

Community Relations Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 19, 5:30 PM

Attending:

- Board Members - Ray Tai, Barbara Garrity, Phyllis Pascucci, Ana Vander Woude
- Administrators - Barbara Duncan,
- Op GOTV - Mary Pomarico

Absent: None.

Operation Get out The Vote:

Mary shared a memo regarding the plan, which has activities in all 4 schools. The activities are educational, which will raise the students' awareness and participation in the political process. In some cases, they are tied into the instruction, such as writing persuasive essays during Social Studies. GOTV reps will present at some school or community events to help encourage residents to vote. Mary will look into using the room mothers' phone tree for VS GOTV reminder phone calls.

Budget Communications/Community Involvement:

Based on past year's experiences, we'll focus on Budget Presentation this year.

- B&F will take the lead for the Newsletter(s)
- Suggest creating a Budget FAQ on our web. **All board members** are encouraged to submit questions to Barbara/Michael by 3/9. Target to post the FAQ around 3/15.
- Board Members will sign up for the presentations, and all are encouraged to attend the one at TC on 3/20. Ana will query with School Boards for guidelines on board members' participation on the election process.

Board Meeting Minutes & Attachments: (Adopted by the whole board on 2/27.)

CR committee would recommend to the whole board that we post all our public meeting minutes & attachments on web. They shall be posted as "DRAFT" first within 2 days after the meeting, and then as "approved" when it is approved. This shall provide timely information to people who can't attend the meetings in person. There is a request to tape the board meetings, since this will involve more time & cost, we recommend deferring it to a later time when the demand increases.

Agenda for Work Session/Business Meeting: (Adopted by the whole board on 2/27.)

At last meeting, we realized that in our standard agenda, we don't provide a slot for public comments before the board act upon the resolutions. CR committee recommends to the whole board to modify the agenda by adding in this missing piece going forward.

Review Communications Self-Assessment Matrix:

Time ran out – deferred to next meeting.

Superintendent/Board Communications:

Some discussions occurred to clarify the protocol as the following:

- SI informs the board right away via email or phone if a true concern arises (e.g. a bomb threat that involves Police Dept.)
- SI doesn't inform the board for daily operations (e.g., two students get disciplined for having a fight)
- SI uses her best judgment for things in and between. However, if a board member hears something that sounds like a true concern, s/he should feel free to contact SI right away for clarification, and SI shall share the updates with the whole board if the situation warrants so (e.g., a single student issue which morphs into a rumored "hit list").

Alpha Company:

Middletown has adopted Charlie Company, also from the 82nd Airborne Div. Ana has been in correspondence with Maureen & Middletown rep on a possible joint activity when the reps from the troops visit us later, possibly around the Veteran's Day.

Next Meeting: 530-7p, on 3/18/08, and 4/1/08 (Tue).

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Tai