

“Unapproved”
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ BOARD MEETING
Monday, July 24, 2023
Cabot School – In person & Zoom
6:00 p.m.

Call to order by Ellen Cairns at 6:00

In attendance: Ellen Cairns, Jason Monaco, Chris Tormey, Frank Kampf, Superintendent Mark Tucker, Principal Rebecca Tatistcheff, and Board-candidate Erica Fucello

Ellen proposed tabling the Board Goal Setting agenda item until next meeting when we will have a full board seated. Frank moved to approve the agenda with the tabled item, Chris seconded, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda:

Meeting Minutes from

- June 26th, 2023

A motion to approve the minutes by Chris Tormey, seconded by Jason. Minutes approved on a vote by Chris, Ellen and Jason. Frank abstained because he did not attend.

Principal Report – Becca gave a brief update:

- Working on contacting families and students who were affected by the recent floods
- Plans to utilize volunteer help to prepare the playground area have been affected by the flood. In order to get anything done this year, we have contracted out the site work. Chris Tormey asked if this would exhaust all of the money that had been raised for the playground. - no. We remain hopeful that we will have a playground at least partially in place for next school year.
- Still have 4 open positions - HS ELA, Paraprofessional. middle-grade interventionist, and a food service worker. This was communicated to families in a message that went out today. Becca will send an August update to families introducing all new staff.
- The building was closed in July but the office will be open again starting on Monday 7/31.
- Ellen asked if the Board can be included on the messaging that goes out to families. This is done using SchoolMessenger. Mark will look into setting this up.

Superintendent Report – Mark Tucker was present to highlight a few things from the report.

- Fall soccer has been impacted by the flooding. The two fields in Cabot are unusable and cannot be recovered in time for fall play. Same thing with the lower field at Twinfield. The AD is looking at reconfiguring another field at Twinfield for soccer play.
- FEMA was at Twinfield this past weekend taking reports from Cabot, Plainfield and Marshfield residents.

- Thu-Sat this week, the State is setting up a Multi-Agency Response Center (MARC) at Twinfield School.
- Update on some facility issues: Oil Boiler will be repaired in August. Wood Chip combustor will be repaired this fall. We offered an incentive to the company to finish the work by 12/31 - 10% over their bid price - which will more than be covered by savings on fuel oil.
- Discussion of other infrastructure work - administration is preparing an outline of projects based on the campus walk thru at the June meeting. Aim is to have some projects priced out in time for budget season so the Board can consider and propose a funding mechanism.

Student Services Report – no report

Board Discussion

Appointment to fill Board Vacancy - Erica Fucello attended and answered questions from the Board about her interest in serving. Frank moved to appoint Erica to the seat vacated by Rory Thibault, to serve until the next district election. Chris seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

FY22 Audited Financial Statement - Mike Concessi was attending remotely, and had difficulty with his audio. Board agreed to table this item for the next meeting.

Literacy Instruction - Becca gave a brief overview of changes to literacy instruction to shift emphasis towards phonics and to more closely align it to the project-based approach to learning across the school. These changes will apply across K-12.

Board Goal Setting - Tabled

Communication Plan-The Board had a wide ranging discussion of various aspects of communication needs, and identified three constituencies in the community: Parents with students in the school; community members with prior connections to the school who support the school; and residents who have no connection and possibly no interest in the school. They outlined a rough schedule for articles to be written over the next five months for publication in the Cabot Chronicle and elsewhere.

Potential additional summer retreat - Some discussion about a Board-only retreat to discuss Board governance and refinement of Board processes.

Other Business – none

Future Meetings: Cabot Regular Meeting: Monday, August 28th, 2023

A **motion** to adjourn by Chris Tormey and seconded by Jason Monaco. Motion passed.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Tucker