

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

Name of Subcommittee: Communications/Community Outreach Subcommittee

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 12/7/17

Place of Meeting: NF Community Room

Minutes submitted by: Samantha Mannion

Members present: Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone

Members absent:

Other attendees: Alicia Roy, Rich Sanzo, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan, HS World Language Department Chair Ernest Fabrizio-Garcia, HS Science Teacher Kimberly Salta, HS French Teacher Robert Hunt

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

II. Approval of Minutes

A. November 1, 2017 – Regular

Motion: To approve the minutes of November 1, 2017, as presented

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Ed Sbordone

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. Action Items - none

IV. Information Items

A. NFHS/NFMS Start Time Survey – Background information, along with scientific and survey data, was discussed to support later start times for the high school and middle school. It was noted that changing the start times would impact transportation and after-school activities, and because of the upcoming accreditation, it is doubtful that the start times could be adjusted for the next school year. It was suggested that a task force be formed, a feasibility study be done and/or consultants be hired. It was agreed to bring this to the full Board at the Dec. 21, 2017, meeting, with the recommendation that the Board chair appoint a BOE liaison to work with the work group/committee. The high school principal offered to serve as the administrative liaison on the work group/committee and a request was made that students also be included in the process.

B. Street Light at High School – Concern about the number of accidents at the HS/MS entrance was expressed, and it was stated that this data only reflects the accidents that were actually reported to the police. It was requested that copies of the traffic reports be submitted to the committee. Based on prior transportation studies, a traffic light cannot be placed there. This item will be placed on the February 1, 2018, Communications/Community Outreach subcommittee agenda.

C. School Calendar – Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences – Parents have expressed concern about the number of one-half days for students due to parent-teacher conferences and data days. This situation has presented a hardship for working parents who need to arrange for childcare on those days and a concern that students are missing too much school. It was suggested that if online conferences were available, the need for the number of one-half days could be reduced, or other models could be investigated. This item will be placed on the February 1, 2018, Communications/Community Outreach subcommittee agenda.

D. International Travel – Three teachers at the high school have expressed an interest in planning international travel for students. One is a four-day trip to Montreal with a French immersion opportunity and with an approximate cost of \$700 per person. The second is a joint Spanish immersion/environmental science trip to Costa Rica with an approximate cost of \$2,500 per person. The Board of Education must approve all international travel, and this item will be placed on the January 4, 2018, Board agenda.

V. Other – The January 4, 2018, meeting is cancelled.

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Samantha Mannion
Recording of vote: Aye – Unanimous

Seconded by: Ed Sbordone
Meeting adjourned at: 6:54 p.m.