## MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON DECEMBER 3, 2020

A meeting of the Stakeholder Relations Committee (the "Committee," the members of which are referred to as "Committee Members") of the Rhinebeck Central School District Board of Education (the "Board") was held on December 3, 2020 (the "Meeting") via Zoom and at the District Office.

Present at the Meeting were Megan Barbera, Albert Cousins, Jacqueline Raccuia, Stephen Jensen, and Matthew Van Wormer, constituting all of the Committee Members.

Mr. Cousins greeted all in attendance and called the Meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.

## A. Committee Discussions

1. Building on discussions at the previous Committee meeting, the Committee Members further discussed the Communications Plan (the "Plan"). Mr. Jensen stated that he has begun the process of updating the Plan, but that the structure of the Plan is not expected to be finalized until additional conversations are held with external stakeholders. Mr. Cousins noted that he has had recent discussions with the Rhinebeck Teachers Association ("RTA") regarding methods of communication between parents and teachers. He stated that there was agreement on the importance of establishing a clear protocol for parent/teacher communication so that teachers can most efficiently respond to and resolve issues raised by parents, as appropriate. The Committee Members noted that social media is not effective in this regard. The Committee Members agreed that once finalized, the communications protocol could potentially be included in the fall newsletter as well as sent electronically.



- 2. The Committee Members then discussed how technology could be further leveraged in order to provide increased access for parents to District activities, especially in view of the ongoing COVID-19 environment. The Committee Members noted the recent success of the virtual back-to-school night and explored other opportunities to utilize technology. For example, the Committee Members discussed the possibility of using video communication on occasion in addition to email. The Committee Members also discussed how the limited use of live video for special events could help provide parents with a better sense of the school environment.
- 3. Mr. Jensen then provided a brief history of the District website. He discussed the need to begin the process of identifying a new web application. Mr. Jensen explained that he had conducted a survey of the web applications used by other school districts within and outside of Dutchess County. Mr. Jensen stated that he planned to review how many of the District's teachers currently maintain a functional, updated webpage of their own. The Committee then discussed the potential benefits of a more streamlined product which could be used uniformly across the District by administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and students. The Committee Members noted the benefits of engaging a parent focus group to determine the features parents are looking for in a web application. In terms of timing, Mr. Jensen stated that the goal is to have a new web application in place by July 1, 2021.
- 4. As a follow-up item from the previous Committee meeting, Mr. Cousins noted that discussions with the mayor of Rhinebeck regarding SROs had concluded favorably and the Committee Members agreed that SROs play a positive role in the District and continue to be an important resource.

## B. Committee Decisions

- 1. To recommend to the Board that the District proactively issue a communications protocol on an annual basis tailored by building level.
- 2. To recommend to the Board that the District explore additional ways to leverage technology in order to provide increased access for parents to District activities.
- 3. To recommend to the Board that the District create a profile/needs assessment in connection with the search for a new web application.

There being no further business, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

Matthew J. Van Wormer Acting Secretary