

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

Communications Committee Meeting Minutes

The Communications Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Monday, April 25, 2011 in the School Administration Building.

Attendees:

Administrative Team Members: Stephen Cullinan, David Pearson, Erin McGurk

Board of Education Committee Members: Tracey Kiff-Judson, Kristen Picard-Wambolt, James Stoughton

Absent Committee Members: Allison Wilkins, Dan Keune

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM by Tracey Kiff-Judson.

Agenda Items

- **Update on Communication Tasks for April 12, 2011 Budget Hearing**
 - The group discussed the results of representative speakers at the hearing.
 - Steve Cullinan provided an update on the budget deliberations of the Board of Finance.
 - The next step will be trying to get votes in support of the budget.
 - In preparation for the May 10 hearing, Kris Picard-Wambolt and Tracey Kiff-Judson agreed to draft a message to voters and distribute it through a combined email distribution list. In that message, voters will be encouraged to speak in support of the education budget at the May 10 hearing.
 - James Stoughton agreed to post at the Senior Center the fact sheet drafted by Steve Cullinan for the April 12 budget hearing. James will also add a cover memorandum offering support of the budget.
 - School principals will include data from the fact sheet in school newsletters.
 - Tracey Kiff-Judson will draft a letter to the editor to be used in local papers.

- **Review Proposed Communication Survey**
 - The group agreed to postpone discussion of the survey until the next meeting.
 - Tracey Kiff-Judson will confirm attendance with Allison Wilkins; if Allison is unable to attend, the group will seek support internally within the school system for administration of the survey.

- **Old Business**
 - None.

- **New Business**
 - The group discussed the value of the communications committee. Steve Cullinan suggested that there would be additional impact once we were able to look beyond the immediate budget issues.
 - The group also discussed ways to get additional press exposure on positive aspects of the school system.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

- A motion was made by Erin McGurk to adjourn. The motion was seconded by James Stoughton. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.
- The next meeting is Monday, May 9, 2011 in Administration Building at 9:30 AM.

Minutes submitted by: _____
Tracey Kiff-Judson, Communications Committee Chairperson