

Roxanne Maher

From: Chris Jelden <chrisjelden@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 4:47 PM
To: Town Council Group
Cc: April Brunelle; Jessica Buhle; Carmen Garcia Irizarry; Kevin J. Dombrowski; Gary Paul; Tony Saccone; Gary St. Vil; Naomi Rodriguez; Timothy Ryan
Subject: Encouraging Stronger Communication Between Town Council and Board of Education

Dear Members of the Ledyard Town Council,

I recently attended a Board of Education (BOE) meeting and later I shared some feedback with the BOE members regarding communication among our town's key representatives. In that message, I noted:

"I've noticed varying levels of participation and communication among key representatives in town. During the meeting, it was mentioned that the visiting Town Council member hadn't been made aware of certain invitations extended by a sitting BOE member. Additionally, it was noted that while some PTO meetings were attended by representatives, not all were covered. The suggestion from Board Member Ty Lamb that BOE members take turns attending PTO meetings was excellent, as it would foster direct interaction with parents and staff. I believe having representatives from the Town Council, BOE, and PTO consistently attending each other's meetings could greatly improve communication and thus action that meets the needs of the town."

In the response I received from the Superintendent, he highlighted several ongoing communication efforts, such as ensuring all BOE communications are shared with all members, inviting Town Council members to attend BOE meetings as well as holding quarterly meetings involving the Town Council Chair, BOE Chair, Superintendent, and Mayor. These initiatives are undoubtedly positive steps.

However, based on what I observed at the BOE meeting I attended, there remains room for improvement. The fact that some invitations go unseen and the way the updates regarding some of the funding approved by the Town Council took members of the BOE by surprise suggests that the current communication channels might not be as effective or comprehensive as intended.

I want to encourage the Town Council to evaluate whether current efforts are achieving the desired results. Breaking down any communication barriers between the Town Council and BOE is crucial. Both bodies serve distinct purposes, but they are inherently linked and can accomplish more by working closely together, sharing insights, and ensuring that everyone involved stays informed.

Thank you for considering my perspective, and for your ongoing efforts to serve our community.

Sincerely,
Chris Jelden