

# Community Relations Committee

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Subject: CR Meeting Notes – 1/22/16

Below is a summary of the notes from the most recent Community Relations Committee meeting for the Holmdel Board of Education.

## Attendees:

- Joe Hammer
- Michael Sockol
- Dina D'Ambrosi
- Ana Vander Woude
- Barbara Duncan
- Robert McGarry
- Gerilyn Kessler

## Agenda/Notes

- Policy & Regulations
  - Discussed homework policy and survey that will be issued by individual teachers for classes in Village and Indian Hill.
  - Entire board is encouraged to review the homework policy and send comments to the C&I committee. It will be reviewed at the next board meeting.
  - E-Blast will be sent out by Gerilyn to the community highlighting the various items on the board agenda, especially the School Calendar and the homework policy discussion. There will be a link to the policy and the draft school calendar options.
  - Barbara will also forward the E-Blast email to the various Parent group leadership to increase awareness of the BoE agenda.
  - The committee did not get a chance to discuss the Board Committee Regulation and other Public Complaints and Grievances documents.
- CR Committee Goal
  - Committee discussed various goals but in general agreed that we would like to dramatically improve community relations.
  - Committee members will identify 3 top messages that the BoE will focus on
  - Committee requested that Anthony present an overview of PowerSchool, Website, and other tools to understand the amount, types and frequency of use in order to determine the various ways that they could be used to increase communications to the community
  - Committee discussed alternative ways to communicate with the community including possibly sending out notices through the Holmdel Township Committee.
- Draft 206/2017 School Calendar
  - Committee reviewed the calendar and came up with two calendar options:

- Option A: Current proposed schedule from admin with end date of June 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Option B: Includes a Feb break of 1 week and an end date of June 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Both options have Veterans day off, a ½ day prior to Chinese New Year and assume 3 snow days
  - There was concern about the staffs perception of a Feb week of vacation and the staff not getting the entire week off as well. (there was a PD day included in that week)
- **Need to make sure that on 1/27 BoE meeting that we determine the final end date for the school year as they need to reserve Brookdale and other facilities.**
- Superintendent Search Process
  - Discussed having updates on the search posted on the website.
  - Barbara said to work with Paula and Michael Petrizzo. They will ensure that it gets posted on line.
- Items for the Good of the Order:
  - HFEE expressed concerns about getting messaging out ahead of the US News & World Reports' next Top HS in the US article.

#### **Actions**

- Presentation at next CR Committee meeting by Anthony on PowerSchool, Website, and other tools (amount, types and frequency of use) and how we can use these tools to increase comm.
- E-Blast by Gerilyn on the board agenda
- Board agenda sent to Parent groups by Barbara
- Joe to send out email with 3 top messages that the BoE will focus on

**Next Meeting:** Feb 19, 2016 at 11:30 am.