

# Central Parent Council

## Minutes from April 3, 2014

**In Attendance:** H. Daly, B. Packert, B. Callahan, C. Costa, N. Israeli, K. Walter, A. Reese, W. DeSchutter, T. Coyle, M. Strunk, L. Reichbach, M. Marascuillo, G. Reynolds, J. DeMarco, G. Bordeman, M. Sepanski (for Arts Booster)

**Absent:** T. Ruocco, L. Squicciarini, M. Hooks, D. Tsotsos, K. Ferrandino, C. Walkin, J. Emanuel, D. Lynch, K. Robillard, C. Haskell, C. Hodgson, A. Mitchell, N. Pultz, L. Koke, C. Goetjen, L. Riffaud, P. Guida, T. Ruocco, R. Taglich, G. Cimino

### CPC Business

Audience member asked that the meeting begin since it was already past posted starting time.

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 by Helen Daly. Helen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Nancy Israeli motioned to approve the March minutes and Augusta Reese seconded the motion.

H. Daly made opening remarks to the audience. Quote: "If you can control your behavior when everything around you is out of control, you can model for your children a valuable lesson in patience and understanding...and snatch an opportunity to shape character." Jane Clayson Johnson

Helen did a quick overview of proposed changes at the HS for next year in regards to District Wide Student Support Model for 2014-2015.

Helen feels it is a really good model as it will not alienate students who seek help.

**Secretary Claire Costa** read thank you notes from District office staff in appreciation of the District office luncheon CPC prepared for them. Reminded school presidents about filling the CPC board positions. Also, told audience that the By-Laws were at the back table for review.

**Madison Bordeman** – Executive Secretary HS Student Council

Addressed audience about student council events throughout this school year.

HiHi (Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative) program just ended – on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday students bring dinner, dessert, set up beds, talk to people. The dodgeball event helps fund this program. Freshman class put \$500 towards it.

Senior mural was completed on the wall of the commons.

Students went to robotics tournament. HS Council had a field trip to Hofstra for the tournament. Team made it to semi-finals.

Spring Pep Rally was approved for April 25<sup>th</sup>. Chorus will be performing (also making a trip to DisneyWorld) as well as Robotics demonstration, improv and cheerleaders.

Friday night games will be Varsity Ladies lacrosse then Varsity Men's lacrosse game.

Junior Prom 5/16 at Carltun in the Park.

**Vice Chair Beth Packert** went over changes in the Status and Resolution report for this month. Reminder of the upcoming budget vote. Board will vote to approve the budget on Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup>. Official announcement at Board Meeting May 13<sup>th</sup>. Meet the candidates night May 5<sup>th</sup> at District Office – 3 seats open.

**Dr. Bernhard** also reminded us of upcoming budget vote.

## **School Reports**

**WSS:** see monthly notes. Lolita Reichbach read the thank you notes they received from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Birthday Wishes for the Valentine's the students made for the Veterans and the 2 Birthday Wish Boxes they had sent. Helps the kids understand they can make a difference.

**CFA:** see monthly notes. Nancy Israeli said the Circus that came to the school was a success so will bring it in again next year. The Literary Luncheon was a success as well – very well put together. The pottery that the art students help decorate was sold as a silent auction item and made money so will do again. The Jr High musical was unbelievable – 40 students were tap dancing together! NYSSMA was run very well. Jr. High Dodgeball tournament on Friday, April 4 - \$10 at the door. Shed the Meds program will be on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the District Office. Lt. David Sheehan came to the CFA meeting to talk about the program and to hand out home drug testing kits. More kits will be available at the event. Gussy Reese commented that the idea is that the kids know their parents will be testing them so they will not do drugs.

**GPFA:** see monthly notes. Mrs. Herschlein spoke at the meeting about homework and the staff spoke about different philosophies about homework.

Biscuit author, Alyssa Satin Capucilli, visited, with Cultural Arts support, and spoke to students at Goosehill. The students especially liked having their books signed. Goosehill students went to see a shortened version of the Lloyd Harbor production of Beauty and the Beast. There will be a field trip to the CSH Harbor Fish Hatchery in June to release the turtles the classes have been raising. Students had their "Passports" signed. Earth Day is planned. The Kindergarten Dance is tonight. Goosehill will be having a clothing drive for the Salvation Army – collection will take place at Field Day, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**LHSPTG:** see monthly notes. Magic Night with Mr. Homer was March 10. 56 students, 30 parents – next year will just be for the students. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade had their production of Beauty and the Beast. Had veggie/fruit tasting day – after lunch the students tried different types. CAPS presentation for internet. Learned not to share password and user name needs to be less specific. Earth week, April 20-25, will have water bottle recycling program. See notes about "Where is Away?"

**FOCUS:** Transition meetings for 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be held in June. Restructuring FOCUS. Will need a representative from each school and meet once a month. Subjects will be focused on technology usage and drug prevention. The current board did not feel it worked this year in the current structure so thought a change was needed. Announcements will be made at future PTG meetings for those who are interested in a position.

Also, the FOCUS board feels it would be helpful to have FOCUS be a part of the new program starting up at the HS.

