

Approved Minutes
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BOARD MEETING
Monday, November 25, 2024 – 6 pm

Call to Order by Ellen Cairns

Present: Ellen Cairns, Jason Monaco, Alicia Heber, Erica Fucello, Superintendent Matt Foster, Asst Superintendent Mike Moriarty, Interim Principal Jennifer Blake, Director of Finance Michael Concessi, Chris Tormey

A **motion** to accept the agenda by Alicia Heber and seconded by Jason Monaco. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Minutes from October 28, 2024

A **motion** to approve the minutes by Alicia Heber and seconded by Erica Fucello. Motion approved.

Public Comment

Brandy Goodrich – Personnel issue. Matt excused himself at this time to speak with Brandy about the issue.

Reports

Superintendent Report – Mike Moriarty highlighted a few items.

- VREC Grant – still working to get some clarity around this grant.
- Looking at ways to communicate with families around students' progress.
- Strategic Planning Meeting – had about 45 participants. Team is made up of the SU leadership team, community members, students (would like more students involved). Topic for this meeting was the future of the world and what students need to go out into the world. Dec. 3rd will be the next meeting date.

Erica – Any further news on an SU wide disciplinary action system? Currently tracking behavior issues to form a common behavior action plan.

Principal Report – Jennifer Blake was present to highlight a few items.

- Working on tobacco prevention.
- Harvest meal is coming up.
- Boiler – curing process, brought up to full heat and stayed on. Rick will do some training; this will make it so all maintenance staff will know how to run the boiler.
- Para positions being hired.
- There was some vandalism in the school. Working on getting some more cameras installed. The vandals have been identified and are doing the repairs.

Student Report – highlights:

- Students working on podcasts
- Writing to the paper

- Christmas Market is coming up
- Spirit week is coming up

Student Services Report – no discussion

FY26 Budget – Michael Concessi was present to present the preliminary budget figures.

Every dollar that the SU receives is by the State/Federal government or the schools. The FY26 SU budget is just shy of \$14 million. The cost per district is mostly site specific for special ed, food service, transportation. Directors in these fields are allocated out.

Special ed is the largest expense portion of the SU budget. Revenue for special ed comes in from Act 173 census block grant and extraordinary reimbursement. Expenses that are not covered by these revenues is what is assessed to the schools. About 5 million is reimbursed and then about 4 million is assessed. All schools are seeing a decrease in the assessment amount except Twinfield.

There will be an SU wide facility director for the FY26 year.

Cabot is looking at a flat budget for FY26 – there is no increase from FY25. Michael went over the budget line items for the FY26 budget. There is no prior year deficit being brought over for FY26.

Ellen asked if Cabot needs a rainy-day fund? Seems like most districts have one. At this point, Cabot does not. Cabot could start one. It could be created in an article to be voted on during town meeting.

Michael went over the budget line changes so that the board members could take notes by the function codes.

Still waiting on the State figures to finalize the budget.

Sustainability Committee – Would like to increase the understanding of the community on what the school does. Discussed how PBL works in the school and making it more understandable. How to present what the school does – invite sending schools to events at the school. Importance of communicating to the community that the FY26 budget is flat. Ellen wondered if maybe hiring a part time marketing person for the school would be valuable. Matt discussed an option of a PR firm that operates on a sliding scale based on student enrollment.

Retreat Date – Saturday, January 18th 9-12 with a pot-luck lunch after. Chris Tormey will host. Does the board want to hire a moderator? VSBA charges \$150 an hour plus mileage. The retreat will focus on the new District Quality Standards and the vision for the board, as well as general working of the board. No moderator is needed. Ellen will resend the old agenda draft that can then be altered.

December Meeting Date: Will hold off on setting the date for now. Originally scheduled for December 23, will set a new date. Possibly will meet on December 17th at 6 PM.

A **motion** to enter into Executive Session session in accordance with 1 V.S.A 313 (a)(3) Appointment, employment, or evaluation of a public officer or employee, by Chris Tormey and seconded by Alicia Heber. Motion passed.

Out of Executive Session – board will take no action.

A **motion** to adjourn by Chris Tormey and seconded by Erica Fucello. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicky Cole