

## REPORT ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OF May 21, 2013

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

**Note: (1). These are not official minutes -- -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the School web site following School Committee approval at the next meeting.**

(2). If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

(3). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at Rick Freeman's Town Meeting website:

[www.singingbridge.net](http://www.singingbridge.net)

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2013 were approved.

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

RECOGNITIONS:

Mr. Carlson recognized Cindy Irving, Evan James, and Deb Tibodeau for helping the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students research the Trafton family farm.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Carlson mentioned a number of activities including:

Boat building is complete and ready for launch. Bob Trabona advised that we need to make sure the students can row adequately and then we are ready for launch. It should be ready on a nice day within the next couple of weeks.

Project Canopy will be setup and ready to start measuring growth in the next couple of weeks. 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades will each have a designated area.

The trip to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, a couple of weeks ago, was "amazing".

The school is sponsoring a hiking club for students and family.

He is developing a 6 week summer program for students, targeted at those who need help in math and/or reading. He plans to have a similar program, after school, in the fall. Note: This program is one element of strategy to address the D grade issue discussed at the School Budget Hearing.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Ms. King reviewed a number of items, including:

She recommended that Shawn Carlson be accepted as the AOS 98 Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology.

She reviewed current cash flow analysis. 23% of the budget remains. She pointed out that the remainder includes two months of summer pay for teachers as well as other bills that come due in May and June.

She provided a handout comparing "costs per pupil" for the schools within AOS 98 (copied below). This comparison was provided in response to questions raised at the School Budget Hearing. She noted that it is difficult to compare schools because their structures are different. Mr. Trabona noted that lumping K-12, including 8-12 tuition, into Georgetown costs distorts the numbers. It was also noted that Edgcomb is closest in structure and population to Georgetown. Note: I intend to do further research into "the numbers" to see if there is value in comparing the schools.

	School Admin	Special Ed	Regular Instruction
Boothbay	\$461,263	\$1,350,859	\$3,796,988
K-12 616	K-12 \$749	\$11,902	K-12 \$6,164
Edgecomb	\$127,206	\$412,490	\$1,162,975
K-6 81			
K-12 152	K-6 \$1,570	\$15,000	K-12 \$7,651
Georgetown	\$148,992	\$255,690	1,044,535
K-6 88			
K-12 122	K-6 \$1,693	\$11,622	K-12 \$8,562
Southport	\$116,735	\$76,374	\$296,977
K-6 32			
K-12 50	K-6 \$3,648	\$8,486	K-12 \$5,940

She discussed fencing of the school property: Mr. Carlson noted that two contractors had bids of approximately \$6,000 to put in the fence. As an alternative, materials would cost about \$600 and we could invite community members to provide the necessary labor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: none

OLD BUSINESS: The school committee wants to encourage use of local fruits and vegetables in school lunches. It was pointed out that there are restrictions on the state subsidy that may limit their use. It was agreed to research the rules and then decide what to do. Mr. Carlson will setup a meeting with lunch services to discuss and one board member will attend.

NEW BUSINESS: none

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

I requested that the Board publish their meeting dates/times further in advance on the Town website. Mr. Trabona described the process for doing so. It was agreed that Mr. Carlson will notify Mary and/or annotate the schedule on the Town calendar in the Town Office.

I asked how many teachers have taken advantage of the "Improvement of Instructional Services" budget line. The answer was "we think 3 and haven't yet received all the bills." Note: This \$10,000 budget item provides tuition and fee support for teachers to take graduate level courses. Only \$1,390 has been spent to date; the same total shown in the February cash flow analysis.

ITEMS NEEDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVAL: Three items were unanimously approved.

Accepted the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the budget presented at the school budget hearing May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Accepted the recommendation that the school committee conduct a first reading of proposed "physical restraints and seclusion" policies.

Accepted the Superintendent's nomination of Shawn Carlson as AOS 98 Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology with contract beginning July 1, 2013.

The next meeting of the School Committee will be at 6:30\_PM on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at the School Library.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe