

**Danbury Board of Education
Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2018**

In attendance: Richard Jannelli, Chair, Amy Spallino, Gladys Cooper, Emanuela Palmares and Farley Santos.

Also Present: Anne Mead, Judy Coco, Rachele Chaleski, Fred Karrat

R. Jannelli called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and gave a clarification on the difference of a committee meeting and a board meeting, who can speak and when it is appropriate to do so.

R. Jannelli handed out a sheet called "World of Opportunity" that laid out the 5 areas he felt the committee should work on: Strengthening PTO's; School Finance, Community and Legislative Outreach; Nellie Mae funding and Community Outreach; Say Hello; and Building Relationships with the Chamber of Commerce and other businesses in Danbury. He explained each area and asked for volunteers to take on the different efforts.

Function of PTO: R. Jannelli explained that some PTO's have separate discussion language based groups and then meet at the end of meeting to share ideas. E. Palmares suggested that two different groups be used to make families feel comfortable. Group should survey how the principal suggest it be done and perhaps try 2 different ways. It was suggested that a community conversation be held to see which way is the best style to accommodate all of Danbury's families. A. Mead suggested the upcoming community conversations (using the Nellie Mae funds) be combined to ask these questions of families.

Budget: 2 years ago a 3-point bullet sheet was put together to help give a 2-minute elevator talk to residents. Committee members armed with basic facts to engage parents, students and businesses will be designed. Op-Eds and letters to the editor have been submitted to the Danbury News Times and the Tribuna. The group needs more awareness of the budget issues and to help families get involved.

R. Jannelli shared the powerpoint presentation that Ericka Hayes has been distributing from her workshop on how to get involved, write testimony and present it.

G. Cooper asked how is the group connecting with those who attended the series of workshops and to this group. R. Jannelli to get sign in sheets and reach out to group.

Nellie Mae funding: A. Mead gave an overview of the Nellie Mae funding.

Say Hello: Daily acts of kindness. Several members have attended individual schools No one Eats Alone Day. R. Jannelli suggests that it not just be one day celebrated but

Exhibit # 18-26

thought about yearlong. E. Palamres asked about he connection with the Sandy Hook Promise and how do we use their services and program materials. It was suggested that a meeting of the police chief, mayor and superintendent be held as a forum of what we are doing in Danbury to keep students safe.

R. Jannelli spoke about the change of leadership at the Chamber of Commerce. A thank you to Joan Cueva for her hard work and to welcome in P.J. Prunty.

Next Steps; R. Jannelli asked if group would like to work individually or as a group and then report back in one month at the next meeting. Each group decided to work individually and to report back.

A Mead asked if the Citywide PTO is going to do a citywide budget meeting.

R. Jannelli said he was just on In our Opinion a TV show on channel 23 mostly aimed at the older population. Will investigate a shared meeting between Joe Martino, Dr. Sal and Bill Glass with a MC to ask specific questions and Q and A.. Can go up on the district website, in schools and on You Tube.

R. Jannelli reminded everyone to attend tomorrow night's (Feb. 21) finance meeting at 5:30 pm at a joint meeting of the City Council and BOE members.

Farley made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Cooper seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 .

Richard Jannelli, Chair