Cabot School Sustainability Committee

Draft Minutes for May 6, 2026 Meeting 4:00-5:15 PM Cabot School Library

In Attendance: Johanna Thibault, Stef Burtt, Theresa Lay-Sleeper, Amy Richardson, Rebecca Nally, Darin Carney and Chris Tormey

1. **Draft minutes** of the April 8, 2025 Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. **This afternoon's meeting agenda** was reviewed and approved.
3. **Discussion:**
   A. **Brief Introductions: Cabot School's new Principal Darin Carney**
   Committee members introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their interest in serving on the Sustainability Committee. Darin reviewed his background in education (as teacher, principal and superintendent), recounting that he'd tried unsuccessfully (twice) to retire. He's excited about working with students and staff at Cabot, and is happy that his schedule this spring has allowed him to begin at Cabot this week.
   B. **Progress on recent initiatives:**
   Johanna recounted her efforts to transfer a good deal of Cabot School's Facebook reporting to herself and later to another parent volunteer. She reviewed the challenges of having paid staff keep up with the regular process of getting the word out to parents and community members about daily and weekly activities at the school, and noted that both Danville and Twinfield have active Facebook pages (and assumes that parent volunteer(s) are shepherding those pages.
   Johanna noted that the SU office had some concerns about the transfer, and that other issues recently had pushed this effort to take a backseat in Steve's to-do list. Both Chris and Darin offered to check in with the SU office to try to identify and overcome whatever obstacles exist.
   C. **Update: School Reform Legislation progress**
   Chris reported that the Senate Education Committee had re-placed Cabot School District with Danville School District in its most recent map of new, enlarged Supervisory Unions. General discussion ensued about the status of the legislation: The House recently passed its bill supporting CESA's and voluntary school district mergers along party lines, and the Senate Education Committee is now trying to figure out whether to support the House bill or approve its own version for consideration by the full Senate. With Governor Scott continuing to promise to veto any bill that does include forced mergers of school districts, it's unclear when and how a final bill will be approved.
   D. **Review: Cabot School Board's conversation with Twinfield and Danville boards**
   Chris gave a brief summary of the conversation that took place at Cabot's school board meeting in late April: Twinfield is leaning strongly to joining the U-32 District, while Danville is hoping to continue to survive as an independent pK-12 school district regardless of what new governance requirements the Legislature arrives at. Chris described Cabot's situation next year, with a larger number of students choosing to attend career centers and other high schools.
   Danville Board chair Clayton Cargill described how their high school enrollment had dropped from 140 to 83 in just a few years (more students from Danville and other "choice towns" opting to attend St. Johnsbury Academy and Lyndon

Institute). He also stated that Cabot HS students would be welcome at Danville (plenty of room) but that he wasn't sure that the Legislature would allow "small mergers:" of two or three districts like ours. General consensus that the meeting had been valuable in hearing where each of our boards were at, but that any further discussion should wait until it's clear what future rules the Legislature includes in its reform legislation.

E. **Planning: Help w/ schoolwide Celebration of Learning Tuesday June 9**
Chris gave an overview of the draft schedule developed by the school's team leaders for the Celebration June 9:
   - Elementary-grade exhibitions during the school day
   - Middle- and high school exhibitions start at 5:00 or 5:30 PM
   - Band concert (HS and MS?) also at 5:00 or 5:30 PM (will confirm)

   Our Committee has agreed to organize and serve BBQ meal to the 200-250 folks expected to attend (Students, Staff, Families , Community members)
   On the menu:
   Hamburgers and hot dogs off the grill
   Cold salads (Noodle salad, potato salad, green salad, coleslaw)
   Lemonade, Iced tea, ice water
   Cookies, ice cream, watermelon for dessert

   Specifics:
   -Chris will ask Jennifer Curschmann to see if we can order hamburgs/dogs through the school's account, and reimburse that
   -Chris reached out to SU office to request $500 from school budget to fund food purchases for the event (SU office agreed)
   -Hopefully hamburgers can be ordered pre-made (intention is to use the Cabot School kitchen ONLY for hamburger and hot dog storage prior to)
   -Volunteers will make up salads/dessert items in their own kitchens
   -Chris will locate 2-3 grills along with volunteers to grill (Darin C. volunteered, IF apron is provided.)
   -Amy R. has a connection to a bakery in St. J: she will investigate discount-rate rolls for dogs/burgers
   -Amy/Becky will work on getting students to make posters for the event
   -Chris will write up article on the event for the June 1 Cabot Chronicle
   - Chris will put together and circulate a digital Sign-up Document for volunteers for set-up, food prep, food serving and cleanup

   The committee agreed to finalize planning for the event at our next meeting on Tuesday May 26.

4. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday May 26 at 4:00 PM

5. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM