

MINUTES
CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 4, 2008

Pursuant to the Warning as recorded and legally posted, the legal voters did meet at the time and place indicated and the following business was transacted:

The March 4th 2008 Cabot Annual School Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., as specified by the Warning. Motion by Chris Tormey to recess the meeting until 1:30 p.m.; seconded. Motion passed by voice vote. The meeting reconvened at 1:30 by School Board Chairperson Chris Tormey.

Article 1 – To elect a Moderator. Motion made and seconded to elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Ed Smith nominated, seconded. Declared nominations closed; Ed Smith elected Moderator unanimously by voice vote.

Article 2 – To elect two school directors by Australian ballot: one for 2 years and one for 3 years; Australian ballot results: School Director for 2 years, Niall McCallum (write-in) 50 votes. Niall McCallum was declared elected. School Director for 3 years, Roman Kokodyniak 423 votes. Roman Kokodyniak was declared elected.

Article 3 – Shall the voters of the Town School District approve the minutes of the March 6 2007 Annual School District Meeting? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Moderator stated the question. No discussion. Article 3 passed by voice vote.

Article 4 – To hear a report by the School Directors. Moderator read article 4; moved and seconded. Moderator stated the question. Chris Tormey provided a Power Point presentation of the proposed Cabot School Budget for 2008/2009 school year. The presentation included enrollment and small school comparison data, proposed budget increases and decreases from the previous year's budget, per pupil cost, budget versus impact on taxes and projected homestead tax rate. The presentation lasted approximately ten minutes.

Article 5 – Shall the voters of the Town School District approve the sum of \$3,477,367 necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2008? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Jessica Miller referenced page 89 of the Town Report and questioned the \$345,852 Miscellaneous Revenue Source line item. Moved and seconded to suspend the rules in order to allow school officials not residing in the Town of Cabot to address the meeting. Two thirds vote required; motion adopted. Dave Larcombe, Business Manager, Washington Northeast Supervisory Union responded to the question referencing page 91 of the Town Report; stating that two categories, Local Funds, \$300,852, and Other Sources of Funds, \$45,000, combined are the miscellaneous revenue sources referenced on page 89. Kim Mayo questioned why the board members choose to include a .20 decrease in the Elementary (kindergarten) school position. Chris Tormey indicated that the decision was based on the anticipated decline in kindergarten students attending the Cabot School system next fall. Kim Mayo asked if this was a

permanent cut in the position. Chris Tormey responded that each year the school directors and school staff evaluate each teaching position and determine what increases or decreases are warranted based on maintaining a strong academic program while keeping the tax payer and limiting cost in mind. Dale Newton asked if the school directors had contacted the Twinfield school system to try to align school and vacation schedules to possibly allow school exchange programs, which had been a topic of discussion of the Declining Enrollment Committee and School Directors in the past. Chris Tormey indicated that this had not occurred but was still on the table. Jessica Miller referenced page 90 of the Town Report and questioned the \$141,190 Other Uses of Funds line item. Chris Tormey and Dave Larcombe both responded to the question indicating that these debts include the Cabot School Upgrade bond and UDAG Loan addressed on pages 113 and 114 of the Town Report and the wood chip plant. Dave stated the wood chip plant bond schedule would be included in next years Town Report. Jessica Miller referenced page 99 of the Town Report and questioned if this was referring to teacher continuing education program and if so why are we paying them benefits above and beyond the benefits they receive for being a teacher? Dave Larcombe stated that page 99 is referring to Teacher Education and that the budget presented is part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Meeting called for a paper ballot; seven required people stood for paper ballot. Results of paper ballot; 123 Yes, 67 No, Article 5 passed.

Article 6 – Shall the voters of the Town School District approve the sum of up to \$75,000 as a matching amount to support the construction of the Cabot Performing Arts Building? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Jessica Miller questioned why anyone would vote for this article before the matching funds are available; what happens if the matching funds do not become available? Chris Tormey stated that \$20,000 has already been raised and the school directors feel confident that the remaining \$55,000 could be raised. Dale Newton was concerned that the town was still paying on the previous improvements yet the school directors were willing to incur yet another debt. Bruce Westcott questioned if all options had been evaluated. Jack Daniels, Russell Brown, Jon Vara, Ed Feltus, Charles Butterick, Ellen Voight, Karen Alexander, and Cecile Johnson spoke in favor of the article. Sandy Smith and Cindy Hagget spoke against the article stating affordability and “can’t approve everything” concerns. Peg Elmer moved to view the School Directors Power Point presentation, seconded; approved by voice vote. Chris Tormey provided a presentation that included the building design, an estimate for cost and labor distribution, funding, and Tax impact. Ellen Blachly asked if the school directors had evaluated other locations such as the Willey building and Masonic Hall. Ken Gokey, Melvin Churchill, Jennifer Miner, Rusty Churchill and Steve Gregg spoke against the article. Emily Dale, Leonard Spencer and Caleb Pitkin spoke in favor of the article. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Meeting called for a paper ballot; seven required people stood for paper ballot. Results of paper ballot; 93 Yes, 86 No, Article 6 passed.

Article 7 – Shall the voters of the Town School District appropriate the audited fund balance as of June 30, 2008 for deposit in the Reserve Fund? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 7 passed by voice vote.

Article 8 – To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. None

Article 9 – To adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn; seconded. No further discussion; motion passed: Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Douglas Harvey, Town Clerk

Approved: /s/Ed Smith, Moderator
/s/Caleb Pitkin, Select Board Chair
/s/Chris Tormey School Directors Chair