

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: April 24, 2019 from 10 am to 12 pm, Carew Room, City Hall

Attendance

Julia Ochs, BOE co-chair
Paul Warhit, BOE co-chair
Elissa Glickman, member
Ken Valenti CSDNR
Mike Bieger-FOCUS MEDIA
William Iannuzzi
Heriberto Contreras
Zachah Koufalis

Non members in attendance

Michelle Balachandran, PTAC president
Myriam Decime, Community member
Laraine Karl Community member (PTAC)

AGENDA ITEMS

- Meeting called to order at 10:04am
- Ken Valenti public information update
 - Transition to High School website page paused until NRHS finishes handbook
 - School Messenger replacing Blackboard as district email service
 - Nred.org
 - Added carousel
 - FOCUS added wordcloud about college acceptance
- Discussion of Board Structure and Public Comment (Recommendations to the Board of Education)
 - BOE MEETINGS
 - Community wants to see more healthy discussion/debate among BOE members. Community wants fewer private conversations between individual BOE members in between meetings, and more public discussion.
 - Community wants more public debate among BOE members prior to voting on an issue.
 - BOE should set expectations with community so citizens know what to expect (and not to expect) from the BOE.
 - BOE should educate community about how BOE meetings are held, and under what limitations the BOE works.
 - BOE should hold public discussion about BOE member responsibilities

- BOE should hold quarterly retreats in order to maximize board effectiveness.
- PRINCIPAL PRESENTATIONS AT BOE MEETINGS
 - Presentations should be tighter (10 minutes)
 - BOE questions to presenters should be substantive and less “fluff.” If BOE members don’t have questions, the meeting should simply move on.
 - BOE Buddy Reports and BOE Announcements should be “tighter.” Community doesn’t want to hear about ALL the things each Buddy is doing.
 - Community wants more substance and less fluff at BOE meetings.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
 - This section of the meeting should be broken into 2 parts
 - 1st Group- Comments/Questions must be specific to the meeting agenda. This group should be heard early on in the meeting.
 - 2nd Group- General comments/questions. This group should be heard right before adjournment.
 - Individuals would be allowed to be part of both groups.
- TOWN HALLS
 - Town Halls should consist of a moderator and a specific topic for discussion. If there is no moderator, the program should be called something else (not Town Hall).
 - Each Town Hall should be topic specific.
 - Discussion should be between community members and Superintendent/Administration. BOE members should sit in the audience, and should be called on to answer BOE specific questions.
 - Community is invited to submit questions in advance. Submitted questions receive priority.
 - Moderator should hold the microphone, but allow community members to ask their questions.
 - The district should hold a September program (not called a Town Hall) where the Superintendent can update community on what’s in store for the coming year. The Superintendent can exchange dialogue with the community if he/she desires to do so. This program can also be used to educate citizens on how the BOE and Superintendent interact with each other and with the community. This will set proper expectations for the coming year.
 - BOE should hold a total of 5 Town Halls per school year as follows:
 - 1- September Superintendent Update & Tutorial
 - 4 Town Halls in October, November, January, March, & April
 - February would be reserved for Budget meetings. These can be presented in a Town Hall format depending upon BOE preference.

Adjourned 11:55am

NEXT MEETING

May 8th 10 AM TO 12 PM CAREW ROOM

DRAFT