

**Danbury Board of Education
Community Relations Committee Minutes (revised)
January 24, 2018**

Present: Richard Jannelli, Emanuela Palmares, Gladys Cooper, Farley Santos, Amy Spallino

Also Present: Fred Karrat, Dr Pascarella, Joe Martino, Bill Glass, Rachel Chaleski, Kelly Truchsess, Patrick Johnston, Kathy Molinaro and Anne Mead

Mr. Jannelli called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The first order of business to elect a chair. F. Santos nominated R. Jannelli, seconded by E. Palmares. All in favor.

Mr. Jannelli gave an introduction: why the committee exists, its importance, and how it has informed the work within the district such as the “No one eats alone” project. He explained his goal for this year: for each member to spearhead a project by taking ownership of it. He gave an update on different projects that have taken place over the past few years.

Dr. Sal updated the group on the Realtors breakfast and how the business students at the high school are revising the presentation to host another one in the Spring. Dr. Sal would still like to investigate the model used in Waterbury. Mr. Santos will investigate.

Anne Mead updated the committee on the Danbury Community Resource Fair 3/24, Working Cities, DPS Block Party Aug. 28th, and multiple ways to engage families.

Mr. Jannelli explained how he is working with the PTO's to build attendance at them, as there are few Hispanic families. He has a pilot going at Park Ave School that is bilingual. He explained that Danbury needs to get more funds, need more advocates to talk about why we need it and to explain budget issues. For the next meeting he would like to talk about how to attract more focus on the committee's goals. DSABC can be the link between groups. Better investment in education has a return on investment on home values, and through businesses need to share skills, collaborate on internships, etc.

E. Palmares had 2 different ideas: one a campaign on marketing to sell the district and 2) sell the diversity in the district by having inter-relationships between organizations and call it “the World of Opportunities.” E. Palmares suggested that the PTO meetings be in English, Spanish & Portuguese.

Other members gave ideas on the connections their organizations have:

A. Spillano suggested the Hope Line part of Jericho could work with the FRC's ,

G. Cooper commented that all parts of the community should be included, not just one or two groups.

F. Karrat and R. Chaleski suggested on working together on legislation.

F. Santos will work on the Chamber and the Realtors.

Mr. Jannelli thanked everyone for their suggestions, the next meeting will be an hour. The meeting adjourned at 6:05. No date given for next meeting.

Richard Jannelli, Chair