DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Burlington Board of School Commissioners Community Engagement Committee Minutes

**Hunt Middle School
November 29, 2018**

Attendance: Mike Fisher, Joanna Grossman, Dave Harnett, Mark Barlow, Infinite Culcleasure, Nate Crammond, Corali from PYC

1. Call to Order
A. Meeting Called to Order 6:04pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Role of the Community Engagement Committee

Oversight and strategy or point of engagement?

Mark: supportive of oversight role. Support the Comm Specialist.

Joanna: interesting to have CE comm be a place to have conversations between public and the board

Dave: questioned whether board reflections are effective use of time during a board meeting. Likes the venue of having an open forum for conversations, supportive of this being a regular opportunity at monthly CE committees.

Downsides:
- not all board members are present
- if not all board members, community may not feel it's worth their time/message won't get to the full board

Infinite: thinks about CE like the Family School Partnership, a constant conduit of communication

Corali: having CE as a venue for opportunity for discussion at a small venue make is less scary. Important to provide feedback to the full board.

Dave: city council has similar committee model, with small venues feeding info back to the full council

Mike: have "open forum" as part of every CE committee?

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Infinite: letting the community know the limits of BSD's capacity

5. Engaging the entire community

Infinite: Parents & Youth for Change has been successful, ex: school transportation in Winooski SD. Focused on the "why"

<u>Challenges</u>
- Population is transient
- Not comfortable with meeting formats
- Perception that time spent is not a good use because input doesn't really influence decisions
- EL families not comfortable / don't feel safe at English venue/meeting
- Key: if you get that engagement, what will the board do with it? If there is no change, then community won't attend/engage a second time.
- Lack of continuity within BSD & board

<u>Ideas</u>
- Meet people where they are
- Food attracts
- If community knows their attendance will drive actual decisions aka provide value / incorporate their ideas
- Alternate locations besides schools
- move locations around the city
- Need to do outreach
- Leverage orgs that already have relationships and have skillsets and tactics ex: PYC, AALV
- It's not just engagement, the key is empowerment. There has to be outcomes and ownership.
- Need to come back to show results
- Ask the community how they want to be engaged (going back to What is the role of the CE comm?)
- Engage the community on schedules, ex: which day is best for early dismissal
- Educate the community on BSD
    - structure
    - methods of engagement
    - how decisions are made
    - Strategic Plan
    - Achievement Gap
- Think about different times of day to meet multitude of schedules
- Survey families. What are the barriers, what would encourage engagement?
- Need to provide childcare for BSD events
- Leverage the students to engage the parents
- Explain the "why":
    - Wed is early dismissal for PLC
    - Criteria for snow days
- Empower CE to funnel community via formal resolutions

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6. Open Forums

Dave: Next phase of BHS design: ensure that staff/teachers/students are involved. Including middle school students. It's what BSD promised. What should the classrooms and building look like? Engaging of full community (see prior discussion). Classrooms, cafeteria, quiet spaces, lockers, etc. What is the plan for transitions?

Teacher contract negotiations. What is the board's approach?

7. Adjournment

A. Motion to Adjourn 7:45pm

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