

“Unapproved”
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 26, 2022
Cabot School – In person & Zoom
6:00 p.m.

Call to order at 6:00 PM by Rory Thibault

In attendance: Chris Tormey, Rory Thibault, Frank Kampf, Jason Monaco, Ellen Cairns, Superintendent Mark Tucker, Principal Rebecca Tatistcheff, Community Engagement Coordinator Sonia Scherr, Student Reps Eryne Searles and Lyndsay Maxfield

Member of Public: Amy Hornblas - Expressed her concerns about masking

Consent Agenda:

Meeting Minutes from

- August 22, 2022

A **motion** to accept the minutes by Chris Tormey and seconded by Frank Kampf. Motion passed. Ellen abstained because she was not in attendance

Student Reports - new reps Eryne and Lyndsay were in attendance

- Eryne reported on project studios he is participating in, including a history class focused around pirates; soap-making (science) which is a popular and repeat project at Cabot.
- Lyndsay reported on her classes, including science class focused on the physics of rocket design, building and launching; Where’s Walden, which is a nature-based course exploring the land in the area including an overnight camping experience. She also reported on music classes that are learning to make music on instruments from around the world.

Principal Report – some points in addition to Becca’s written report:

- Becca added to Lyndsay’s report to announce that the school received a grant to support the rocket class.
- Students continue to do a great deal of learning outside, while the weather allows.
- The PTO held its first meeting and they are actively seeking additional members
- Work is ongoing on improvements to the school’s data collection processes
- Sonia reported on the after school program, which is already in week three. The sessions are organized around clubs. The school continues to get financial support for the program beyond what we provide with ESSER III funds. Additionally, there is a deliberate effort underway to expand community involvement in and between the school and the wider community

Superintendent Report – Mark Tucker was present to go over his report.

- We have had some absences amongst our school nurse population - this has impacted health services in the schools, despite having three LNAs on staff.

Board Discussion

Meet the new administrators - Des Hertz (Curriculum Director), Jen Lemery (Curriculum Integration Specialist) and Anne Landry (Special Services Director) appeared and introduced themselves to the Board

Equipment Lease Approval - The school's tractor reached its useful life. Mark asked the Board to consider approving a three-year lease on a new Kubota tractor and attachments. Chris made a motion to approve the lease of the new equipment in the amount of \$456.70/month for three years, with a buy-out option of \$15,205 at the end of the lease period. Jason seconded. Motion carried

Conditional Approval of a grant-funded vehicle lease - CCSU has applied for an ARP-ESSER After School Grant, and within that application was the lease of a vehicle to transport students in the after school program who do not have adequate transportation to attend. The vehicle could also be used to transport students to and from TUS for sports practices and games, and other local transportation needs where it is not justified to use a full school bus. The funding is dependent on the approval of the grant itself by the AOE. Mark asked the Board to give conditional approval for a two-year lease of a 2022 Ford Escape SUV, in the amount of \$19,395.17 for each of the two years. At the end of year two, we will own the vehicle outright. Frank moved to approve this recommendation, Chris seconded. Motion carried.

PCBs in Cabot School - Mark updated the Board on the slow progress we are making with addressing the indoor PCB problem affecting primarily the use of the gymnasium. We have an approved work plan to have an engineer conduct the source testing and provide resulting recommendations for remediation. That work will commence on October 5th. Work continues on getting the State to pay for the testing and remediation.

School Board Vision Statement - Frank and Ellen shared a draft vision statement that focuses on three particular areas - collaboration with other SU schools; tracking graduation plans and progress towards goal achievement by our high school graduates; and, initiating and improving community-wide engagement. They asked the Board to affirm that they are on the right track, and affirmation was given. Next step is further refinement, with input from the rest of the Board and the administration.

A **motion** to adjourn by Ellen, seconded by Frank. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Tucker