



Advocacy and Community Engagement Committee Meeting

Pelham Public Schools

Hutchinson Elementary School - PD Center

Friday, October 21, 2022

8:30 a.m.

The mission of the Community Engagement and Advocacy Committee is to evaluate and improve two way communication with the community and to advocate for the educational interests of our students and public education.

Attendance

District Members: Dr. Cheryl Champ and Alex Wolff

Board Committee Chair: Jessica DeDomenico

Board Members: Will Treves and Natalie Marrero

Community Members: Diane Otter, Kate Pringle, Lynda Banfield, Nandini Anandu, Liza Schaeffer, Dina Mangiafridda.

Michael Morgan and Jennifer Hawks Bland were not in attendance.

Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
 - All members introduced themselves.

- Work of the Committee - Descriptions of three subcommittees were shared as follows:
- **Advocacy** (*Dr. Champ, Natalie Marerro*)- The advocacy subcommittee will explore ideas for the District's annual advocacy campaign to launch during the NYS State Budget process. This subcommittee will draft an advocacy letter and make recommendations for how best to spearhead the annual community letter writing campaign.
 - Group will meet a few times to review the regional professional agenda items, identify which are most important to Pelham, and design advocacy letter and approach to sharing with the community.
- **Community Engagement** (*Jessica DeDomenico*)- The community engagement subcommittee will make recommendations for how to build better understanding and partnership with the Pelham community through various in-person events.
 - Group will work on strategies for in person engagement, including let's talk sessions and board of education coffees.
- **Communications Review** (*Alex Wolff, Will Treves*) -The communications program review committee will review the results of the Communications Program Analysis RFP and provide feedback during the analysis process.
 - Group will work with Alex on review and implementation of the Communications review. Alex brought the idea forward last year, RFP was issued in September, responses have been received, committee will help review and recommend and potentially serve as focus group during the process.
- Engagement with Social Media Moderators
 - Healthy discussion of how to work with community social media platforms to foster correct information sharing and mitigation of negative impacts.
- Focus around the Question: What Does Academic Excellence Mean to You?- World Cafe Discussion in Community; Way in which this committee will help
 - Will set a date for the November parent World Cafe session. Will use our next meeting to gain similar feedback from this group and plan for the event. Asking committee to help recruit and facilitate.
- Brainstorming for BOE Coffee Structure: meeting times? Days? Location? Frequency?
 - Will be discussed by Engagement subgroup
- What's Next?
 - Discuss our meeting dates for the year; follow-up email with subcommittee sign-ups; sub-committees will begin meeting within a week)
 - Jessica will send follow up meeting with survey about subgroup sign ups and date for November parent engagement meeting.