

REPORT ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24, 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

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

The minutes of the meetings of June 18th and September 5th, 2013 were approved. They will be available on the town website within the next couple of days.

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Matt Carlson noted a recent article in the Times Record that highlighted the school's efforts in Project Canopy. He also indicated that he expects to have regular progress reports in the paper. The students involved will start inventory of the trees next week.

He advised that NECAP testing will begin October 1st. He provided an overview of the strategy/plan to prepare students for the testing and passed out some information on accommodations that can/will be applied in appropriate cases.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Shawn Carlson, AOS 98 curriculum and technology coordinator, made an extensive presentation on the district's implementation of *curriculum mapping* as an element of the Common Core Standards implementation. Curriculum maps identify specific desired results, subject content and skills, assessment evidence, and learning activities. The district is using ATLAS as a tool for consolidating the maps from all

teachers/grades/departments. He passed out an example (7th grade English language arts) and used a video presentation to explain the process and details currently in-work. He also explained the current process involving both individual and groups of teachers. It is clear (my opinion) that implementation of the Common Core Standards and curriculum mapping, to support it, are a substantial effort. Once it is all in place the effort will insure consistent and comprehensive guidance for the entire school program. Board members noted that it is unlikely parents and the public understand the extent of the effort teachers put into this activity as well as their daily lesson plans.

CHAIRPERSON REPORTS:

There was a discussion about policy/guidance regarding athletic events impacting students' school time. The discussion was prompted by a situation where one 6th grader participating in Bath Junior High soccer ends up missing an hour of class daily. Matt recommended that he draft a set of guidelines for review and approval by the board. All agreed that it is desirable to support athletic activities but it must be done without negative impact to students' academic performance. The proposed guidelines will be the subject of a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ITEMS NEEDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

None

The next meeting of the School Committee will be at 6:30 PM on October 29, 2013 at the School Library.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe