

PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Region 14 Community/Public Relations Committee was held on Monday, September 17, 2012 in the Region 14 Central Office Conference Room, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

The following Committee members were present: Sophieane Bartlett, Maryanne VanAken, Gary Suslavich, and Committee Chair Pamela Zmek. Also in attendance were: Board Chair George Bauer, Superintendent Goeler.

The following matters were discussed:

1. Back to School applications are still available at the Central Office. A few have been given out so far this Fall. Maryanne VanAken will drop off additional applications at the Woodbury Senior Center this week. Sophieane Bartlett will drop off applications at the Bethlehem Town Hall and the Painted Pony in Bethlehem.
2. The Committee discussed the notion of having a Board Liason, one from each member town, to attend Board of Selectmen meetings. The purpose would be act as a liason and answer questions raised by residents who may not have had an opportunity to attend Board of Education meetings or watched the meetings on NEAT TV.
3. Superintendent Goeler will extend an invitation to the three selectmen from Woodbury and the three selectmen from Bethlehem to attend regular meetings with him in an attempt to improve community between Region 14 and the towns. It is hoped that one member from each Board will attend.
4. Mr. Goeler stated that he would like to form a Superintendent's Advisory Council, comprised of a cross-section of community members from both towns. This Council might include business owners, parents, clergy, senior citizens, to name a few. It was suggested that the Council meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues facing the Region.
5. The Committee discussed having a Student representative to the Board named by Mr. O'Brien. It was suggested that the Representative should be a Jr. or Sr. - or that perhaps both a Jr. and Sr. Representative might be better. It was also suggested that the Representatives could rotate attendance at the Board meetings.
6. It was suggested that a Community Newsletter might be helpful to keep residents in Region 14 apprised of events and issues pending in our schools. Several ideas were discussed as possible formats including, a printed newsletter, on-line newsletter, quarterly section in local newspaper and quarterly Round Table discussion to be broadcast on NEAT TV. Mrs. VanAken will check with Voices Newspaper to see if they will allow a partial page to be used by the District on a quarterly basis for this

purpose. Several examples of other Districts' newsletters were looked at. It was decided that a printed newsletter would be too costly, and was dismissed as a possibility. This item will be re-visited and discussed in further detail at the October meeting.

The next meeting of the Public/Community Relations Committee will be held on Monday, October 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Zmek
Public/Community Relations Committee Chair
Region 14 Board of Education