

DRAFT

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mission statement: Advocating for our school district through engagement with community organizations, elected officials, students, families, staff, and the public at large.

Date: October 10, 2018 from 10 am to 12 pm, Carew Room, City Hall

Attendance:

Julia Ochs BOE co-chair

Paul Warhit BOE co-chair

Elissa Glickman member

Zachah Koufalis member

Stacy Sutherland member

Ken Valenti CSDNR

Nicole Feller FOCUS MEDIA

Josh Sommers FOCUS MEDIA

Laraine Karl Community member (PTAC)

Debbie Young Community member

AGENDA:

1) Introduction of Committee Members

How we selected members.

2) Response To Inquiry Discussion

Members discuss their experiences with district communication:

Stacy: Resides in NR – Everything was great until Valarie’s death.

Wrote to BOE and principal – Never received a response

Would like to see 2 to 3 day response and triage emails

Zachah – Happy with teachers response at Ward. ALMS not as consistent. Turnaround – bullying response was right away. Not emergency – a day or two.

Elissa – Mr. Sloan was very responsive during transition. No information on what to do when her children entered the HS from private school. Not user friendly.

Communication doesn’t flow. Late start trial was difficult and information was piecemeal.

***Group discussed creating a protocol for Half Day protocol and late start, including links to school schedules that should stay the same and be updated. That way it stays consistent in the district-wide communication.

Perhaps includes a protocol for Robocalls (for half days a call one week out and then another 24 hours in advance?)

Laraine: Suggests creating a buddy system for new families—she will bring this to PTAC.

Zachah voiced concern about bilingual communication to families. The district community wide 4 page newsletter only is sent in English with info that tells people how to access Spanish. This is a burden to them to access. The committee agreed to recommend to the BOE to create bilingual newsletter mailer.

- 3) Communications with Board Language from the District Calendar - Focus media will retool the "Communications with with Board" section of the calendar.
District Calendar – Can we create a Spanish language or bilingual calendar?

Quality of communications in District. Incorrect dates on calendars with Jewish holidays.

- 4) Town Hall Frequency-
Should February Budget input session be a town hall? All months except December and June.
- 5) Dr. Parvey Town Hall Introduce her
October 22nd – Linda Kelly Theater 7 to 9 pm

6) Community Open Discussion:
Debbie Young asked about mobilizing community resource for at risk children in the district. We provided Debbie with a link to the New Ro Connects FB group, so she can learn about the new collaboration.

Need to research Spanish translation option for Town Hall live stream.

Dr. Parvey - committee recommends a transition "handbook" for incoming 6th and 9th graders – Consistency FAQ for parents

Follow up with Camille Edwards Thomas about the summer orientation options for kids at NRHS.

NEXT DISCUSSION ITEMS: (all resolutions agreed upon by the advocacy and community outreachcommittee will be submitted to the boe for review and approval)

- Improvement of detailed information on the district website for families entering the New Rochelle school district for the first time.
- Creation of a FAQ handbook for families transitioning into middle school and high school- Discuss & Coordinate with Dr. Parvey
- Development of protocols for communicating half-day schedules and impact on busing. Discuss & Coordinate with Dr. Parvey
- Creation of protocols for responses to inquiries from citizens to teachers, administrators, & staff- Discuss & Coordinate with Policy Committee & Dr. Parvey
- Spanish translation of newsletter and calendar- Discuss & Coordinate with Dr. Parvey
- Create a Parents Advocate position- Discuss & Coordinate with PTAC
- Finalize dates & subjects for future Town Hall Meetings
- Post important district events on Social Media so that people can add to their personal calendars and receive reminders- Ken Valenti

Meeting ended at 12 noon.