

Approved Minutes
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Call to Order by Chris Tormey

Present: Ellen Cairns, Jason Monaco, Alicia Heber, Chris Tormey, Melissa Pratt, Principal Jennifer Blake, Asst Superintendent Mike Moriarty, Interim Asst Principal Eric Nelis
Members of the public and staff

Consent Agenda

Flag discussion moved up on agenda.

Minutes from April 28, 2025

A **motion** to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Public Comments: Johnny Flood, Netdahe Stoddard, Lauren Cleary, Luna Dunbar, Aedan Scribner
Shani Stoddard, Kyla Kerrigan, Louis Searles, Charles O'Connor, Billie O'Connor

- Johnny Flood – Survey that was rolled out regarding the flags and which flags should fly. The survey was sent to students with no discussion. It put a lot of unfair pressure on certain students, and made a lot of staff members feel concerned and frustrated. These are conversations we should be having more with our students and communities. Felt irresponsible.
- Kyla Kerrigan – staff was not included, very disappointed.
- Louis Searles – When these flags were raised, four presentations and discussions happened throughout that year. Students helped to set the procedure. Feel that the removal of the flags should go through the same procedures.
- Shani Stoddard – Comment on what the flags represent and that removing these flags is harmful. Worries about the way that this impacts the students. All students should feel safe. The school should be able to sit together and communicate.
- Former student – Cabot supports their neighbors and removing these flags is not protecting the most marginalized groups in the community. Taking down the flags is not a neutral act, it is an active act. It is spitting in the face of the marginalized groups.
- Member of public – In 2020 there was worry, and the flying of these flags was worked on. It was the power of the moment. Supports the flags continue flying.
- Member of the public – The flags were a process to get them up and it is a negative act to take them down. The flags are a symbol that this community is a safe place to live.
- Lauren Cleary – Remind school boards it is not their job to oversee day to day operations at the school.
- Shani Stoddard – Asked if there were any board members that would like to remove the flags, if they could raise their hand. Jason raised his hand.
- Luna Dunbar – students have expressed that they would not be happy with the flags being removed and the way it has been handled felt like a sneak attack.

Flag Discussion – Do we need two poles? Should the flags stay in place?

Do not need two poles, the regulations do not require it. That was incorrect information for this situation. Board also went back to review the process in 2020. Community forums were held; students shared their proposals with the community and student body. Chris read the policy and the procedures. Due to the policy, the flying of the flags was to be surveyed to see if they wish them to continue to be flown. Chris explained how the survey came about for this year. Noted it is important for the future that there does need to be discussions before.

Question on if a survey is necessary? Louis gave the background of the original survey.

Frank Kampf – The past board made a motion to no longer have annual votes but would leave it up to the administration.

Jason spoke that he does feel that the flags are divisive and political. It is not about supporting groups.

Alicia noted that they should make all feel welcome, not divisive. Could be used as a learning tool.

A **motion** to continue flying the flags on the pole and review the policy that needs to be followed to continue by Alicia Heber and seconded by Ellen Cairns. Motion passed.

Superintendent Report: Mike was present to highlight a few items.

- H454 – moved out of the Senate. Classroom size requirements are back in.
- Teacher negotiations met last week. Will meet again on June 4th.
- SU facilities director position has been filled.
- Curriculum director interviews have taken place. An offer has been made.
- Wrapping up spring assessments.

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

- PBL exhibition is June 3rd.
- June term is coming up.
- Newsletter is doing very well.
- Prom was amazing and went very well.
- Jacob Tidd inducted into Tech Honor Society.
- Field trips taking place.
- Update on open positions.
- No summer program this year.

Eric – wanted to thank everyone for this past year. Shared written thoughts with the board.

Student Service Report – no discussion.

Tax Anticipation Note -

Passumpsic Savings Bank has the best bid for the note.

A **motion** to approve the TAN by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Jason Monaco. Motion passed.

New Hires -

High School Social Studies – Dan Parrella

A **motion** to approve Dan Parrella by Jason Monaco and seconded by Alicia Heber. Motion passed.

School Nurse – Kristine Stecker

A **motion** to approve by Alicia Heber and seconded by Ellen Cairns. Motion passed. Question on what the budget impact will be? Michael Concessi will need to look at that.

Policy C29

A **motion** to approve Policy C29 by Ellen Cairns and seconded by Chris Tormey. Motion passed.

Policy D23

A **motion** to approve Policy D23 by Melissa Pratt and seconded by Alicia Heber. Motion passed.

Legislative Update – Chris Tormey gave an update. Conference committee working on the bill with the thoughts from the House and Senate. Once the bill is put back to a vote, it cannot be amended. Rural School Community Alliance would like the class size language to be removed, along with a change to the process of towns closing schools to include that a town is required to vote before a school is closed.

Chris wanted to apologize again for the survey and timing.

A **motion** to adjourn by Melissa Pratt and seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicky Cole