

## **MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Region 14 Public/Community Relations Committee was held on Monday, April 21, 2014 in the Principal's Conference Room, Bethlehem Elementary School, 92 East Street, Bethlehem, CT.

The following members were present: Committee Chair Carol Ann Brown, committee member Maryanne Van Aken; also, BES Principal Susan Ruddock, community members Patti Knowlton, Linnea Marquis, and Barbara Bradbury-Pape; and, Superintendent Jody Goeler, Director of Instruction Sue Domanico, and clerk Deb Carlton.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm and concluded at 7:15 pm

The committee heard an update on the Wellness Committee from Ms. Ruddock, who described the make-up of the committee and its focus on providing a safe school environment for students with allergies while respecting the wishes of some parents that their children not be singled out or isolated due to their allergies. The committee has had 2 productive meetings with homework in between. Ms. Ruddock spoke about policies in other school districts that allow no food be brought in for celebrations, adding that the committee is more inclined to promote healthy snacks, or non-food treats. It is a culture shift, she said, to eliminate candy as a reward or incentive.

There was considerable discussion among committee members about epi-pen training, bus drivers' capabilities in an emergency, and limitations of the district for allergies not known to us. Ms. Van Aken expressed her opinion that this is not a topic for this committee.

Ms. Brown gave an update on NEAT TV, commenting that new programming is needed. Other suggestions included pictures of new enhancements such as the vestibule at MES; utilizing untapped resources such as Ms. Coles at NHS; adding sports schedules; taping additional interviews; and adding student artwork, awards, and Robotics information. There was discussion of seeking sponsorship for periodic spreads in local newspapers, but Mr. Goeler urged caution here as far as partnering with a community sponsor for the school district for a project like this. The committee, in general, felt the newspapers cover the district extensively, for free, in their regular news coverage. Ms. Ruddock reported that they print virtually everything she sends them. The addition of Maria Duncan writing for our local "hamlethub" was seen as positive.

There was a comment that the district's website is out of date. There was a suggestion that an interview be taped regarding the common core and technology grants received.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Carol Ann Brown***

Carol Ann Brown, Chair  
Public/Community Relations Committee