

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

A meeting of the Region 14 Public/Community Relations Committee was held on Monday, October 21, 2013 in the Central Office Conference Room, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, CT.

The following members were present: Committee Chair Carol Ann Brown, committee members Maryanne Van Aken, Janet Morgan, and Sophiezane Bartlett; also, BoE member John Swendsen; community members Adele Taylor, Patti Knowlton, Eileen Budrewicz, and Deb DeSorbo; Superintendent Jody Goeler, Director of Instruction Sue Domanico, and clerk Deb Carlton.

The meeting came to order at 6:34 pm.

### Superintendent Advisory Council

Will meet on 10/30; otherwise, no report

### Board Meetings and Community Relations

Discussion regarding location of BoE meetings was discussed. Ms. Budrewicz believes it is a valid point that all meetings be conducted here. The sound quality is superior, it goes out live; and, moreover, central office is a central point in the district, geographically, when you consider those would live at the Southbury end of town as well as those in Bethlehem. Ms. Bartlett commented on feedback she has received and urged holding a larger number of meetings in Bethlehem. Ms. Brown thought the board might consider meeting there quarterly. Ms. Morgan wondered if meetings could be streamed and viewed on computers.

### NEAT TV – Broader Use

Ms. Brown requested a meeting with Will Michael, the faculty member in charge of NEAT TV, as well as Paul Ciotti, who facilitates technology for the district. They will be asked about satellite capabilities for residents who do not get channels 17 or 21, and will discuss the need for a wider viewing selection, including sports and other events.

Ms. Taylor felt broadcasting the upcoming roundtable discussion with the SROs would be a good chance for the public to have their questions about the SROs answered. If permitted, she would like the public to be able to submit questions ahead of time and have those discussed. Ms. Van Aken proposed safety update meetings in each school so the public can have questions answered there, too. These meetings would also serve the purpose of providing a public open house at the schools.

### Reports from Parent Groups

Ms. Budrewicz indicated that there have been several parent meetings already at MES, including a coffee hosted by Ms. Torre on the day following the last PTO meeting. These were well attended, she said, with more than 20 at the PTO meeting and over 30 at the coffee. Ms. Torre is forming a Parent Advisory Committee with one parent representing

each class and others welcome to participate. The other 3 principals will be hosting coffees for their parents, too.

Publications/Recent Examples of Effective PR

Ms. Brown is pleased with the coverage R14 receives in the newspapers and has been collecting articles and other features. She highlighted the piece on AP Scholars at NHS. Mr. Goeler talked about creating a monthly BoE update that would highlight the goals, plans and accomplishments of the board and district, copies of which he will intend to deliver to locations like the senior center and library so community members might pick up a copy and learn what is going on in the schools. Ms. Budrewicz stressed the need to reach a wider audience prior to events to increase participation, and saw such a newsletter as a way to advertise. She also suggested a bulletin board at the senior center to advertise all the good things going on in the schools.

Other Business

Ms. Domanico provided an outline for volunteer reader program in the schools for the committee's review.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Carol Ann Brown**

Carol Ann Brown, Chair  
Public/Community Relations Committee