

Lauretta Martin was given a gift by the committee in thanks for her many years of recording minutes/notes for the Safety Committee.

Committee Chair Brad Larose introduced Superintendent Mark Andrews to give the committee an update regarding increased security measures at the Essex Town schools. Andrews indicated that the following will occur at the three schools prior to the 2013-14 school year:

- Interior doors at the main entrances will be locked and a buzzer system installed;
- Front office staff will have training on “friendly screening”;
- Exterior cameras will be added to pan the front entrances.

In addition, the following is being considered in the Essex Town Schools:

- Recording activity;
- Fortifying interior door.

Larose reported that he, Bill Laware and other local school administrators had recently attended a Homeland Security School Safety briefing in So. Burlington. They learned that there will be modifications in training (nationwide) in response to threats. Based on prior tragic events, it appears that fighting back may be the best option. .. law enforcement is only able to stop threats about 9% of the time. It’s more likely that the perpetrator will take his own life or someone on the scene will take action.

R. Reardon reported that he received notification of new procedures from the VT Agency of Education and the Vermont Division of Fire Safety. Although all Vermont Schools are currently practicing safety drills, the number of drills and level of specificity has increased for the 2013-14 school year.

Larose informed the committee that the state offers a threat assessment program which is modeled after the school safety crisis guide. A former Secret Service agent will come to the school to do an assessment of the physical structure and the safety plans.

Questions were asked about training for personnel to determine if a person approaching school is a threat and possibly about training for verbal strategies. Andrews indicated that he planned to offer training for front office staff this summer.

K. Miglinas announced that there will be two resource officers in the fall. He expected that the teaching aspect may be pared down in order for the officers to be more available/present in the school. He said the officers will look at criminal incidents, help kids who are out of control, and generally be a presence in the Essex Town and Essex Jct. schools.

Discussion ensued about types of glass and possibility of salvaging old glass from bank buildings if they are being torn down. Miglinas said that the police had run some tests and polycarbonate is very strong.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.