

Warwick Public Schools – School Committee

Parents Communication Advisory Committee

7 p.m. Warwick Public Schools Administration Bldg.

Meeting Minutes November 5, 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 (J.B. Francis, Aldrich; Chair); Marc Comtois (Hoxie); Patti Nazareth (Greenwood); Heidi Ross (Wyman, Pilgrim);Michelle Barrett (Greenwood);

Ed Racca (Sherman); Steve Campanelli (Robertson);Tracy McDermott; Paula Breslin (Holliman, Pilgrim) ; Stacie A. Silvestre (Sherman, Aldrich) ;

Peter Horoschak(Superintendent); Patrick Maloney (School Committee, J.B. Francis)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by David Testa

Motion made (Comtois) and 2nd (Breslin) to accept minutes of October 1, 2009 as distributed.

Completed Business – (David Testa)

- ~1600 completed forms in for e-mails contacts, representative of ~1400 families

- Additional links for H1N1 added to website

Unfinished Business – (David Testa)

- Plan to connect w/ PTA's/PTO's via Warwick council PTA, Tracey McDermott offered to attend next scheduled Warwick Council PTA meeting on Nov. 12, 2009

- Need to develop master list of WPS committees and schedules to add to PCAC website

New Business –

- Need to est. subcommittee for developing by-laws for PCAC. Marc Comtois, Deidre , Ed Racca are designated as members of sub-committee. Plan to keep by-laws basic and simple

- H1N1 e-mail was sent out to PCAC list on 11/1/09, 198 bounced back as undeliverable/wrong address; comment made of need to add subject line of 'Warwick Schools' to e-mails from PCAC committee

General Discussion-

- Contact Jo-Ann Schofield @ R.I. Mentoring Partnership to discuss providing a link to their website on the PCAC website

- Sherman school parking situation... principal has been approached w/ parents concerns safety concerns for students at entry and dismissal time; process in place currently is not working effectively...current parking lots are not large enough

- Robertson entry and dismissal concerns of last month have improved...Parents are acting as traffic directors to keep the morning entry timely and safe

- More information should be distributed to parents regarding United Ways' Dial 211 program Heidi Ross offered to get flyers to distribute to schools

Updates -

Administration – (Dr. Horoschak)

- Concerning H1N1 vaccinations: connect-ed message was sent to parents regarding scheduling of upcoming clinics

§ Clinics are being manned by volunteers

§ Question asked if parents would be allowed to go into schools (jr./sr.high) when their child will be vaccinated. Dr. Horoschak stated that was possible.

§ Students need to be monitored for 15 mins. After vaccination

§ At Wickes 374 students enrolled, 275/80 attended clinic

§ R.I. Dept. of Health has determined all the rules for the clinics

§ Determining most efficient manner to run clinic just first come first serve or separate times assigned alphabetically

§ Patrick Maloney asked for comparison of absenteeism from 2008 to 2009. absenteeism is not significantly different from last year

§ Individual schools will not be closed dependant on absenteeism

- Commissioner visits vs. commissioner reviews

§ Commissioner Gist's visit to Toll Gate, Voc. Tech and Cedar Hill. At Toll Gate met w/ parent group, students, administration and teachers w/o administration

- Discussion regarding GBP, senior project and electronic portfolio,

GLE expectations

- Need to address the scheduling of AP exams and senior projects**
- Science NECAP scores questioned....WPS curriculum needs to align w/ tests**

School Committee - (Patrick Maloney)

- Next meeting is Nov. 10th @ Winman**
- Always a need for GBP mentors during the year as well as judges in May.**

Announcement of VOWS Chopstick auction

Graffiti issue still needs to be addressed... discussed at October meeting as well

How to stop 'tagging' of school buildings and in neighborhoods. Further need to emphasize character development programs at schools

Next meeting – Thursday, December 3, 2009 7p.m. Administration Bldg.

Motion to adjourn 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Nazareth