

Unapproved Minutes
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
CALEDONIA COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 6:00pm

Present: Jessica Roy, Dan Gingue, Jay Miller, Bobbie Roy, Heather Mulligan, James Hemond, Superintendent Mark Tucker, Principals Chris Miller, Luisa Millington, Anthony Fontana

Call to order by Superintendent Mark Tucker

Reorganization of the Board

- Elect Chair – Dan Gingue nominates Jessica Roy and seconded by Bobbie Roy. Nomination passed.
- Elect Vice-Chair – Bobbie Roy nominates Dan Gingue and seconded by Jay Miller. Nomination passed.
- Elect Clerk – Bobbie Roy nominates Heather Mulligan and seconded by Dan Gingue. Nomination passed.
- Elect 3 CCSU Board representatives – Jay Miller, Bobbie Roy, Hillarie Holbrook nominated by Dan Gingue and seconded by Heather Mulligan. Nomination passed.
- Committee Assignments:
 - Negotiations Council – James Hemond nominated by Heather Mulligan and seconded by Dan Gingue. Nomination passed.
 - Superintendent Evaluation Committee – Jessica Roy nominated by Heather Mulligan and seconded by Dan Gingue. Nomination passed.
- Signers of Warrants – Dan Gingue nominated by Jessica Roy and seconded by Bobbie Roy. Nomination passed.
- Alternate Signer of Warrants – Bobbie Roy nominated by Jay Miller and seconded by Dan Gingue. Nomination passed.
- Board member to conduct tuition student audit – Katie Callan handles this
- Set regular board meeting schedule – Second Monday of the month at 6PM – rotating between the schools. A motion by Dan Gingue and seconded by Bobbie Roy to keep the current schedule. Motion passed.
- Discuss timing of annual board retreat – talk about it in June
- Designate official newspapers and posting locations – schools, town clerks, websites, and Caledonian Record and possible Hardwick Gazette. A motion to stay with the same by Dan Gingue and seconded by Bobbie Roy. Motion passed.
- Discuss and adopt Code of Ethics – review and signed.
- Communication practices & handling complaints – Mark Tucker went over the practices and the chain of commands for complaints.

Approve Minutes of the following meetings:

- March 11th, 2024 – a motion to approve the minutes by Dan Gingue and seconded by Jay Miller. Motion passed.

Reports (Discussion)

Superintendent Report – Mark Tucker was present to highlight a few items.

- Interviewing for Multi-Tier Support Coordinator – grant funded position. Position is filled.
- Work underway in the House regarding Ed Funding laws.

Principals Reports – No written reports since they have already reported this month.

Student Service Report – No questions.

New Business

Add public comment after budget discussion.

Budget revote discussion -

Mark Tucker noted only 12% of the voter population turned out to vote. He suggested the board needs to help to improve the turnout. Discussion on signs and robocalls.

Mark Tucker showed where some cuts can be made. Special ed cost savings with existing students, two para positions at Waterford (1 is currently vacant, 1 will be a RIF), not fill an open BI position at Barnet, CFP funding available for Waterford, eliminate after school program, partial transfer of surplus.

Discussion with Principals on how they feel about the after-school program being eliminated? Disappointed but do not want to see daytime programs cut. It will remain in as a cut for now.

All items listed would be a cut of around \$850k. Board discussion on proposed cuts.

Mark Tucker gave a timeline for the revote. Will need to set a date for budget meeting, informational meeting and revote date. Propose having the revote on May 7 or 14th. Mark Tucker will check with the town clerks.

Public Comment

Ben Adams (Barnet) - tax residents are seeing an increase of 18 – 20% on property tax bill. Is it possible to see if the underground oil tank is truly leaking? Does it need to be replaced? The spending has not been done yet, just being investigated and seeing what grant funds are available and what local costs would be. Mike Bigelow noted the boilers are 12 years old. The last test on the oil tank was performed in the late 90's - it was noted to be a double walled tank. Will work to find out what the bottom line is for the project.

It was noted during Act-46 there was supposed to be a cost saving at administrative levels. Savings come with Supervisory Unions combining and schools falling under the same umbrella. Then each district shares the cost of the Supervisory Union.

Mark explained that the SU budget is approved by the SU board that consists of members from each school district. Mark explained what makes up the SU budget and how it is allocated to the schools as their assessment.

Eydie (Waterford) - postcards for the revote, would be great. Wanted to note that she also remembers the conversations around Act46. It does seem to be a big concern for taxpayers that they don't feel like they see the savings. Noted it can be hard to get budgets to pass with 3 schools sharing 1 budget.

Melissa (Barnet) - Regarding Special Ed, we never know what the next school year will bring. Question on enrollment – Waterford steady, Walden has also been steady. Question on if schools could share a principal? With schools of this size, it would have its challenges.

James (Barnet) - How can we communicate better to the voters to get a yes vote? He asks because even with cuts/decreases, it does not change the tax percentage that much. Jessica noted that the board will look at ways to get information out to get further participation.

Kate (Barnet) - State funding – is the way to change the formula for education funding through the State and have more taxpayers involved. Mark noted it is important for taxpayers to understand the changes that the State looks at.

Bill (Walden) - What was the percentage of students involved in the after-school program? About 20%

Thoughts on making the board minutes more accessible. Thoughts on sharing information on front porch forum.

Discussion on moving the school vote.

Kate wondered if the information meeting could be live in two locations with the third location zoomed in.

Tuesday, April 16th at 6:30 Meeting

Future Agenda Items:

Budget

Setting revote date

Warning

Informational Meeting

Changing the vote date for next year

Adjourned by Jessica Roy at 8:31 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicky Cole