

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 5/4/17

Place of Meeting: NF Community Room

Minutes submitted by:

Members present: Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone

Members absent: Kevin Hearty

Other attendees: Alicia Roy, Steve Burfeind, Amy Tozzo, Jay Voss

Meeting called to order: at 6:00 p.m. by Ed Sbordone

II. Approval of Minutes

A. March 2, 2017 – Regular

Motion: To approve the minutes of March 2, 2017, as presented

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. Action Items - none

IV. Information Items

A. MS/HS Parking Lot Security – It was suggested that there is a lack of well-positioned cameras at the MS/HS staff parking lots, and additional cameras would be useful for both security and property loss issues. A camera at the exit and the fiscal benefit to having mobile as opposed to stationary cameras on site were discussed. Allocating some parking lot fees to pay for the installation of additional cameras will be considered.

B. World Languages in Elementary Schools – The multiple benefits of early world languages learning and the importance of proficiency in a second language in a global society, along with the cost of such a program and the difficulty getting certified staff, were discussed. Other districts have world languages programs in the elementary schools. The following ideas were shared: utilizing computer programs supported by after-school activities; utilizing independent contractors, like EdAdvance; incorporating world languages into the morning meeting to increase exposure; utilizing volunteers to run informal language programming.

C. Before- and After-School Care – Discussion ensued about the possibility of having before- and after-school care at the district level. This service is important to parents, would be funded by parents, and can be provided by an outside agency or by existing staff. It is not known how other districts staff these programs. It was suggested that a survey be sent out to families to better assess the need for these services.

V. Other – A resident distributed a handout and presented concerns about how the district would handle immigration officers showing up at the schools and attempting to access students' records. It was requested that the district safety plan be amended to include guidelines and directives for administrators and staff, and made reference to specific provisions as set forth in state law, requesting that they be incorporated into district policy. The district safety plan already limits access to every school building and no one gets any student information without a warrant or without going through the proper channels. It was requested that there be a formalized written district plan for dealing with ICE agents and that this plan be distributed to all parents.

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Ed Sbordone
Recording of vote: Aye – Unanimous

Seconded by: Amy Tozzo
Meeting adjourned at: 6:50 p.m.