

## Central Parent Council

### Minutes from October 3, 2013

**In Attendance:** H. Daly, B. Packert, B. Callaghan, C. Costa, N. Israeli, K. Walter, D. Tsotsos, A. Reese, W. DeSchutter, T. Coyle, M. Strunk, L. Reichbach, J. Emanuel, D. Lynch, M. Marascuillo, G. Reynolds, C. Haskell, J. DeMarco, N. Pultz, C. Goetjen, G. Bordeman, L. Riffaud, K. Walter, G. Cimino

**Absent:** T. Ruocco, L. Squicciarini, M. Hooks, K. Ferrandino, C. Walkin, K. Robillard, C. Hodgson, A. Mitchell, L. Koke, P. Guida May, T. Ruocco, R. Taglich

#### CPC Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by H. Daly. Helen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. W. Deschutter motioned to approve September minutes and A. Reese seconded.

**H. Daly** made opening remarks to audience. Back to school nights at the High School and West Side School were great. Mr. Simon discussed the genesis of a Blue Ribbon School.

**B. Callaghan** gave treasurer report. Barbara will send out invoices for calendars and dues. Will be on budget with the calendar charge correction.

**B. Packert** told audience Status and Resolution forms were available in the back of the room.

**C. Costa** asked audience and CPC members to review telephone list.

#### School Reports

**CFA:** see monthly notes. Sold hard copies of school directory at back to school night. CoCoos restaurant fundraiser – 20% of proceeds to go to CFA from 4:30 – 8:00 pm on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Next meeting November 5<sup>th</sup> at noon to talk about school issues and how to make school a better place.

**LHSPTG:** see monthly notes. Little Apple Fun Run needs t-shirt sponsors. Well attended back to school night.

**WSSPTG:** see monthly notes. Received Blue Ribbon Award. The school play, The Wizard of Oz, will be December 14 & 15. Have directories available for audience.

**GPFA:** see monthly notes. Had Back to School Night. Planning to have a fundraiser at the Blue Honu. Looking into getting a cell booster for the school.

**Seahawks Booster:** Made presentation at both Code of Conduct and Back to School nights. Apparel selling very well and Brick Sale going well. Hope to start breaking ground very soon. Meeting next week in HS Library. Ask all to attend.

**CA:** see monthly notes. Veterans will visit on Veteran's Day. Irving Roth will be at the PAC (no time determined yet). Still looking for CA rep for WSS. Need bakers and helpers for Veteran's Day.

**FOCUS:** N. Pultz presented. Dr. Rona Novick, Child Psychologist, will be at PAC on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Encourage all to attend. Need school dues from two schools. Liaison meeting for each school representative beginning of November to see what direction schools want to go in.

**SEPTA:** see monthly notes. H. Daly read monthly report to audience.

**Arts Booster:** Fall night out at the Paramount Theater in Huntington on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 6-9 pm. Teacher Club Advisors invited to get to know them.

**Education Foundation:** Stephanie DiNozzi presented. Creating New Pathways to Learning presentation November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm on exploring where EF is going and how it will get there. Meeting will be recorded and available to view on their website.

### **New Business:**

A. Reese commented on large number of students in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes- 25/26 students. Also, has concerns about how small the classrooms are for that number of students. Would like to verify the maximum number of students allowed in a fourth grade class. Stated that teachers are begging to split classes.

H. Daly to verify class size allowed with Dr. Wilansky.

L. Riffauld asked about Spanish program. Thinks students should be surveyed. Feels that students may be going backward.

H. Daly going to check with Dr. Wilansky. H. Daly states that Dr. Wilansky would like to have the Spanish Department come to speak about it.

Karen Spehler talked about the Status and Resolution Report. Would like to see a longer version as it had been in past years. Feels current report should be expanded to include more district wide information. Feels the Board of Education highlights encourages people to go to site to see it and an expanded version would do the same for CPC.

H. Daly thinks the Status and Resolution Report was just about CPC issues and as an issue is resolved should drop off report.

