

CABOT PTO GENERAL MEETING NOTES

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017, 7:00 PM

CABOT SCHOOL LIBRARY

- **DISCUSSION WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, STEVE SIEGEL (WARD 5) & MARGARET ALBRIGHT (WARD 2)**
 - Steve Siegel & Margaret Albright introduce themselves and explain what they do
 - The School Committee is made up of 8 members plus the Mayor (Ex Officio member)
 - They approve the school budget and act as a liaison between the community and the School Board
 - Margaret Albright states that Letters of Interest have been submitted for Lincoln-Eliot, Franklin, and Countryside Elementary schools as the numbers at these schools have increased
 - School Committee also looking at what to do with the Middle Schools as their numbers are also growing
 - For children that live in buffer zones (no assigned schools for these addresses), School Committee chooses what school these kids will attend
 - Families can petition for certain schools
 - Margaret Albright states that the School Committee have expanded the buffer zones
 - There will be 80 more spaces at Cabot
 - It is anticipated that there will be new assignment lines up on the North side
 - Question asked about a buffer zone with Horace Mann
 - School Committee members state there is one on Court Street- those residents would all go to Cabot
 - There will be unequal sizes in the middle schools especially at Day & Bigelow
 - Dr. Fleishman states that Julie, the Director of Planning will be looking into it
 - Money has been set aside to have an architect look at the middle schools
 - Jen Abbott (PTO president) states that it is a high priority for kids at Cabot to attend the same middle school
 - After Cabot leaves Carr, Horace Mann Elementary will be moving into the space
 - Issues with Food Vendor this year
 - Alice Reynolds & Joanna Josephson state that several times this year, the food vendor ran out of different food items
 - Margaret Albright (Ward 2 Rep) directed them to contact Food Service director
 - Kevin Sloan asked how the PTO can best support the School Committee
 - Margaret Albright (Ward 2 Rep) says the best way is to show support for other schools, support walking/safe routes and the East Side Parkway drop-off at the future Cabot
- **DISCUSSION WITH SUPERINTENDENT, DR. DAVID FLEISHMAN**

- Dr. Fleishman states that Cabot has had a very positive principal search
 - Heidi Lucas adds that the process was very thorough
 - Dr. Fleishman says that Cabot's new principal, Eric Sprung has children at Zervas
- Speaks about the positives of Cabot being at Carr next year
- Tells us that on May 31st, a new math curriculum will be introduced
- He would like to do more professional development with the teachers
- Comments about school budget
 - Dr. Fleishman states they tried to preserve as much as possible
 - Most of the money comes from local revenue and this is capped
 - Transportation contract was tough, benefits and health care coverage went up and there was an increase in enrollment
- Classroom sizes
 - Dr. Fleishman says keeping class sizes small is expensive but there needs to be a balance
 - They're at least trying to preserve small class sizes for lower grades
 - Steve Siegal (Ward 5 Rep) adds we're at historic lows on class sizes in the lower grades
- Outdoor time for kids
 - Heidi Lucas (Teacher Representative) says they did expand outdoor time at Cabot and this was supported by the teachers
- **TIMELINE ABOUT CONSTRUCTION AT CABOT**
 - Starting in July, fences will be put around the perimeter of the school and something will be put up to protect the trees
 - Culvert will be repaired and that will take up most of July
 - Underground work will take up the entire summer
 - Playground will be unavailable starting in July
 - Playground structure looks like it will be moved to Ward Elementary
 - Jen Abbott (PTO president) states that PTO will be putting together play dates at the Carr playground so that families can get familiar with the new school
 - Ali Dunn asked if a playground for Cabot families will be put in place somewhere
 - Eva Thompson (Principal) states that this will be unlikely
- **NOTES ABOUT DRIVING/PARKING AROUND CARR**
 - No driving on Nevada Street before and after school
 - Nevada St. is between California St. & Linwood St.
 - Linwood St. has 2 hr parking
 - Absolutely no stopping on California St.
 - CASP pick-up will be on a side street
 - Kids won't have to walk far for bus pick-up
 - Eva Thompson (Principal) says there will be a future meeting on that
 - School committee members say that 85-90% of Angier/Zervas kids have taken the bus

- Annette Nedeljkovic asked if parents could still pick up their kids at Carr
 - Eva Thompson (Principal) states that parents should try to avoid early pick ups
 - Also there will be a communication system in place to let bus drivers know if kids are getting picked up. There will be no last minute pick-ups
- **PTO POSITIONS FOR NEXT YEAR**
 - Volunteers are needed (Executive Committee and various PTO chairs)
 - Roles are flexible
 - 2 spots are available on School Council (advisory board to support principal)
 - If have more than 2 candidates, we will have a silent vote at next PTO meeting
- **UPCOMING EVENTS**
 - Cabot Fair
 - need parents to help out
 - current Cabot Fair chairs recommended that 50th celebration should start when new Cabot opens, not next year
 - this event will be scaled down at Carr the next couple of years
 - Taste of the World
 - Color Day-need helpers and a coordinator
 - PMC Kids Ride in Natick with Ms. Cain
 - End of the Year Class Picnics
 - 5th Grade Transition Ceremony
- **PTO BUDGET (Nicky Chapman, Treasurer)**
 - Because of surplus, fundraising was not as aggressive this year
 - This will need to change next year as we have spent down this year
 - Cap on Equity Items is \$16,000.00
 - PTO previously has given staff members \$275.00 to start out the year
 - Campaign for Cabot (CFC) raised \$32,000 this year
 - This amount does not cover the equity we have spent
 - Next year, the CFC goal will be around \$50,000.00
 - Spring Fling should be done next year to raise more funds
 - If fundraising goals keep falling short, hard decisions will need to be made
- **Vote to approve meeting minutes from PTO Mtg. on 12/13/16**
 - Joanna Josephson made motion to approve, Nicky Chapman and Kevin Sloan seconded the motion, and PTO members all approved motion

MEETING ADJOURNED