Beth Packert also suggested that texting and driving needs to be addressed.

**Seahawks Booster:** The Night at the Races event was a huge success. They made over \$5000. Brick sales are ongoing and end on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Clothing sales on website – CSHathletics.com. Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> Jr. High Code of Conduct Meeting for Spring sports. Camp website open. The varsity coaches and students work at the camp. Board members are needed for next year. Would like to link up with an alumni group. BOE gave approval to raise funds for a fitness center.

**Education Foundation:** Tech Showcase 4/24, 7-9 pm in the field house. Highlight student programs regarding technology. Great to see all that is going on. Common threads – see a continuum from grade school to HS. Some students as well as teachers will participate. There will be over 30 booths – i.e. WSS has Modern Science booth.

**Arts Booster:** see monthly notes. M. Sepanski spoke for Arts Booster. Shoe collection was great. Have \$7000 for seniors in the arts. Encourage seniors in the arts to apply. Students should keep an activity list because now it will be part of the common application. "Rock the Runway" April 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm.

**SEPTA:** no report this month.

**CA:** see monthly notes. Helen Daly read the report.

### **New Business**

**Nancy Israeli**, CFA President, motioned for a decrease in the number of representatives to 4 for CPC for the HS. Has found it difficult to fill that many spots.

Beth Packert felt that would water down the impact of the CFA when a vote is necessary. After a discussion Nancy decided to leave the number of required representatives at 6 in order to have enough representation.

**Karen Spehler** has noticed lower attendance at CPC meetings so feels need the 6 representatives at the meetings. Noted that only CPC members can vote.

Conversation continued about the low attendance. Lolita Reichbach noted that there is a redundancy of speakers at the various meetings.

The meetings have changed - Principals not at every meeting anymore.

Some suggestions were not to have a speaker at every meeting, maybe the S&R report would include topics to bring up at the next meeting and if a vote is necessary so that those who can vote are present, maybe need a "Promo" for the meetings, maybe CPC Chair should go to the other school meetings, tell who the speaker will be the month before.

Augusta Reese was interested to see how many people opted out of the ELA exams.

Helen Daly answered the question of who does opting out affect. It affects the school district. Other effects include:

- 1) Separating that child from the group
- 2) Missing a lesson that one does not always get to pick and choose in life
- 3) Using the child to forward the parents agenda

Stephanie DiNozzi commented that the CC is great but it needs work. Problem is that if s child does need AIS help and opts out it could really hurt that child.

State has no opt out provision – no place for child to go.

### **Guest Speaker**

**Noreen Cambria**, Director of Counseling.

Asked for any questions from audience. Answer question regarding 8<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math students – they do need to take one of the June tests.

Spoke of LI student who got into the 8 Ivy league colleges. He had diversity, 1<sup>st</sup> generation, need, talent – he is the embodiment of what the colleges want.

More applications than ever are coming in from all over the world.

Liberal arts colleges are good for less world savvy or college ready students. What we need to remember about going to college is that - "This is a business".

Call Mrs. DiPietro in the guidance office to get a Naviance account. All of this college information is available on Naviance. It is a computer subscription. Suggest that start signing students up in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

It can be very directive. Can search how CSH students have fared in college applications and the number of students who get into each school applied to.

In general CSH students get accepted at higher rates than other students, however, recruiting schools move around and the acceptance rates for each particular school can change when schools want to look to other areas for students.

CSH is looking to reduce the reps from schools that come because since a counselor sits in on every meeting it is time consuming so would like to reduce the number of application readers and marketers.

It is very important that a student show demonstrated interest (DI) in a school or they may not get in. If the student does not follow up and keep in contact they may not want them even if qualified.

The process has become so accelerated that maybe the students don't make as informed decisions as they should.

Snap Apps – inflate the application #'s so that they look more desirable.

Recommendations in this time of tremendous competition:

- 1) Apply to a spectrum of admission levels.
- 2) Give the student a gap year- go somewhere and work or travel or do community service. Some schools have even created a gap year so they do like the idea.

Some colleges offer cooperative education study. This is when the student alternates between school full time and an internship full time and maybe get a job at the end of it.

Schools are supposed to report crime related issues every year. Those reports are given out during orientation. The collegeproowler.com is a student rated site for this.

Suggest parents subscribe online to The Chronicle of Higher Education in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

Intro to careers is offered in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade with Jennifer Pickering. High School counseling is assigned in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and the students receive information – i.e. transcripts.

Career Dimension is a computer program.

In 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades Jennifer Pickering does lots of career information.

10<sup>th</sup> grade – in the winter in the computer room do a career interest assessment because that is the time career ideas solidify.

11<sup>th</sup> grade- in classrooms plus 3 meetings about hard decisions. Junior conference with parents- start to look at programs within colleges.

Books:

“College Planning for Dummies”, “College March”(amazing questionnaires which lead to answers).

Caseloads are a manageable size here. Mrs. Cambria's door is always open – but need to inform yourself.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:36. Motion to adjourn by Marie Strunk and Lolita Reichbach.**

