

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

Name of Subcommittee: Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 10/5/17

Place of Meeting: NF Community Room

Minutes submitted by: Samantha Mannion

Members present: Kevin Hearty, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone

Members absent:

Other attendees: Alicia Roy, James Mandracchia, Richard Sanzo, Steve Burfeind, Amy Tozzo

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

II. Approval of Minutes

A. September 7, 2017 – Regular

Motion: To approve the minutes of September 7, 2017, as presented

Made by: Kevin Hearty

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. Action Items - none

IV. Information Items

A. NFHS/NFMS Start Times – Dr. Sanzo reported that Wilton switched to a later start time. Some of the difficulties with this change include the scheduling of after school-clubs and athletic programs. Athletes need to be dismissed early from school to make it to scheduled games. This change could also have a financial impact as additional buses may be necessary. The high school is focused on NEASC accreditation process at this time. Some of the positives for a later start time were reported as less fatigue and depression, fewer car accidents, lower suicide rates, and increased attendance and graduation rates. It was suggested that individual flexibility be offered to students – for example, allow students to start later, work from home, go to a later class, or stay later in the afternoon. An offer was made to create a survey to present to the subcommittee and the full Board.

B. Strings Program – The district did not have an in-school strings program five years ago. When the program started, it had a .2 teacher, who then became a .6, and is now a .2 again. The program has not grown with a teacher during the school day. There is no intention to discontinue the program. A parent complained that there was no notification to strings parents about the discontinuation of the in-school program at Meeting House. An apology was made for the lack of communication. The teacher was hired for an after-school program, but the parent fears there will be less interest if it is only offered after school.

V. Other

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Kevin Hearty

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of vote: Aye – Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at: 6:55 p.m.