

Approved Minutes
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, January 22, 2024 – 6:00 pm

Call to Order by Ellen Cairns

Present: Ellen Cairns, Chris Tormey, Jason Monaco, Frank Kampf, Erica Fucello, Superintendent Mark Tucker
Absent: Principal Rebecca Tatistcheff

Consent Agenda:

A **motion** to approve the agenda by Chris Tormey and seconded by Jason Monaco. Motion approved.

Approve Minutes from

December 19th, 2023

January 4th, 2024

January 10th, 2024

January 15th, 2024

A **motion** to approve the minutes noted above by Chris Tormey with a second from Jason Monaco with changes. No vote.

A **motion** to table the minutes by Chris Tormey and second from Jason Monaco. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Elizabeth Vitale: Wanted to inform the school board that she has posted a few things on Front Porch Forum. She is then asked questions – but those asking questions don't feel comfortable approaching the school/school board. Would like to know what the school & school board can do to make community members feel more comfortable.

Board Reports

Principal Report – no discussion

Superintendent Report – Mark Tucker was present

- The PCB remediation process has passed through the options phase. Waiting for word from DEC on next steps.
- State bills – Emily Kornheiser letter – Mark does not feel like this letter applies to the budget decisions in any CCSU schools. It has to do with districts that were well below the 10% pupil ed spending threshold but increased their spending to stay below the 10% but still get to be capped at 5%. Mark gave an example of a district that has done this with their budget. If every district that had the ability to do this did, it could potentially add \$200 million to the ed spending fund. The legislature is looking into how to handle this.
- H634 – if a school district votes to close part of its school, it is required to send students to a public school. Schools can have up to 3 designated public schools. It removes the Independent Schools as an option. If this passes it goes into effect July 1, 2024. Does not affect schools that already have school choice.

Student Service Report – no discussion

Board Discussion

CVCC Budget Presentation – Jody Emerson was present to go over the CVCC budget.

Went over the goals

- Long term planning – trying to build up to a full day. Last year they had to turn away over 200 students. Will have to turn away students again this year.
- Educational Quality
- Community Engagement

How are applicants picked? Jody went over the methods for selecting.

Jody went over the conditions that affect the budget. Some of those items are:

- Economy
- State Regulations
- Student Population
- Salary Increases
- Facility Costs
- Health Insurance Rate Increases

Jody compared the tuition rates for CVCC with other tech centers in Vermont.

Discussion on how Cabot students apply and attend the programs at CVCC.

Public discussion on how wonderful the CVCC is. Once accepted into the program, the students remain accepted the following years.

Community Use of School Facility - current policy does not state that liability insurance is required at the Cabot or SU level. Mark noted the easiest resolution is to bring the policy up for amendment at the SU level. Once it is recommended for adoption with that addition by the SU, it will come to the districts for adoption. Mark noted since it is not a required policy, once the recommended adoption takes place at the SU level, the boards can alter it before their own adoption of the policy.

District Election Communications Plan -

The board has their recycling center rotation set up.

Chris – January 27, Erica - Feb 3, Chris – Feb 10, Erica and Ellen – Feb 17, Chris and Ellen – Feb 24, Erica and Ellen - March 2.

Chris is working on flyers and he discussed the information that will be included.

Discussion on community forum dates. The flier will be mailed around February 12th. Will give Becca a February 21st as a date that works with the board, will check with Becca to make sure it works with her schedule as well.

Frank thought it would be good to produce a voting guide after each article. Explain the articles and what each means regarding the operation of the school.

Frank received a quote from the Chronicle to buy four pages in an upcoming edition. The board will have further conversations with the Chronicle. When it gets closer to the paper's deadline, the board can let the Chronicle know how much space they would like to purchase.

Question on if having a drop box at the recycling center would be a good idea for questions and comments that people don't feel comfortable asking or sharing in person. Ellen felt that if town members have questions, there are many avenues to ask questions. Ellen noted again she is available to have a conversation anytime, town members just need to reach out. The board is very approachable. It was noted that some individuals have anxiety and simply can't communicate the questions. An anonymous box will be placed at the recycling center. The board will answer any questions either directly if they want or on the Front Porch Forum.

Social Media Posts – The board discussed using posts to answer questions and write short posts regarding the budget. The board discussed current questions they are hearing in the public and they can start by addressing some of those. Frank noted it would be good to create links to answer certain questions. A google document will be created that can be hyperlinked to.

Johanna – Wanted to share some feedback that she has been hearing. One question/comment that comes up often is people are feeling offended if they are in the income percentage that is affected. Also, confusion on the ballot options with having both school choice and the actual FY25 budget that funds a PreK-12th grade school. Ellen noted right now there are just no clear answers. The board will be explaining all the options the voters will be seeing on the ballot and the impact of each.

Ellen will be at the Den most mornings. She will share her dates on the forum.

Frank will start working on the guide for the articles on the ballot.

Discussion on Informational Meeting with board meeting prior on February 26th. Board will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 with an Information Meeting at 6:30 PM. Will not do anything on the 21st.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicky Cole