

Holmdel Township Board of Education
Community Relations Committee
Meeting Notes for March 13, 2009

Present: Board Members: Ana M. Vander Woude–Chair, Barbara Garrity, Michael L. Collins, and Jim Shelton

Administrators: Barbara Duncan and Michael Petrizzo

- 1. Budget Outreach Considerations:** The committee discussed ways to improve our public presentation and website during the budget process; for example, consolidated budget information under one area of the district’s homepage. M. Petrizzo recommended that for future website discussions, the committee should extend an invitation to Anthony Gattini or Carlos Machado. We also engaged in preliminary discussion about trying to include within our budget presentation the challenges facing our district, as well as better conveying to our community the concept that the budget represents the monetary manifestation of the district’s commitment to the children.

- 2. E-Alert:** Discussion involved ways to better utilize E-Alert, especially in providing weather-related information, such as closings, early dismissals or delayed openings. Concern was raised that it had not been activated for any of these circumstances this year. The committee acknowledged that E-Alert is not intended as the primary means of parent notification for weather-related information. Nonetheless since it is identified as a source for such information in both the district calendar and website, activation of E-Alert in such circumstances is advisable.

- 3. National Night Out:** Ana received an e-mail from the Holmdel Police Department regarding National Night Out, which is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2009 from 5:30p to 8:30p. Bearing in mind that the police department actively collaborated with the district in the Flag Raising Ceremonies, this committee will explore possible ways that the district can extend its assistance to this event. This is at the preliminary stage.

- 4. Board Meetings: Public Awareness:** In addition to announcing scheduled meeting dates, the committee discussed ways to improve public awareness of the presentations and subjects under discussion by the Board. The committee agreed that the quality of this year’s presentations by our administrators were truly deserving of a wider audience. Recommendations to encourage more attendance included increased outreach to the district’s parent groups for inclusion of such information in their newsletters, as well as providing more detailed meeting information on the website.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 17, 2009 at 11:15a in the Central Office conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana M. Vander Woude