

Central Parent Council

Minutes from November 7, 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, C. Walkin, L. Reichbach, J. Emanuel, D. Lynch, M. Marascuillo, K. Robillard, C. Haskell, J. DeMarco, A. Mitchell, G. Bordeman, G. Cimino

Absent: T. Ruocco, L. Squicciarini, M. Hooks, K. Ferrendino, G. Reynolds, C. Hodgson, N. Pultz, L. Koke, C. Goetjen, L. Riffaud, P. Guida May, T. Ruocco, R. Taglich.

CPC Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 by H. Daly. H. Daly led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. B. Callaghan motioned to approve the October minutes and T. Coyle seconded.

H. Daly made opening remarks. Briefly discussed goals for the year which included implementing 1st phase of District Goals, online blended courses, further development of ELA and Math with the common core, 2nd year of APPR implementation, ensure compliance with Federal regulations.

Discussed individual school goals:

Goosehill – enhance indoor recess and promote cultural differences.

Lloyd Harbor- manners and student recognition.

West Side School- 3rd grade recess buddies, build on 1st grade orientation

HS/Jr HS- look at stress from survey and team building from Caumsett.

C. Costa final review of telephone list

B. Callaghan gave treasurer report. Invoices were sent to parent groups, received ½ back so far. After receive payments will be on budget.

B. Packert Reviewed Status and Resolution sheet. Goals being voted on November 12th. Our January meeting will have goals. Nothing new with teacher contract, average teacher attendance at BOE meeting. 2% cap has changed things. CPC presented appreciation gifts to BOE. Joseph Morante stepping down. Board will have to decide what to do about the vacancy. It was decided not to have a Central Communication Group.

Discussions included finding out what the criteria are for Blue Ribbon Schools, class sizes, - do teachers have input?, When asked if they wanted an aid – teachers did not.

Amy Brogan commented that class sizes are being watched carefully in all grades. Added another 3rd grade section at WSS due to class size going to 27.

Teachers have told parents that the classes are too large at LH.

Lolita Reichbach brought issue to Mr. Simon at WSS regarding 2nd grade class and the teachers say they are happy and there is not a problem.

Discussion continued about class size. And personalities, disruptive students not being removed, too many children to do experiments, boy/girl ratio in 5th grade – 16 out of 26 are boys – a lot of acting out and teachers can not do certain things.

B. Packert said that the parents need to document the issues. First go to the teacher then second go to the principal.

Parents also commented on the small classroom size and that comparable schools have smaller class sizes and that parents are confronted with unhappy teachers.

Recommendation is to go to the BOE meetings and PTG meetings.

Audience member said we all have to work together to fix the problem, need to come up with creative solutions, ie split class in half and have half go to gym etc.

Asked if over Fire Department limit – probably far off but B. Packert said she would look into it.

Contract Discussion:

Taylor Act – everything continues with out a contract except for a 2% step on salary.

If teachers salaries increase need to cut programs. If add teachers – what do you take? Retirement is a constitutional issue.

Pre – Budget Forum January 28th @ 7:30 pm.

According to Newsday only 15% of schools have class sizes of 25+ students and we are.

Encourage audience to attend work sessions – can go and listen. L.Reichbach commented that it took 1 year to get a fence fixed due to constraints of BOE.

Asked which meeting is the most important to attend. BOE meetings. Second Tuesday of every month. Encourage everyone to go and say there is a problem with class size.

The extra 3rd grade class was built into budget because had been watching it.

Class size and review of over testing will remain on the S&R report.

Encourage people to read the CSH Newsletter we receive in the mail and the Highlights.

Next CPC Meeting – January 9th- FLES program coming in.

School Reports

WSS: see monthly notes

CFA: Jr. High Halloween Dance was spectacular! Included a haunted house. The 10th grade were involved with putting on the dance.

Student groups went to the last CFA meeting and gave a presentation of what they are doing in the community.

GPFA: see monthly notes. Were preparing for first Parent Night Out event on November 14 at Honu. Raffle winner from event will be announced at GPFA meeting the next day and Ms. Bellino will speak about Common Core curriculum at that meeting. Rexer- Parkes fundraiser on 12/11. Proceeds for a quiet “Reading Space” and a new playground.

LHSPTG: see monthly notes. Added a big thank you to of this years volunteers.

Arts Booster Club: see monthly notes. Membership director looking for new members. Coffee House Jam 7pm Friday. Anyone who wishes to perform can sign up and perform. Fall Drama – Oz. in 2 weeks. Fall Night Out at Founders Club was a great success.

Seahawks Booster: Brick sales went great. Are already installing. Having a fundraiser at Modells. Meet January 30th. Weightroom needs updating.

FOCUS: Rona Novick well received. Will reach out to school boards to see what needs there are or presentations they would like to have. Appreciate all the school boards helping to support FOCUS.

Cultural Arts: see monthly notes. Veterans coming to school on Friday. Irving Roth coming to PAC to speak to all grades on November 25th. Also selling books for \$15. Mr. Matuk splitting cost with Cultural Arts.

SEPTA: no report this month.

Educational Foundation: prior nights presentation will be covered today.

Guest Speaker

Bruce Friend –Discussed how to use online and blended learning to help the students learn.

How does it work? Biggest obstacle is breaking down our vision of what going to school looks like. Times are changing – more personalized learning going on. Online learning allows student to do it when they can and on their own.

K-12 students – currently most students are doing it now on a supplemental basis for extra credit. About ½ million students are totally on line.

26 states have funded online virtual school (not NY). A district decides they want on line learning or they can share with other schools. Four states require students to take classes on line. Some districts mandate it.

It can help with work force and college readiness. Many universities require on line coursework. When students were surveyed they felt the on line courses were more rigorous than expected.

Want technology to change how we teach and how students learn.

Important that students do not overcommit either. Coursework should be those not offered at school and be able to work at own pace when available.

Concerns about this type of learning include students not being able to commit to time needed and would they have the self discipline for this environment.

The on line courses need to fall into whatever a states guidelines/standards there are. These grades go on the college transcript.

In terms of cheating students do it on line and in class but can spot cheating on line easier than in class.

Dr. Bellino:

Presented an overview of E-spark. How do we differentiate learning? The program has expanded to Goosehill. Vetted apps for appropriate content in Math and ELA – “Hybrid Learning”. Use of Ipad to diagnose learning level on existing data, set goals and make plan for child. Personalized professional development for teachers from E-spark team is essential. Systematic approach so that all children are benefitting from differential learning.

Parent question regarding access to their child learning. User id’s for parents are not available now. Question as to whether parents can know what their child apps are.

Dr. Wilansky:

Handed out copies of class size guiedlines and explained why class sizes are what they are.

A question of space in classrooms was asked- maybe moving furniture or taking computer banks out. Questions were asked regarding the makeup of classroom assignments and personalities.

Dr. Wilansky spoke of the need for small group learning at the higher grades which will result from E-spark.

With many changes going on in classroom some teachers are struggling with classroom management and delivery of new instruction.

Dr. Wilansky agreed to look into problems of class size.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am. Motion to adjourn Lolita Reichbach and Stephanie DiNozzi.