

Community Relations Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, April 1, 5:30 PM

Attending:

- Board Members - Ray Tai, Barbara Garrity, Ana Vander Woude
- Administrators - Barbara Duncan, Mike Petrizzo, Mary Beth Currie

Absent: Phyllis Pascucci

Budget Communications:

- Are any items from last year's second question included in this year's budget?
 - No, we didn't have the money last year and we still don't have the money this year for them. They are important items, but those in the base budget are even more critical.
 - BD/MP will add a Q&A for this into the FAQ.
- Budget Information on web:
 - The "User Friendly Budget" may not be totally user friendly, but the name is coined and the format is actually mandated by the State DOE.
 - BD will ask Anthony to see if we can make the budget related items more visible on the web.
- Budget Presentations:
 - They have been better attended so far than last year's. The feedback is generally positive.
 - For board members attending the presentations, it's important for us to let the public know that we have voted to approve the budget unequivocally and urge people to come out to vote.

Board Mission Statement:

We need to have one for 2007-2008. We reviewed and discussed some samples:

- CR members to send suggestions/drafts to BD by Monday, 4/7.
- BD will compile a final draft for whole board discussion and approval.
- It can then be further refined via the future QSAC or Strategic Planning efforts.

Items for the Good of the Order:

- Should include the police officers, such as the honor guards who helped in the flag raising ceremonies in the appreciation awards at the 4/9 board meeting. BD will check with the Police Chief.

CR Committee Annual Review:

- In general, as a new committee, we have achieved many of the goals that we were set out to pursue. We continue to improve our communication processes, and to enhance our relations with the community:
 - Communicate proactively with Half Century Club, and issue Gold Card at the Community Day to encourage senior residents to get involved with school activities.
 - Work with the Township in supporting the Alpha Company in Iraq, and have school supply drives & flag raising ceremonies at our schools.
 - Spearhead in NJQSAC to understand the process and plan for future activities.
 - Conduct a communication self-assessment, and enhance some communications.
 - Clarify Superintendent-Board communications.

- Improve the board agenda to make sure that the public will have an opportunity to comment on agenda items before they are voted.
- Improve the timelessness and availability of board meeting minutes & committee notes by posting them on web.
- Review and work with Operation Get Out the Vote.
- Review and suggest all aspects of budget communications to B&F and the whole board. As a result, a new Budget FAQ is posted on web along with other budget info.
- Establish the e-Alert web notice services.
- Suggestions to next CR Committee:
 - Make sure that all other committees have members serving in the CR committee. This way we can be sure that all communication needs are covered. For example, it's very effective to have BG (chair of B&F) on CR when we discuss budget communication.
 - We should continue to assess our communications effectiveness. The Communications Self-Assessment matrix is just a start, and we need to drill down to the next level, by which we mean try to assess our user-friendliness at the building, as well as district, level.
 - Alpha Company may have soldiers visiting us on Veteran's Day.
 - New Board Member Orientation:
 - BD will invite all newly elected board members to a meeting with (some of) her administrators.
 - BD will compile a Welcome Package, which may include an annual board calendar, school phone list, district profile, etc..

Next Meeting: TBD after Board Reorganization on 4/30.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Tai