

Community Engagement Exploratory Committee

October 4, 2017

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Approved Minutes

1. Call to order
2. Additions/deletions to the agenda
 - a. Organize:
 - b. Maureen Nominated Alycia Biondo to be a chair of this exploratory committee. Alycia accepted. Approved.
3. Public Comment
4. Brainstorm ideas for community engagement by the board, including
 - a. What is the goal?
 - i. Starting the process of understanding, not impacting decision-making
 - ii. Improving visibility and connectedness in the community
 - b. What defines board engagement? (vs communication, or vs school engagement)
 - i. Not school reaching the community (that's Sheila's work)
 - ii. Broader community feedback about budget / taxes / poverty / homelessness / opiate addition. Are people concerned? How does it impact their budget.
 - iii. Could it be surveys? Or other ways to ask what people value
 - c. What kind of overlap might occur with school administration/activities? Could that overlap cause confusion or concern? How should we avoid overlap and confusion?
 - i. Organizational design could be an area of overlap: district is thinking about pathways, transitions, but board could be looking at how people feel about redesign.
 - ii.
 - d. What are our ideas for engaging the community?
 - i. Connect with selectboards – help them understand what is happening in school, but also get feedback about municipal tax rates. (think about Towns who give money to support “local” school programs / local PTO)
 - ii. PTO meetings
 - iii. Rotary clubs
 - iv. Surveys

- v. Social events / board-instigated events
 - vi. Possible inclusion in school event (possibly stand up to get to introduce ourselves)
 - vii.
- e. What kind of outside information/guidance should we seek to help inform our recommendations to the board about engagement?
 - i. Val Gardner - Hinesburg
 - ii. Nicole Mace – Burlington area
 - iii. Great Schools Partnership – Don Weafer / Ken Templeton (what do they mean when they say “engage community to inform vision” – and at the board level?)
 - iv. Ask the board what their ideas are for “engagement” – what do they think it is.
 - v. Gather info about Various groups and meeting times
 - vi. **Action: Ask board for permission to do the above work**
 - vii. KEEP IN MIND: all of these pieces of information may inform what we ultimately decide to do, but we should expect that some of the ideas may be contradictory.
- f. What are our questions
 - i. Will we need a budget / events
 - ii. How to record and share feedback? (be sensitive to “common themes” as opposed to one particular issue/group/event commandeering the “public input”)
 - iii. Will people respond and give feedback, even though our role as a board is limited?
 - iv. How
- 5. Set/confirm scope, meeting schedule, and next meeting
 - a. Next meeting, Wed 10/18. 2-3 pm.
 - b. Oct 16 1:30 – 2:30 sustainability for community engagement for schools/district
- 6. Adjourn