

Minutes
Watertown Board of Education
Governance & Community Engagement Committee Meeting
Monday May 14, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.
Watertown High School
Library/Media Room

Members Present: Rob Makowski, Committee Chair
Leslie Crotty, Committee Member
Cheryl Albino, Committee Member

Members Absent: Cindy Eastman, Committee Member

Others Present: Dr. Rydell Harrison, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Janet Parlato, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Cathie Rinaldi, Board of Education
Dr. Jo Ann Freiberg

1. Convene Meeting

Mr. Makowski convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Dr. Freiberg.

2. Discussion Regarding School Climate

Dr. Freiberg– Gave a presentation to the committee on school climate using Restorative Practices. She spoke of the paradigm shift where when a rule is broke, it established guilt or innocence and tries to suppress misbehavior. Take the accountability and get the punishment. By using fear of punishment, you many motivate positive behavior. Restorative practices change this to address needs, recognize misbehavior as a learning opportunity and have those impacted determine a resolution collectively in circles. The students will then understand the impact, take responsibility and suggest ways to repair the harm. This will have positive behavior from the opportunity to make amends and honorably reintegrate.

She talked of the Five Measures of School Connectedness: Close to people at school, happy to be at school, feeling as though you are part of the school, feeling as though the faculty/staff in school treat you fairly, and feeling safe in school. She then referenced a tragedy and solution aligned example.

Dr. Freiberg gave many examples of a Social Discipline Window that shows what the differences are between using control based discipline and support based discipline. She gave several examples of all four window pertaining to this and finished her discussion with a quote on Fundamental Hypothesis: “Human beings are happier, healthier and most likely to make positive

changes in their behavior, when those in positions of authority do things with them, rather than to them or for them.”

3. Adjournment

Mr. Makowski adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

There was no motion made.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Mindi Davidson
Recording Secretary**