

Roxanne Maher

From: Chris Jelden <chrisjelden@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 5:30 PM
To: Jason S. Hartling; Naomi Rodriguez
Cc: Roxanne Maher; afavry@ledyard.net; Town Council Group; BOE@ledyard.net
Subject: Re: Encouraging Stronger Communication Between Town Council and Board of Education

Thank you for responding to my emails in regards to the communication between the BOE and the Town Council. I appreciate having the chance to share how things looked to me from the outside looking in, and I'm glad to hear more about what's going on within your groups.

I hope today's meeting between yourselves and the Mayor was productive for everyone involved.

Thank you again for all you do. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and looking forward to a great 2025 for Ledyard.

Sincerely,
Chris Jelden

On Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 11:25 AM Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org> wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Jelden:

Please find attached a letter from Chairman Rodriguez in response to your email below.

A hard copy of the attached has been also sent to you via US Ground Mail.

Thank you,
Roxanne

From: Chris Jelden <chrisjelden@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 4:47 PM
To: Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>
Cc: April Brunelle <ABru@ledyardct.org>; Jessica Buhle <Jbuh@ledyardct.org>; Carmen Garcia Irizarry <CGIri@ledyardct.org>; Kevin J. Dombrowski <KJDom@ledyardct.org>; Gary Paul <gpaul@ledyardct.org>; Tony Saccone <tsac@ledyardct.org>; Gary St. Vil <GSVil@ledyardct.org>; Naomi Rodriguez <NaomiR@ledyardct.org>; Timothy Ryan <tryan@ledyardct.org>
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

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.