

SCS Board has a busy meeting

Written by George Browning
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By Monika Spaulding

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Although it was a short meeting for the Salem School Board Monday evening, many things were accomplished.

Superintendent Dr. Lynn Reed said the board adopted goals to reduce expenditures in other areas in order to increase funding for student instruction. One of the areas to reduce is overhead costs.

“This is something we are always trying to do,” she said, adding that student instruction should always be a top priority.

Another priority is getting feedback from teachers and community members about what they want to see happening in the classroom. During Monday’s meeting, the school board talked about goals for the upcoming year.

These goals came from round table discussions in which Reed asked teachers to highlight their top three goals for each section of a questionnaire. Some of the topics included communication and public relations, technology, curriculum, etc.

Reed said the number one suggestion that came in from everyone was to increase parent involvement. She said that is the first area they are going to tackle, to find ways to get parents more involved in the schools and in their child’s education.

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Another area of concern is better security for the high school and elementary school. While visitors have to be buzzed into the building, there is no way to make sure each visitor goes to the office at these two buildings, which poses a concern for safety.

Reed said there were other great ideas that were brought to her attention and she plans to pass that information on to standing committees that are already working on those areas.

In other business, the board renewed its emergency agreement with Meadowview Health and Rehabilitation Center. This agreement says that the schools will be the emergency shelter for the center.

Dr. Kim Thurston presented the 2014 budget and highlighted some areas from 2003 to the present. Reed said the assessed valuation has had an upward trend the last three years, which is good for keeping tax bills lower.

Reed said the board signed a contract with the classroom teachers for the 2013-14 school year and adopted the Washington County Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The mitigation plan is one of the many steps in the corporation securing the federal grant to build safe rooms at all three school buildings. Reed said they are hoping to hear something about the grants by November 1.

The board's next meeting will be Monday, October 14.