

Holmdel Township Board of Education

Community Relations Committee

Combined Meeting Notes for June 20 and July 17, 2008

Present: Ana M. Vander Woude–Chair, Barbara Garrity, Jim Shelton, Michael L. Collins, Barbara Duncan, and Spencer Tirella.

Absent: Nikhita Prasanna

1. Welcome of New Members: An invitation was extended to the Board’s student representatives, Spencer Tirella and Nikhita Prasanna, to serve on the committee. We look forward to their contributions and unique perspective throughout the year. Although during the school year it may be difficult for them to attend our meetings, we will continue to seek their input via other mediums.

2. Mission Statement:

- **June 20:** The committee spent the majority of the meeting discussing the drafting of the mission statement based upon draft statements prepared by each committee member. In addition to discussing the actual wording of the statement, the members debated the philosophical components of the statement, e.g., our commitment to every student; our desire to work collaboratively with our community; creating an environment for our students that promotes good citizenship; and, satisfying the NJ Core Curriculum Standards. The concept of "community" in the mission will be understood as including everyone with an interest in the schools' excellence and the students' successes, i.e., students, parents, residents, employers, our teachers, staff, administrators, and the Board. A single draft statement was prepared for further discussion at the next meeting.
- **July 17:** After additional discussion, the committee agreed upon the following statement:

Mission: A Commitment to Excellence

The mission of the Holmdel Township Public Schools is to provide a comprehensive and caring educational environment that will develop the potential of every student into achievement. In partnership with our community, the School District will support all our students’ efforts to meet and exceed the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards, and to become responsible and resourceful citizens and life-long learners.

Procedural Aspects: A vote by the whole board is required to adopt the mission statement. However, since the mission statement is not a formal policy, two public readings are not required. Nonetheless, in the spirit of affording all board members and our community an opportunity to express their views, it will be “introduced” at the July 23rd Board meeting. The committee will then discuss any input provided and present a final version for formal Board approval at our August 27th meeting.

2. Alpha Company: Representatives from Alpha Company are scheduled to visit Holmdel for Veterans Day (November 11th). The township is coordinating a “Welcome Home” project with which the school district hopes to collaborate. Mayor DiMaso has suggested a joint parade with Middletown, who will be welcoming Charlie Company. Additionally, the committee has been tasked to develop suggestions as to ways the District can welcome Alpha Company. Thus far, suggestions include banners displayed at the schools welcoming the soldiers, and an assembly or a visit to speak at political science classes at the high school.

3. Items for the Good of the Order:

- Brookdale Graduation Ceremonies: After meeting with school administrators, Barbara Duncan reported that all had a favorable review of the new venue. In the future, better seating accommodations will be made available at the upper level of the auditorium for the elderly and disabled.
- Community Day is scheduled for September 27 with a rain date of September 28. As the date approaches, the committee will discuss board member participation at this event.
- National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA): Last year, the committee joined this organization and will continue to reference it as a means to better develop our community outreach.

4. Next Meeting: August 8, 2008 at 10a in the Superintendent’s Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana M. Vander Woude