

WSC: Community Relations Sub Committee Meeting: March 3rd, 2011
Wareham Middle School Library

Members Present:

Rhonda Veugen-Parent and Community Member
Donna Ashley-Parent and School Council Member
Joe Ashley-Community Member and 2009 graduate of Wareham
Susan Pinkham-Parent and Community Member
Lynn Sykes-Teacher
Debra Rose-Volunteer at Minot Forest
Jenna Lehane-Guidance at Minot Forest
Robin Murphy-Second Grade Teacher at Minot Forest
Barry Rabinovitch-Superintendent of Wareham Schools
Robert Louzan-Director of Student Services
Marie Garrity-Parent and Community Member
Clifford Sylvia-School Committee Member, former teacher
Chris Holbrook-Wareham graduate, Parent, Community Member
Mary Morgan-Early Childhood Coordinator

Chair Veugen called the meeting to order.

The committee began by members introducing themselves and sharing what they feel they are well informed about in the community as well as one improvement that could be made by the schools/administration/parents/community.

What is working:

- School website and computer programs
- Global connect
- Phone calls to parents/guardians
- Handouts, documents and flyers sent with students
- Continued use of the district calendars with dates of events and morning show programs
- Advise families where they can access computers in the district
- Continue keeping websites current and user friendly
- PowerSchool is very informative and helpful in the Middle and High School
- Continue with outside partnerships with YMCA and Boys and Girls Club etc...

What could be improved:

- Improve communication in High School regarding school to home events
- Informing all staff members of upcoming events
- Lack of recognition of the schools in the New Bedford Newspaper
- Teacher communication with parent/guardians
- Parent/guardians are fearful to interact with the schools
- Improve areas of technology

Ideas to improve communication:

- Collaborate with WCTV to help community relations
- Local and public access and government channel access

Rhonda Veugen
5-6-11

- Texting information to parents/guardians
- Improve access to PowerSchool
- Parent Center to welcome and build up comfort level with parents
- Obtain parent/guardian e-mails
- Utilizing community resources/programs and businesses to inform parents what is going on in the schools
- PTA parents to unite from Decas and Minot
- Put a Personal Face on the schools and form an alliance with the parents
- Schools and Parents/community work together (Power of the People)
- Research what resources are out in the community that we can utilize at school
- Publicize links that connect back to school website
- Clarify CORI process to parents/guardians
- Encourage parents to volunteer in the school building and build relationship with teacher early in the school year

Potential New Members of the Sub Committee:

1. Technology representatives
2. WCTV representatives
3. Food Services representative
4. Special guests depending on current topic discussed
5. Wareham Pediatrics representative

Discussion:

Whether to get the information out about existing programs or create new programs to foster communication in the community

Goals will begin now and go through until the end of summer 2011

Set small goals that are focused, attainable and measurable

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 31st at 6:00 PM in the Middle School Library

Topics:

What existing programs/partnerships we would like to promote and how to get the information out there.

What method and content would we like to utilize to effectively promote communication between the schools and community.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____