

Communication Committee Meeting, November 16, 2015

Present: Joe Phelan, Laura Schulkind, Deirdre d'Albertis, Deirdre Burns

1. The committee discussed input to the Common Core Task Force. The committee will have a draft to share with the board at its next meeting on 11/24. (The draft document to the will reflect the substance of the discussion). Comments must be submitted by November 30.
2. The committee enumerated various opportunities to advocate for our schools. Issues to advocate about include schools finances/budgeting (tax levy cap, GEA) and legislative/regulatory issues (Common Core, testing, evaluation). It was noted that it is important that the board and the larger community have a broad understanding of the financial impact of the Gap Elimination Adjustment on the district. The GEA continues to be a topic of discussion at the state level. Joe will provide the board with the analysis of the amount of money the district has lost out on from the state due to the GEA.

Upcoming advocacy opportunities include:

- a. The Board's input to the CC Task Force.
- b. Joe sent a letter to K-12 parents about the Task Force and with a link to the page where parents can submit their own testimony.
- c. Dutchess County Superintendents have a meeting scheduled with Sen. Sue Serino for this Friday. Joe will attend.
- d. Joe has been invited, and will attend, a lunch, organized by Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, with Speaker of the Assembly Carl Heastie, also this Friday. Speaker Heastie is touring the Assemblyman's district.
- e. Attending the Dutchess County School Boards Association meeting on December 3rd re: NYSSBA Advocacy training.
- f. DCSBA working to schedule a meeting with Regent Judith Johnson.
- g. December 8th meeting with State Education Commissioner Elia. There are all day meetings set up for different constituencies in different groups at separate times. Board members (Mark, Lisa) will attend, Joe and Marvin will represent the district, two PTSO reps will attend on behalf of parents, and RTA and admin reps will also attend. Perhaps we can get more information on the format of these meetings in order to be prepared to be most effective.
- h. Meetings with our state representatives early in the new year - locally and perhaps, this year, join NYSSBA's lobby day in Albany, which is usually held in March.
- i. Be alert to statewide efforts to lobby in Albany with other organizations. Continue to consider ways to make common cause with neighboring districts in the county.
- j. Reach out to parents to encourage they advocate with state legislators (a theme developed in Mark's graduation remarks last year).

Submitted by Deirdre Burns