

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellington, Connecticut

Communications Committee Meeting Minutes

The Communications Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 in the Ellington School Administration Building.

Attendees:

Administrative Team Members: Dr. Scott Nicol

Board of Education Committee Members: Ms. Tracey Kiff-Judson, Ms. Kris Picard-Wambolt, Mr. Gary Blanchette, Ms. Marcia Kupferschmid

Guest Board Members: Ms. Liz Nord

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Ms. Kiff-Judson.

Agenda Items:

Continued Discussion of Holiday and Cultural Observances

- Ms. Kiff-Judson recapped the discussion from the last meeting.
- Dr. Nicol indicated that about 3% of teachers took off Rosh Hashana in the past.
- Dr. Nicol will coordinate with Tolland and South Windsor to look into aligning spring break and other breaks for consistency.
- The committee discussed providing a summary of religious observances on the website. Dr. Nicol recommended sending this to the faculty and student body.
- Dr. Nicol will do some additional research on a similar document created by South Windsor and get some additional feedback from teachers.
- Ms. Picard-Wambolt expressed a concern for ensuring that we include all religions.
- Ms. Nord recommended using some introductory language on the intent and explain that it is just to raise awareness, as opposed to requiring teachers to take a particular action.
- **Motion:** recommend to the full board the endorsement of the religious observances document for use in the district and publication on the website.
 - 1st: Ms. Kupferschmid, 2nd: Ms. Picard-Wambolt

Board/School District Communication Template

- Dr. Nicol provided an updated draft of the communications template.
- The administrative team will continue to chart the communications throughout the year to have a plan going forward.
- The committee discussed how the graduation date will be set per the new law.

Adjournment

- **Motion:** Adjourn this meeting of the Communications Committee at 5:52 PM.
 - 1st: Ms. Picard-Wambolt, 2nd: Ms. Picard-Wambolt, **Vote:** Unanimous

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