

MINUTES
CABOT ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING – MARCH 5, 2012

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 5, 2012 Cabot Annual School Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by the School Board Chairperson, Chris Tormey.

William Walters moved to adjourn the meeting for five minutes and reconvene the meeting at the School Gymnasium; RD Eno seconded. No further discussion; motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:01pm.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

Article 1 – 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 three school directors by Australian ballot – one for one year, one for 2 years and one for 3 years; Moderator read the Article. Australian ballot results: School Director ballot results for 1 year, Ry Hoffman with 29 votes; for 2 years, Sharon O'Connor with 56 votes; for 3 years, Jacklyn Folsom with 205 votes.

Article 3 - Shall the voters of the Town School District approve the minutes of the February 28, 2011 Annual School District Meeting? Moderator read the Article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 3 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 4 – To hear a report by the School Directors. Moderator read the Article; moved and seconded. Chris Tormey discussed school progress on goals from prior years. Paul Stecker discussed needed repairs for school facilities and asked that volunteers contact the School Board to help consider possible solutions. Sharon O'Connor requested additional input from community members regarding the future of the Cabot School. Chris described the budget increases for 2012-2013 and impact to tax rate. Sharon asked to suspend the rules in order to allow the principal, not residing in Cabot, to address the assembly; no objections. Karen Stewart discussed progress toward 21st Century Education model, including class size, student mentors and guidance for online classes, and goals for the upcoming year. Dick Payne asked about the increase in bullying reported at the school and what was being done about it. Karen responded that the increase reflects an increased response to all types bullying behaviors, many which were not recorded or classified as bullying before. Behavioral specialists continue to work with the elementary and middle school students. Lynn Rockwell asked about online mentors for school staff. Karen responded that all online mentors are secondary school teachers and assigned by availability. Merlene Codling asked for an explanation of independent pathways to graduation program. Karen responded that children will be freer to design a curriculum with teachers to pursue their interests. The program is monitored carefully and is competency based. No further discussion.

Article 5 – Shall the voters of the Town School District approve the sum of \$3,634,987 necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2012? Moderator read the Article; moved and seconded. Roz Daniels asked about the decrease in the school library funding. Karen responded that it is not a decrease but a budgetary move to different line items. Caleb requested a breakdown of the amount to reflect how much will come from local taxes and moved to amend the Article to state, 'Shall the voters of the Town School District approve the sum of \$3,634,987 necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2012, with \$2,092,773 to come from local taxes and the remainder to come from other sources.'; seconded. Chris responded that he hesitates to put an exact amount on the Article. RD Eno moved to amend the amendment to state, 'Shall the voters of the Town School District approve the sum of \$3,634,987 necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2012, with an estimated \$2,092,773 to come from local taxes and the remainder to come from other sources.'; seconded. The amended amendment has been approved by voice vote. No further discussion. Moderator stated the amended question. Meeting called for paper ballot; required seven people to stand. Results from paper ballot: Yes – 70, No – 35. Article 5 adopted by paper ballot.

Article 6 – Shall the voters of the Town School District appropriate the audited fund balance as of June 30, 2012 for deposit in the Reserve Fund? Moderator read the Article; moved and seconded. Ken Williams asked whether salary increases are scheduled for next year. Chris responded that there will be an increase of \$117,000 for salaries and pensions, and the under budget of the substitute line item. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 6 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Article 7 – To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Moderator read the Article. Fred Ducharme asked whether the school meeting could start at 7pm to accommodate workers. The Moderator stated that it would not be binding, but could be petitioned for next year. Chris Tormey asked to recognize Linda Gabrielson for her service on the School Board.

Article 8 – To adjourn this meeting. Moderator read the Article; moved and seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Tara Rogerson, Town Clerk
Approved by:

Ed Smith, Moderator

Chris Tormey, School Board Chair