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Susan Kalt Moreau, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Catherine M. Carbone, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

The Communication and Community Relations Committee met on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 36 at the Board of Education Administration Building, 129 Church Street, Bristol.

Minutes

Present: Jeff Caggiano, Joe Grabowski, Tina Taylor, Karen Vibert, Chris Wilson. Also present: Michael Dietter, Kate Carbone, Kristen Peck, Sue Moreau and Marissa Calvi-Rogers

1. Chair Caggiano called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval of the minutes of the October 24, 2018 meeting

On a motion by Tina Taylor, seconded by Jeff Caggiano, the minutes from the October 24, 2018 meeting was approved unanimously.

3. Discussion regarding the spring newsletter

Kate Carbone reviewed the progress to date receiving items for the spring newsletter and addressed a concern regarding the production of the newsletter after the resignation of Sarah Mitchell. Commissioner Caggiano asked if we would receive enough content for the spring issue. Kate Carbone reported we have received content from half of the schools. Commissioner Taylor shared a concern that articles collected not be filler, instead be reflective of the schools' work. Commissioner Taylor asked that content received after the deadline is posted via social media to communicate the work within each school. Kate Carbone discussed we would reduce the page content dependent on the number of articles submitted. Commissioner Grabowski agreed with Commissioners Taylor and Caggiano to move forward with the spring newsletter. The deadline for articles is April 18, 2019. Commissioner Caggiano suggested we use the use of social media this spring to increase our outreach and social media presence. Kate Carbone reminded all present to 'retweet' stories posted from the Bristol Public Schools Twitter page. Michael Dietter reminded the committee that many community members rely on the newsletter to learn about the schools. In public comment, Commissioner Vibert discussed increasing the Bristol BOE presence on Facebook.

A motion by Joe Grabowski, and seconded by Tina Taylor, "to move forward with the spring 2019 newsletter to ensure equity in Bristol for everyone in Bristol to see the great things going on in our schools", was approved unanimously.

4. Community Conversation

Kate Carbone distributed a suggested list of activities and content for the second Community Conversation. Kate Carbone described the proposed activities and the relationship between last session's discussions and activities to the proposed activities. Four activities proposed for the next session include: Developing Equity Literacy, Becoming Aware of Bias, Identity Stories and use of Poetry to Express 'Otherness' and Promote Acceptance. Commissioner Caggiano asked if all four topics would be covered during the next session. Commissioner Taylor asked if a date had been planned. Kate Carbone reported a date had not been confirmed. Kate Carbone suggested the BOE hold the community event in late May or early June. Kate Carbone was asked to research dates with Kerry Lord (consultant with Connecticut Center for School Change). A review of two planning sessions facilitated by Kerry Lord was discussed. Due to the familiarity the committee had with the format of the facilitator training sessions, Kate Carbone suggested to hold each facilitator session a week apart, in order to meet a shorter timeline before the May/Early June Community Conversation Meeting. Kate Carbone and Sue Moreau will meet with Kerry Lord in late April to plan the first 'facilitator's session'.

Karen Vibert asked about the intended outcome from the Community Conversations. Kate Carbone stated we want to impact the entirety of our community but first we must engage with the community, the first step is committing publically to Equity, Inclusiveness, and Excellence and creating space for the community to come together to define what this means for Bristol residents, families, and students inclusive of the intersectionality of our identity. The work the BOE will engage in with schools will include the examination of our policies, practices, pedagogy and curriculum and engage in exploration of identity.

Commissioner Caggiano asked for the District Leadership (Sue Moreau and Kate Carbone) to set an overarching goal and steps to continue to move this process forward, answering; where are we going? what are we doing? how does this spread throughout the community?

Sue Moreau shared the city has launched a Diversity Council and suggested the city may want to partner with the BOE to continue the community dialogue.

Commissioner Vibert asked for an article to be included in the newsletter. Commissioner Caggiano asked that the Community Conversation date be tweeted. Marissa Calvi-Rogers asked that a 'Save the Date' flyer be sent out as soon as possible. A suggestion by Commissioner Caggiano suggested the BOE use an event planner through Facebook to organize the event.

5. Public Comment:

Commissioner Vibert referred to a commitment made during the last Communication and Community Relations Committee to increase our social media presence. Kate Carbone shared the goal was to post at minimum one Tweet a day on the Bristol Public School

Twitter page. Commissioner Vibert and Commissioner Caggiano requested we look into using Facebook as an additional source of online communication.

6. Adjournment at 6:52 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Catherine M. Carbone

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