

# MINUTES OF THE AD HOC PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Stamford, Connecticut

May 11, 2009

The Ad Hoc Public Engagement Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was held on May 11, 2009 at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m. by Ms. Wade, Chairperson, with the following Committee members present: Mr. King, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Polo. Absent: Ms. Nabel. Also in attendance: Dr. Starr, Ms. Shivali Khetan, Ms. Alexandra Lewis, Ms. Jena Neuscheler, Ms. Rachel Zabronsky, and a representative from the Advocate.

The purpose of the meeting was to set the ground rules for future meetings. The three areas discussed were: purpose, expectations for both sides, and organizational representation. There was discussion on how to engage students with a wide variety of interests. Ms. Wade suggested representation from the following areas: sports, student government, drama, art, ROTC, and the newspaper staff. Students suggested representation from the AVID and/or ALTA. It was agreed meetings be held monthly with five students per school. In addition to monthly meetings during the school year, Dr. Starr hopes to create a list of active students for issue specific forums. Ms. Wade said high school task force meetings would be in addition to the periodic meetings the Board of Education holds with the high school Editorial staffs.

Dr. Starr said it was important for the students to understand who makes the decisions on certain issues – the Board or the principal. The students agreed they needed to better understand the responsibilities of the Board and how its decisions affect students.

Ms. Wade agreed to write a draft purpose statement. The students will work on identifying possible participants. They will also identify which organizations and areas should be included.

A tentative meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the 5N Conference Room of the Government Center.

Mr. King moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mr. King, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Polo, and Ms. Wade.

Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Executive Office