

# Communications Committee Meeting Report for October 18, 2006

Committee Members Present: Mary Genthner, Gail Hawes, Kim Miller, Nancy Watson

Committee Members Absent: -

Ex-Officio - Bonnie Davis-Micue

Administration: Dr. Pamela Carnahan, Superintendent

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The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm at the Educational Service Center. Minutes of the September 20 meeting were approved. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

The Committee, continuing to seek ways to make Board and School information more easily available to the public, discussed information needs and methods of dissemination.

Method - Web site access and contents could be widely publicized throughout the District (1) in school newsletters and (2) on small, business-like, take-home cards placed at area businesses.

## \*Board Organization

Circumstance - Board organization is not generally understood by the public. For example, the majority of Board work is done by the seven Board Standing Sub-committees. There are also an ad hoc Standing Middle School Building Committee and three Administrative Committees.

Improvement - It was suggested that the Web site include a link from the Board file to each Sub-Committee to provide (1) a statement of Committee purpose, and (2) the Committee agendas and minutes. The first stage of this initiative might focus on the Standing Committees plus any other Committee currently involved in a project, such as the current Anti-Bullying survey.

Board meeting packets could also be posted on the Web. They could have their own link.

Board Organization and meeting information, for both the full Board and the Sub-Committees, could be included in the Budget Booklets mailed out each spring to every household.

## \*Board Process

On the Web site, explain the Board process for (1) changing, adding or deleting Board Policies and post all Board Policies in their current approved form; (2) creating an annual budget; and (3) awarding contracts to businesses for services.

## \*School/Education Programs

List the services offered to students in MSAD #40 on the Web site with a link to "Services".

Circumstance – Our schools have numerous, outstanding classroom programs/projects in process throughout the year, and information about them getting to the general public is almost entirely dependent on what local news services are able to cover. Some teachers send home a classroom newsletter about what their class is doing, which is valuable for informing parents of those students. Getting such information to the general public from time to time would help residents in general understand what schools are doing.

Goal – Find ways to access these programs/projects and methods of publicizing them.

Circumstance – Our Web access to sports currently requires going through the MVHS site.

Improvement – (1) Make athletics easier to access by it having its own link.

(2) Publicize the athletics Web link on the Booster Club sign at RT 1 and Manktown Road.

In conclusion, the Committee invites input from Board members and residents to help make MSAD 40 more understandable and informative for all District residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Watson, Chairman

