

WCSD Core Value:

“We believe that the collaboration needed for meaningful change is built on honestly, trust and respect.”

## 4/5/17 CCC Meeting Minutes:

### Members Present of the Community Communications Committee

Barbara Goodman  
Marie Johnson  
\*Peggy Kellan  
Daren Lolkema  
Rob Rubin  
Maureen Ryan  
Deborah Torres Henning  
Amy Watkins  
Lauren Hernandez  
Alicia Alfred  
Kathleen Spinella

6:00 Meeting called to order

Ms. Hernandez shared about her work exploring National Climate Center and a survey they use to measure culture and climate. Mr. Carrion and Ms. Hernandez attended a conference in NYC. This led to a site visit at Monroe-Woodbury who has used the survey. CSCI addresses the 12 Dimensions of School Climate Measured. She shared the dimensions and the major indicators. She shared MWSD reflected on their experience when releasing the survey. The opening of the year is a better time versus the end of the year. Students in grades 3-12, staff, parents and administrators took the survey. They developed a committee at each building to review the results. The National Climate Center came to provide professional development and develop an action plan. There is a fee. It is approximately \$1500 per building. The cost is \$2.20 per person taking the survey.

Ms. Johnson shared the research she has done on communication surveys across the country. She organized the data and shared a handout. She shared FACE (Family and Community Engagement). She suggested we look at the #2 Niche School- Eanes Independent School District (Austin, TX)

Ms. Watkins shared about two other survey options: NSPRA and Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Ms. Torres-Henning felt that it is important that people feel heard. She shared her concern that a good example of the district’s response to State testing. Instead of not doing the test, they “doubled down.”

*The mission of the WCSD is to empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions, and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community.*

### EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION NORMS AND GUIDELINES

#### Suspend Certainty:

- Remain open minded.
- Commit to big picture, not personal interest. Inquire into the ideas of others before advocating for one’s idea.
- Putting all ideas on the table, this creates meaningful dialogue and discussion.
- Presume positive intentions of each member, this can prevent unintentional put-downs.

#### Respectful Responses:

- Putting all ideas on the table, this creates meaningful dialogue and discussion.
- Presume positive intentions of each member, this can prevent unintentional put-downs.
- Pause before responding to enhance dialogue and decision making.
- Pay attention to self and others; be aware of what you are saying and how it is said as well as how others are responding.
- Paraphrase to indicate that you are an active participant and understand the conversation.
- Encourage a spirit of inquiry, balance advocacy with inquiry, so as not to rush to decision making nor leave issues without closure.

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Ms. Johnson said it is important for parents to hear back on issues that have been reported.

Mr. Rubin summarized that it is not that the district agrees or disagrees with someone, but that they are given a response directly.

We should measure the perception of how parents feel heard, regardless of what the district feels they are doing. *“Make us feel like the public is not the enemy.”*

Mr. Rubin asked to see any survey we give broken down by building, as well as district.

Ms. Torres-Henning said in addition, she would like to see if there is a way to see how the district measures up against other districts.

**Possible Next Steps**

Look at the various surveys and identify positives and negatives. Marie, Rob, Barbara, Peggy, and anyone else who is available are invited to attend a meeting during spring recess to develop a list of categories to provide the Board of Education for consideration if they choose to move forward with a communications survey.

Ms. Goodman asked that the survey be extremely specific. She suggest the committee provide a spreadsheet of the methods of surveys we have seen, cost, advantages and disadvantages.(April 11 for the meeting) Plan to meet for an hour.

Ms. Torres-Henning asked how the Board has received the information the CCC has discussed. Mr. Rubin shared the BOE has not received a formal report from the committee, but just updates on what it being discussed during committee reports at BOE meetings.

Mr. Lolkema read from the Charter that the purpose of the committee was clear in that we were supposed to be creating a functional Communication Plan.

Ms. Goodman said that Stu Shinske recommended that we do a survey in order to develop a communication plan.

7:15 Meeting adjourned

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