

Communications and Outreach Committee Minutes  
May 24, 2021  
TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Committee Attendees: Co-Chair; Christina Plourd, Co-Chair; Sophia Shaikh, Tony Holt

Administrative Attendees: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent

Communications around changes to state law, health district guidance, and board policies as Covid restrictions lift

Dr. Willett informed the committee that schools will be preparing for and returning to in person learning for the 2021/2022 school year. The state will offer a remote learning option for vulnerable populations. He will be attending a meeting on May 27 that will provide him further guidance and direction for the district. The state will require a plan to stay in compliance with the utilization of ESSR funds which will be presented to the board in June. He stated although we can anticipate some changes from the state and EHHD, those have not been communicated as of yet. There is hope that quarantine procedures and contact tracing will differ from the current structure.

Understanding the budget process and ideas for improved communications.

Committee members discussed areas that they saw room for improvement and the legality of the relationship between the town council and the board of education. There was discussion around the need for two meetings. One to adhere to the town charter regarding non-educational expenses and another to potentially present the budget to the council with an avenue for questions. A question form for the council was discussed as well. Dr. Willett suggested having the board attorney present the roles and responsibilities workshop to both boards in November for new members and tenured members.

BOE Dashboard

Dr. Willett has gone live with a new BOE Dashboard that is much more user friendly.

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Plourd