

BOE Advocacy & Community Outreach Committee

Agenda

June 12, 2019

1. Review of draft committee recommendations.

DRAFT

2018-2019 Recommendation from the A&O Committee

**Please note these are suggestions ONLY made by members of the A&O committee to be considered by the full board.

- The 2018-2019 Advocacy and Community Outreach Committee recommends to the BOE to dissolve A&O Committee and create two new committees in its place: Government Relations Committee and Community Relations Committee. Below please find the potential scope for each committee.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

The BOE Government Relations Committee would advocate on the local, state, and federal level for increases in funding to New Rochelle, as well as to advocate on issues impacting our students and community. It is recommended that the BOE member assigned to be the Westchester Putnam School Boards Liaison also chair this committee to maximize partnerships with other districts and our representatives.

Some partners to consider including on the Government Relations Committee: New Rochelle Council of Community Services - NRCCS, New Ro Connects, PTA Council, a City Council Liaison

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

The BOE Community Relations Committee would collaborate with families, community members, and designated district staff/administration to improve communications and outreach.

Some partners to consider including on the Community Relations Committee: Neighborhood associations, PTA council, Interreligious Council, a few members of the public

- 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.