

REPORT ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OF June 3, 2014

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 Town 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

THE MEETING: There were 3 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2014 were approved.

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

RECOGNITIONS:

Matt Carlson recognized a few people, particularly Bob Trabona (who was in attendance) and George Dufour, who helped build and launch the class boat that morning. Jerry Gamache was also recognized as a member of the boat building team that mentored the students who built and launched the class boat.

Matt also noted that the newspaper club has had full-page articles in the Times Record on a monthly basis.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

Matt advised that the 4th graders will be going to Wolf Neck farm for an overnight. While there they will participate in regular farm activities.

He also indicated that the school was going to make another day trip to Hope Elephants to donate the \$1100 which they have collected.

He also indicated that Evan James has secured a \$4000 grant to buy some more robotics equipment for the STEM program. Evan James' grant came from the Georgetown Island Education Foundation (GIEF). GIEF has regular fundraising events to support the STEM program, the next one of which is June 22nd.

Matt gave a quick overview of plans for this year's summer program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Eileen King went through the current (5/31/14) cash flow analysis. Approximately 18% remains, most of it committed to paying salaries during the summer. She indicated they are on-track to finish the fiscal year on-budget.

Eileen also reported briefly on the Educator Effectiveness Committee which is working to develop an AOS 98 teacher evaluation system.

She brought up the State Report Card issue which Matt then walked through with the Committee. He pointed out that GCS made good progress on both math and reading growth/bottom 25% categories. He also pointed out that 6 students each fell one question short of meeting the proficiency standard. One extra right answer would make a very significant difference in overall results.

Eileen indicated that she has compared GCS with other AOS 98 schools to see if there is any significant difference that could impact tests. She noted that GCS has just as much "education time" as the other schools. Matt is looking at the Edgecomb Eddy School which has size/characteristics very similar to Georgetown. Eileen also pointed out that there will not be a State Report Card next school year because they are changing the standard test itself and conducting tests in the spring (instead of fall).

Eileen also indicated that they went out to bid for the new wireless system (in proposed budget) and had one bidder. The bid is substantially lower than the original estimate which is proposed split across the next two school years.

OLD BUSINESS:

Garden: Matt distributed sample position descriptions for a garden coordinator position. If/when implemented it will likely be a stipend position. There was discussion about when a coordinator could be selected to start the program – most likely not until next spring. Kristin proposed that the Committee conduct a workshop to develop an implementation plan for the garden.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe

Clarification sent 06/05/14

Sometimes I get questions and/or clarifications from readers. Here are a couple of updates/clarifications to the School Committee notes that I distributed June 5th.

Jerry Gamache (in addition to George Dufour and Bob Trabona) was also recognized as a member of the boat building team that mentored the students who built and launched the class boat.

Evan James' grant came from the Georgetown Island Education Foundation (GIEF). GIEF has regular fundraising events to support the STEM program, the next one of which is June 22nd.

Rick Freeman