in the State's eyes. Discussion on if the school should still be having a lottery when Cabot needs to keep their class sizes. Alicia would like the high schoolers to have choice. Board agrees that the Supervisory Union option is best for Cabot.

VSBA – Letter addressing the VSBA. Many schools did not feel that the VSBA advocated for them with bill H.454. This letter addresses the concerns. Ellen and Chris discussed what was and was not advocated for by the VSBA. Discussion on eliminating support of Supervisory Unions.

A **motion** to accept Chris's letter and send to the VSBA by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Alicia Heber. Motion passed.

New Hires:

Sharon Caroli – Kindergarten/1st Grade

Lisa Olson – Librarian

A **motion** to approve the new hires by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Alicia Heber. Motion passed.

Teacher negotiations in final stages of being ratified.

A **motion** to adjourn by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Alicia Heber. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicky Cole