

REPORT ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OF September 5, 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."

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www.singingbridge.net

THE MEETING: I was the one member of the public present.

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

RECOGNITIONS:

Mr. Carlson summarized a number of items finished over the summer, including finishing the deer fence, replacing the bell out front of the school, moving the playground boat up toward the school. He also expressed thanks to the numerous people who accomplished these projects. I didn't get all of the names.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Matt Carlson):

The new security system is up and working. The building is completely locked when school is in session. Visitors must ring the bell for admission. He indicated that this process is going well so far.

He discussed some minor adjustment of class schedules and breaks. This led to a brief discussion of scheduling recess so that multiple/all grades are together. The Board believes this is a unique element of Georgetown's school which promotes communications between students as well as empathy in the older ones.

He summarized the summer program which went well, targeting math and reading skills.

He passed out and reviewed summary NWEA test data for math and reading. The NWEA testing targets the

same general areas as NECAP (which was the basis for the “grade” report) but results are available almost immediately after the student takes the test on a computer. The data summarizes both proficiency and growth and it helps the staff pinpoint weaknesses to be addressed. He is putting together a summary to share with parents and it was suggested/agreed that this summary would be of interest to the community also. He will look at posting on the school website.

He indicated that the summary test data supported discussions with the school staff about what additional actions can/should be taken. The data helps identify specific student needs. Teachers can help students understand how to take tests effectively. They plan to start a “beyond the bell” (after school) program, initially targeting engineering, math and science. Staff will meet with students individually to establish specific goals. He summarized by saying the staff wants to make testing a fun experience.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: (Eileen King)

She passed out the current budget/cash flow analysis. Approximately 10% of 2013/14 funds have been spent to date.

She recommended that the Board approve appointment of Kimberly Feeny as a 0.2 FTE speech therapist. This nomination was approved unanimously.

She discussed updating of the AOS 98 web site. It will supplement, but not repeat the individual school web sites. The improvements should be in-place by the end of this month.

There was a general discussion of the state “common core” standards. The school staff supports these standards. Shawn Carlson, director of technology for AOS 98, will make a presentation on implementation of these standards at a future meeting.

CHAIRPERSON REPORTS:

Nina Roth-Wells added “Goals for 2013/14 year” to the agenda. She summarized a couple of examples. It was agreed that goals would be presented/discussed at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The school lunch program and garden green house and curriculum were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

none

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

none

The next meeting of the School Committee will be at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, September 24th at the School Library.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe