

Minutes approved September 4, 2014. Motion by L. Reichbach, Seconded by A. Reese.

Central Parent Council

Minutes from May 1, 2014

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

Absent: T. Ruocco, L. Squicciarini, K. Walter, M. Hooks, T. Coyle, K. Ferrandino, C. Walkin, K. Robillard, C. Haskell, C. Hodgson, a. Mitchell, L.Koke, A. Scott, P. Guida, T. Ruocco, R. Taglich, K. Walter, G. Cimino

CPC Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 by **Helen Daly, Chairperson**. Helen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Helen read quote from agenda, "We must not see anyone as an abstraction. Instead we must see in every person a universe with its own secrets, with its own treasures, with its own sources of anguish, and with some measure of triumph." Elie Wiesel

H. Daly announced new CPC board for 2014-2015 school year:

Chairperson:	Beth Packert –	representing LHSA
Vice- Chairperson:	Wendi DeSchutter -	representing CFA
Secretary:	Sarah Trust-	representing GPFA
Treasurer:	Lolita Reichbach-	representing WSSPTG

Helen continued comments talking about Ed Tech Showcase and the amazing array of what the students are doing.

The parent leader brunch has speaker Barry Wilansky discussing norms and how they change.

Secretary Claire Costa asked for April minutes to be approved. Barbara Callaghan motioned to approve with the exception that she was listed as present at the April meeting but she did not attend. Augusta Reese seconded the motion.

Treasurer Barbara Callaghan said CPC is financially in good shape with a cushion.

Vice Chairperson Beth Packert See S&R report. Some highlights are that there appears to be a change in tone in the protracted teacher contract negotiations which have been ongoing for 2 years.

The first Wellness Day in honor of Cody Tadonio will be held June 1. There will be a walk/run and various health related booths. The event is to provide information on and to promote awareness of the importance of health and wellness. Registration fee is \$25. This event ties in with the new district wide student support model going into effect for the 2014-2015 school year. Pearson may release some test questions.

CSHSD will receive some funds from the GAP Elimination Fund.

The school district will be adding a 5th and 6th grade dedicated health teacher. The 4th grade will have the teacher a few times throughout the year.

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Also encouraging more parent discussions. A suggestion was to have a parent summer reading book. Dr. Wilansky stressed at the Parent Leader luncheon that the discussion of health and Wellness needs to continue.

New Business

No new business.

School Reports

CFA: see monthly notes. Comedy night was a success. Audience said it was fabulous. The Pep Rally went well. The newly refurbished Seahawk Mascot paraded around. The chorus did well at Disney – placed 3rd in the small school division. Rock the Runway was good. Showed films between the models. Junior and Senior High National Honor Society Induction Ceremonies are coming up this week. 7th grade parent orientation tonight. CFA teacher luncheon was excellent. Next CFA meeting Tuesday – encourage incoming 6th grade parents to come.

GPFA: see monthly notes. The April dances led by Mrs. Ranaldo were excellent. A garden was started, hopefully will have veggie tasting from the garden. Dr. Bernhard will be at Goosehill Weds regarding the budget. Field Day June 10th. A bench will be placed in the courtyard in memory of a child who passed away. There will be Earth Day events coming up and may start an Earth Club.

LHSA: see monthly notes. In honor of Earth Week there was a reduce, reuse, recycle theme. Each student brought in items for each R. Saturday was Shed the Meds where 2 huge boxes of medicines were collected. May 15th is the 5th/6th grade concert. May 29th talent show. June 9th Field Day. June 11th – 4th Grade concert. June 17th Symbols of America in the PAC. New Stay on Long Island Party on June 19th so that everyone takes the bus to Philadelphia the next day.

WSS: see monthly notes. WS celebrated its 224th birthday on April 24th. A dogwood tree was donated by Daniel Gale in honor of Ted and Helen Hilton for all they have done and do for the school. Westside Run is May 18th – gym teacher, Mr. Yost, is preparing the students and coordinating the event. 65% of families ordered yearbooks on line. The school and district with generous support of the Wright family collected 1700 books to be donated to P.S. 253. Full slate for the new WSSPTG will be announce tomorrow. Mittleman family donated an Interactive Metronome to WS.