Issue to be discussed and resolved for the next meeting.

Stephanie DiNozzi said the Education Foundation will blast all school business to get positive information about our schools out to the public. Everyone is free to send information to [educationfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:educationfoundation@gmail.com).

Debbie Tsotsos asked about why all our schools are not Blue Ribbon Schools. It was explained that a school has to be asked to apply in order to be nominated. Then a school may prepare the necessary paperwork to be considered. L. Reichbach explained when the program started and that the reward can either be rewarded for significant improvement or for exemplary performance. WSS received award for exemplary performance.

H. Daly to get more information on Blue Ribbon Schools.

### **Guest Speaker**

**Lydia Bellino** – Explained a shift in how teachers teach as a result of the Common Core. Directed the audience in an example of how a discussion is facilitated in the teaching process and how the class is more collaborative. Helps kids to feel more connected and gives kids a chance to have a voice. Ms. Bellino explained that the Common Core is a set of standards. It also allows schools to have a say in 15% of the curriculum with out altering the main parts. CC has much more rigorous standards where less subjects are gone into with greater depth.

A discussion regarding Pre- K standards in the UK as compared to here began and L. Bellino spoke to the standards we do have and that we do visit pre-k programs to explain those standards even though they are not regulated. We communicate with area schools advising them of standards. Explained that Common Core is about always asking why. L. Bellino feels we need to pick up the pace at giving teachers a better look at what is expected. District goal is to deepen the curriculum and differentiate assessments in order to see who needs help. Audience has concerns that some grades may not get all they need. Have used available information on performance to catch up and keep pace. We have kept a lot of things in place here as more is moved into place. LB feels that it has been less of a jolt here for what is required than it has been for other states.

A big shift in the writing requirements is that students will need to cite sources and to state an opinion and show the evidence. Need to show kids how to read like scientists.

Test complexity is another facet of the CC. More emphasis on writing. We have added writing workshop for students everyday. All genres of writing are taught to all grades at an appropriate level.

Spoke to different way of teaching math as well – going from concrete to abstract.

Discussed the large role Pearson is taking in this process. There is a general feeling that there is a conflict of interest and need to keep abreast of other programs available in the market. Will not spend on other programs unless extensively/critically reviewed.

The reading of more non-fiction relates to other subjects, not ELA. Balance of fiction/non-fiction was to make sure there was reading in all courses. Language/math/science to become more integrated.

The state test was 30% harder. L. Bellino explained the different ways that school districts can score the exams: Regional Scoring, Independent Company, In –House. We used an independent company (Jericho was in –house). Next year we plan on scoring in-house.

There was a dip in 7<sup>th</sup> grade scores which indicated that some topics were skipped at the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade therefore the 7<sup>th</sup> grade scores were lower. There is a flaw in how the testing began and information is available on Senator Flanagan's website where Tom Rogers from BOCES shows that the state created assessments before the state had even released the modules.

Dr. Wilansky realizes that change will be difficult. Explained that ELA/Math assessments not part of college transcript but it allows the school to identify where assistance is needed. Our goal is to meet our student's needs. We understand and applaud the CC, however, when send the message that a student is not meeting a standard, there is diminished confidence as learners. U.S. students lead the world in confidence levels because we are raising confident/creative entrepreneurs. We need to prepare them to question with civility and respect and give our kids a voice.

The CC test helps to track individual teacher performance. Helps the school evaluate how effective a teacher is. An individual parent can request individual teacher rating.

There is no state assessment for PE, Art, Science.

For the coming year students will be required to take the CC but also take the regular Regents exam for Algebra and use the higher score. Putting out a safety net for students to get the best grade they can.

L. Bellino explained that math modules have been released which can be used to compare what has been taught in the past. Expect that will need to cover topics at an earlier grade than last year.

Dr. Wilansky states that we are trying to keep up with the state requirements. We have a lot of resources and we will be fine. Education is changing.

Meeting adjourned at 12:29. Motion to adjourn Marie Strunk and Stephanie DiNozzi.

