Minutes
District Office
September 26, 2013, 2:45 pm

Present: Patrick Bowdren, Arij Kurzum, Marco Lanzoni, Michele Moloney, Lori Mulford, Mike Murphy, Lois Powell, Cathy Robinson

- Morale—Lois raised the issue of morale. We talked about some of the causes that were identified through the morale committee that are being addressed. It was felt that the tone of the community at board meetings is having an effect on elementary teachers because some of them attend regularly and many receive unofficial minutes. We also talked about the State Ed requirements that are having an effect on teachers across the state. The teachers' union representatives told us how they have been telling teachers about APPR horror stories from other districts to illustrate that teachers here should be grateful for what is happening here. This led us to a discussion about how we might do a better job of promoting the positive things that are happening in Spackenkill to help change the focus to a more positive one. Lois will work on this with the building principals and Renata.

- Building Use Study—Lois shared the options presented by Rob Hendricks. People generally felt that some options (2 and 3) were not viable and should b eliminated. We discussed the position the board is in regarding next steps.

- Tax Cap Update—Michele indicated that the CPI this year may be under 2%, meaning that we would have a lower threshold for the tax cap.

- Budget Forums—Lois shared the agenda and the topics that the Board is considering for the first budget forum in October. The group felt that there were too many and suggested the following:
  o consolidating athletics, clubs, and support services programs into non-mandated programs;
  o eliminating the topic of maintenance and replacement of vehicles since we have such a small fleet.
  o They thought it would be a good idea to include the building use options in this forum and then have a second forum just on the topic if deemed necessary.

Next Meeting

2:45 pm on Monday, November 18th, at District Office.