

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

Name of Subcommittee: Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee
Meeting type: Special Date of Meeting: 11/4/21
Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kathy Baker, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone
Members absent: Stephanie Strazza
Other attendees: Pat Cosentino, Julie Luby, Rich Sanzo, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan
Place of Meeting: Special Meeting Access: Communications/Community Outreach
Subcommittee (11/4 at 6 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/99526386815> Dial In: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 995 2638 6815

Meeting called to order: at 6:03 p.m. by Kathy Baker.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. October 4, 2021 – Special

Motion: To approve the minutes of October 4, 2021

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. Action Items - none

IV. Information Items

A. Equity Update - Julie Luby provided an update. We remain committed to having a district where everyone feels they belong. Several parents have agreed to work with us. They have appreciated our efforts but let us know that we need and can do better. We also have students that are eager to make our schools feel good for all that attend. Amanda Gorman gave a speech "No Place for Hate" and the students viewed a webinar. Dr. Cosentino said that we have to all be committed to make sure everyone belongs. This is embedded in our SEL. We are not trying to make it bigger than it is but are trying to address issues that come up.

B. Parking at New Fairfield High School - Kathy Baker said that this topic should be more about traffic and not the parking. People are not following the new traffic pattern after school hours. It is not well marked. Ed Sbordone shared that this did come up in a meeting with the construction crews.

C. Open Choice - Dr. Cosentino understands that everyone is concerned about the SPED costs and what is "reasonable." It does not look like we are going to get a definite answer. The only thing the state and other districts say is that it gets worked out and there has not ever been a problem where it didn't get resolved.

Samantha Mannion reached out to the legal department of the Special Ed department to get some clarity. The attorney admitted that the legislation is unclear. She asked the definition of "reasonable and what happens to resolve a dispute," and the answer was not known. They would have to mediate an agreement.

Tim Blair mentioned that Pat Callahan is also on the education committee who we could work with as well.

Eileen Hacaj asked if we would keep trying to get the answers to these questions that we have or after the board votes to just let it go.

Michelle O'Gara is curious what the procedure is if students/parents report any types of bullying to the schools. Ms. Luby mentioned the policies and forms are online, incidences can be

reported to the principals, people can make confidential reports, and anonymous is harder to do/handle. We do have Speak Up/Gaggle. Mrs. O'Gara asked what happens if the situation doesn't get addressed. Ms. Luby said to follow the chain of command ...teacher, administrator,... etc.

V. Other - none

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Ed Sbordone Seconded by: Kathy Baker
Recording of vote: Aye – Unanimous Meeting adjourned at: 6:30 p.m.