

Holmdel Township Board of Education
BOE Community Relations Committee

Meeting Notes

July 31, 2009 9:30-11:00AM

Central Office Conference Room

Present

Board Members: Chiung-Yin Liu, Barbara Garrity, Jim Shelton

Administrators: Barbara Duncan

Absent

Mike Collins

The committee discussed these items:

1. OPGOTV (Operation Get Out the Vote).

Superintendent Duncan has asked that the committee focus on this – especially on priorities, responsibilities, and resources.

We discussed options on broadening participation & involvement. Mrs. Duncan will discuss this with the Presidents Council: its members are the leaders of all organizations supporting the schools.

We have an OPGOTV flyer last used in 2006 back-to-school packages. The committee thought something similar might be used, beginning OPGOTV communications as school and district planning for 2010-11 gets started, probably in October.

We observed that the typical voter turnout of about 2,000 should be compared with about 12,500 registered voters, and about 3,500 students, and seems to be much less than the number of registered voters who have interests in the quality of our schools.

2. Back To School Nights.

A board member speaks briefly at each school's back-to-school night. We discussed the need for brevity in our remarks, as the parents are there mainly to visit their children's teacher(s) and classroom(s). At our next meeting we plan to recommend a few salient points. Among those discussed in this meeting were:

- our recognition of importance of parents;
- our appreciation for support by our community and the dedicated staff who work with students (and who will respond to any concern you have);
- a warm thanks to volunteers, and invitation for involvement in the schools and the district;
- encouraging use of our website.

The bottom line is a recognition that we're all in this together for the benefit of the students.

The next meeting: scheduled for 10:00 AM Fri, Aug 28 in the Central Office.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Shelton**