

## **Community Engagement Committee Agenda**

**Location: Bixby Library**

**October 16, 2017**

**6:00-7:15 PM**

Present: Diana Raphael, Laurie Gutowski, Kristina MacKulin, Finn Yarbrough, Scott Grant, Kaci Pierce, Megan Tarte, Kathryn Wyckoff, JoAn Canning.

1. Laurie G. moves to accept minutes of 9/21/17 meeting, Scott G. seconds. Motion carries.
2. Debrief Parent vision statement rollout:  
Discussion on differing participation levels, per school. Ferrisburgh resulted in the most feedback data. Other open-houses, though well-attended, were unable to solicit vision statement feedback. Wide-ranging discussion on topics for the upcoming CEC workshop: engaging with community on adapting vision to mission (or value) statements; school-choice in unified district; clarifying roles of the CEC are three topics of interest.
3. Committee size and membership:  
Discussion on the merits of opening membership to wider pool, including non-school community. A few specific candidates are brought up. The Vergennes Boys & Girls club is identified as a valuable partner in increasing the effectiveness of outreach to parents and students. Scott G. reminds us of a former discussion wherein community business leaders were recommended as potential members. Kathryn W. wonders whether parents are a specific recruitment focus, and Finn Y. has questions about the strategy for engagement for non-school affiliated community which continues to make up the majority of tax base. Kaci P. suggests that increased student presence and impact in community is one way, and Finn Y. adds that critical service-learning and project-based pedagogies are two approaches that combine this increased presence and impact with learning objectives. JoAn C. mentions that there has been some discussion with Kathy Alexander of inviting senior citizens and others to join in the school lunch programs. Kristina M. brings up CVU, which opens facilities for community workshop series. After wide-ranging discussion, the committee is resolved to make outreach efforts to invite parents from more schools to participate in the CEC meetings and projects. Increased membership tabled for discussion with the wider board. We will ask the central office if we can invite parents and community members to the upcoming CEC workshop.
4. Other discussion: out-of-pocket fees for fingerprinting brought up again as a meaningful obstacle to community engagement. There is committee consensus that this is an issue that the board must resolve, either through creating a budget line-item for volunteer reimbursements, individual town offices, negotiation with the VPD, or some other means.
5. Next meeting will be the workshop, set for TBA.
6. Meeting adjourned, 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Finn Yarbrough