

CFA Minutes – February 6, 2013

Meeting held in JH Library.

In attendance: T. Ruocco, J. Farynick, S. Bianco, M. Hooks, S. Sica, F. Marion, J. Matuk, A. Brogan, J. Pickering and @20 parents

Junior High's Report (Florie)

- JH "Snow Ball" Dance 2/8 – Need parents to help chaperone. Audience member asked who runs the dance. It is run by the Student Council so we don't have much say in it. However, parents of JH students should encourage their children to attend so these dances continue. Recommendation was made to have Student Council poll children to survey if they would be interested in alternatives such as an activity based event, i.e., ping pong, Wii etc.
- King and queen of dance will be crowned.

President's Report (Tara)

- Question asked by audience if a member from the Board can attend the Prom Committee in order to keep parents in the loop.
- A parent from SIT informed the audience to keep an eye out for an "open gym" on Saturday afternoons for the JH and HS students between 2:00 to 6:00 once elementary school basketball is over.
- No meeting next month (March).
- Literary Luncheon is on Wednesday, March 13th from 11:30 – 2:30 at the Mansion at the Woodlands. Please attend!

Treasurer's Report (Stacy)

- As of now we are going to carry only about \$1,000 forward to next year due to a decrease in dues compared to last year.
- Cultural Arts – CFA donates \$2,500 to Cultural Arts next year. They provide wonderful events for the school, e.g., 2/25 "Comic Book" workshop, "Dust Bowl" re-enactment etc.

Committee Chair Report (Sandy)

- Need committee chairs for next year for the following committees:
 - Back-to-School Night
 - School Beautification
 - Book Fair
 - Literary Luncheon

Ms. Waters – English Teacher presentation with senior, Shauna

- There are many great English electives available. They are listed on a handout. They are available based on interest and enrollment.
- Most do the work during classroom time and don't overload students with homework.
- Senior spoke about being the editor of the newspaper and what a great experience it was.

Mr. Monastero and Ms. Pickering – Scheduling for next year

- Mr. Monastero recommends current 8th graders take art/music requirements in 9th grade to get them out of the way (they are a requirement for graduation).
- Guidance provides planning sheets for the students. Students should use them as they are helpful.
- Question raised regarding AP World for 9th grade. They weren't sure if their child should sign-up for it. Mr. Monastero said students who have an interest in ancient world should take it. It's a huge jump and it is a two year commitment. He mentioned there are other entries into AP Social Studies and they are not sequential like Math or Chemistry.
- If a student is unsure which classes to take next year, they should discuss it with their teachers. It's important for parents to have "honest" conversations with their children about "reality". If they decide to drop an AP or advance class next year, it may be difficult to get into a lower class due to scheduling. It's better to decide now.
- We offer a lot of electives for a small school. Sometimes these electives are only offered once or twice and it's difficult to fit them into their schedule.
- A question was asked about why schedules were sent out so late last summer. Mr. Monastero said it was due to a lot of new children coming into the district at the end of the summer.
- Another part of the problem with a number of the scheduling issues last summer was due to working out the glitches due to the first year "Self Selection" was offered for Advanced/AP courses. It should be smoother this year. The goal is to have the "Master Schedule to Guidance" done the first week of June.
- Another question was asked about getting in contact with a Guidance Counselor last summer to discuss a scheduling error, but there was no one working yet, and they had to wait until the first day of school. Mr. Monastero answered,

per their contracts, Guidance does not work over the summer and parents will need to wait until the first day of school to get in contact with someone.

- A question was asked if it is better to stay in an AP course or just the regents course. For example, is it better to get a B in AP World or an A in regular SS. Mr. Monastero/Ms. Pickering answered that colleges do look at Aps and there is a “weighted” grade for AP classes.
- Another question asked was regarding dropping a “language” class in the higher grades. Mr. Monastero/Ms. Pickering answered they encourage students to continue with a language through 12th grade. It looks better for college (it is only required through 10th grade).
- A question was asked if Latin will be offered as a language next year. It may be offered as an elective.
- There is a Course Book available on-line.