

Warwick Public Schools – School Committee

Parents Communication Advisory Board

7 p.m. Warwick Public Schools Administration Bldg.

Meeting Minutes September 3, 2009

Mission: To advise and make recommendations to the School Committee as to how we can better facilitate communication by and between parents, school administration and the Warwick School Committee.

Present:

Voting Members: David Testa(Francis, Chair); Paula Breslin(Pilgrim, Holliman); Marc Comtois(Hoxie); Barbara Supsky(Oakland Beach, Gorton); Patti Nazareth(Greenwood); Michelle Barrett (Greenwood); Colleen Kennedy (Holliman); Jen Marcello (Lippitt); Heidi Ross (Wyman, Pilgrim); Jessica Schad (Sherman); Matt Stark (Cedar Hill); Diane White (Warwick Neck); Danielle Woodbine (Greenwood, Winman)

Non Voting Members: Kristen Campbell (RIPIN); Carla Jaggi(Wyman); Margaret Paynich

Peter Horoschak(Superintendent); Patrick Maloney(School Committee)

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by David Testa

Motion made (Ross) and 2nd (Supsky) to accept minutes of August 6,

2009 as distributed.

Completed Business – (David Testa)

- PCAC flyer distributed to all schools to be set home in first day folder. Lippitt, Norwood, Sherman – did not receive home by time of meeting.**
- New Emergency ‘Accident’ card includes space for e-mail contact, some schools still distributing old cards.**
- PCAC website will now be updated by Laura Testa**
- Direct link to PCAC website now on Home page of Warwickschools.org**
- New links were added to PCAC website**

Unfinished Business – (David Testa)

- Discussion regarding need to connect w/ PTA/PTO council to be able to share communications and contacts.**
- Discussion on need and process of developing by-laws for the PCAC**

Rules to govern, as well as maintain consistency and functionality

Kristin Campbell sent a copy of Cranston Advisory Board’s bylaws.

New Business –

- All present at this meeting will be considered members unless they specify differently**
- Need for e-mail contact to all principals**
- PCAC first day forms to be available at open houses.**

- Should there be a Link to PCAC website from all school web pages?
- Advertise PCAC meeting Warwick Beacon – Bulletin Board
- Question regarding information flow – should work in all directions through PCAC – info. from school committee and administration out through PCAC members to other parents as well as info. and questions from parents brought to PCAC meetings and school committee meetings.
- Dr. Horoschak comments on Positive behavior / character development program
- Information available on PCAC website or links to information such as official inspection reports - PCAC should be known for disseminating information not advocating.
- Use of connect-ed to publicize Kim Pistauro fundraiser – discussion regarding connect-ed for only official Warwick school events

General Discussion-

- Possibility of requiring all school websites to be updated each year by a certain date so all carry current information
- Discussion regarding Sodexo, menu availability
- No food sales during lunchtime as well as 1 hr before school – 1 hr. after school
- All foods in school must meet nutritional guidelines
- Discussion regarding lunchtime ice cream sales
- New Community Police Officer
- Address emerging gang activities “tagging” of school bldgs. – encourage e-mail pictures to PCAC site so parents can be aware – be

proactive fits in w/ character development programs

Updates -

Administration – (Dr. Horoschak)

- Opening day went well at schools**
- Admin. Changes: Asst. to Superintendent - William Sangster**
 - Lead High School Principal – Dennis Mullins**
- New R.I Commissioner of Education visited Oakland Beach School**
- Commissioner’s delegates will be visiting the high schools**
- \$1.24 million surplus to be returned to city – was realized mostly through cut back in supplies not personnel – not sustainable cuts**
- Formation of committee to address falling Warwick school enrollment – looking for long-range solutions and plan. Options: closing a jr. high; senior high; moving 6th grade to jr.high; leading to closing more elementary schools. Plan for future enrollment declines, impact of airport development. Committee should be larger than consolidation committees. Question - will there be union participation?**

Need to have rational, viable, credible discussion on all options.

Recommendations to be presented to school committee

- Leases on Potowomut, Rhodes and Greene Bldgs. Some Admin. offices will be moved to Greene**
- Question of President Obama’s speech to America’s students being shown in schools on Sept. 8th, decision will be made shortly.**

· ALAP positions decreased from 3 teachers to 21/2. ALAP currently a pull-out program ... looking into a more effective program

School Committee - (Patrick Maloney)

· Next meeting Tuesday September 8, 2009 @ Winman

· Received very few parent e-mails regarding first day, opening day concerns, very different from last year's first day.

· Connect-ed still being utilized to remind parents of school committee meetings

· Patrick will continue to announce regarding PCAC at school committee meetings

Next meeting – Thursday, October 1, 2009 7p.m. Administration Bldg.

Motion to adjourn 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Nazareth