

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

A meeting of the Region 14 Public/Community Relations Committee was held on Monday, March 17, 2014 in the Central Office Conference Room, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, CT.

The following members were present: Committee Chair Carol Ann Brown, committee member Maryanne Van Aken; also, community members Adele Taylor, Catherine Ringeisen, Linnea Marquis, Superintendent Jody Goeler, Director of Instruction Sue Domanico, and clerk Deb Carlton.

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm and concluded at 7:25 pm

The committee heard an update on NEAT TV programming, including 3 roundtable discussions, BoE meetings, basketball games, and various notices. A list of possible inclusions was discussed, including such community notices as Kindergarten registration. Issues such as buzzing/humming were discussed and, for broadcasting board meetings, a wireless or hand held mic to pick up what audience members say when not at the podium.

For the next roundtable, it was discussed that it would be valuable to talk about the assessments that are causing so much anxiety among parents, and to stress that as new assessment tools are brought in, other less effective ones are taken out.

Ms. Taylor suggested compiling many of the well written articles that have appeared in the news and bringing those to the senior center so people can get a better understanding of what is happening. Ms. Domanico favored using more primary sources for this information, such as the CSDE.

It was also discussed that there could be value in inviting people who could be tapped to answer questions the community has, as we progress through the budget season.

The idea was raised that NEAT TV could also be used to highlight the who's who of the district – teachers, administrators, custodians – in order to put names with faces. Region 14's Finest, and Rep-Am athletes of the week, could also be featured with pictures.

Regarding parent groups, Ms. Brown has visited PTO meetings at BES and MES, but not yet WMS. She also sat in on an ASG meeting at NHS. The MES PAC could also be invited to help at budget time, it was thought. Ms. Ringeisen is looking for other ways to communicate with parents other than multiple pieces of paper. Her time, like most parents, is very limited and favors one format that everyone could use – most likely internet based. Friends of hers with children in private schools can view everything from homework assignments to school news on cell phones. Ms. Domanico noted that progress is being made in integrating powerschool with teacher webpages.

There was some discussion about having the nurses come to a meeting to discuss allergy management and whether families can be questioned about allergies of extended family members. There was also interest in knowing how well bus drivers are trained to react to a medical emergency on their buses. It was concluded that this was a topic to be handled by the Wellness committee.

Ms. Van Aken noted that Sgt. Roden had suggested it be included on the website that the district has an SRO at each building, to ensure the public is aware of that benefit.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Carol Ann Brown**

Carol Ann Brown, Chair  
Public/Community Relations Committee