SEPTA: No representatives were present. L. Reichbach asked where is SEPTA headed? Meeting with Helen Tuesday to get it up and running for September. Need to figure out what to do with dues.

Dr. Bernhard stated that the postcard sent out regarding the meet the candidates had an error and new cards will be sent out.

Seahawks Booster: see monthly notes. Barbara Callaghan reported for Karen Walter. As of June 1st 75 kids signed up for the sports camps. See Seahawkssportscamps.com to sign up. The BOE approved banner sign sales but need to come back with specifics. Sales will begin in the fall. Varsity awards dinners will be in June. Booster Club Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2500 to one boy and one girl. The Fitness Club will be a reality.

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Education Foundation: The Ed Tech Showcase was excellent. Very exciting night. It required real collaboration. It paid off in many ways. Allowed parents to see the effects of technology. To see how the kids interacted was great. From the Education Foundation perspective it allowed all to see how much work they do with the district. Bringing together the entire community. The teachers gave a lot of time to it. The art department did banners and booths. Felt like a professionally done event. Anticipated that it will be an annual event. There were many student/teacher booths from all the schools. The students ran the event.

Arts Booster: see monthly notes. Shoe recycling will be done each March. Arts Booster working with CFA presented to the BOE for a gallery. It was approved- now need financing. Upcoming events are Grog Night, Coffee House, Spring Concert and Art Show.

Cultural Arts: see monthly notes. The budget for next year will remain the same so should be able to provide the same programs.

Parents of graduating seniors were recognized: Karen Spehler, Gloria Bordeman, Laura Riffaud, Robin Manos.

FOCUS: May 29th – Distracted Driving presentation @ 7pm. Community Service 1 ½ hours for going. Transition meeting will be presented in June. Looking to fill a board for next year. Save the date – June 5th community wide event about Anonymous People documentary.

Karen Spehler needs names, dates etc for preparing next years calendar. All presidents need to give calendar counts.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Bernhard, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business

Budget vote May 20th. Stay with tax cap and not diminish any services. Property tax freeze for the next 2 years. Could have raised budget by 2.5% but only raised it 1.89%. Proud of that.

In order to get below the cap other districts have raised class sizes. We have not had to do that. Will permit the district to carry over the difference that we are below so we have a little bit extra. In regards to the state budget as long as we stay in the limit the state will send a rebate check for any tax increase we got. Rebate also applies to 2014/2015 school year.

Contingencies – in case we get new entrants over the summer, 2 positions were built into the budget.

Augusta Reese stated that she feels the current 4th grade numbers are too high and many people agree.

Our district has AAA Bond Rating so no insurance is necessary.

The BOE has made good decisions and they are starting to pay off. Always watching the student numbers to be aware if new teachers are needed. Alternate proposal to adding back chairpersons that teachers rejected. Districts that try to go over the tax cap do not do well. We are preserving and enhancing where we can. CSH ranked top 1% of all schools in America. If we ever need to

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override the tax cap we hope the community will understand. Still finding ways to enhance programs while staying inside the cap.

The Senior High Robotics program went to the semi-finals. Starting a Jr. High Robotics program. It is an extremely expensive program. It cost \$4000 just to enter the competition. Parents in the community are pitching in and helping as well.

Giving seed money to other clubs like Hawk Talk- news casting/reporting and public service announcements. FLES continues- Skyping with school in Spain. They are trying to come here to spend a week.

Enhanced security – capital project and more video surveillance. Looking to alarm 97 doors(funded).

Technology acquisition thru BOCES- pay less than ½ price – got \$317,000 back.

Education Foundation also assisting in funding these projects.

Adding a 3rd printer, new art course in animation, art enrollment is very high – may need to add.

East Bark initiative- worked with English language arts in 3rd grade. Jr/Sr. High did both math and ELA and will begin to work with 2nd and 4th grades.

Also, purchasing new math program for next year to differentiate the instruction, small group instruction.

Getting a lot of feedback from the students, when they find glitches they give their feedback.

Getting help from Ed Foundation to expand it. We purchased the applications so do not have to go through East Bark to use them.

Continuing partnership with Teachers College – district is active with them. 7th and 8th grade teachers are going to Teachers College for teachings skills of reading and writing. Various workshops for K-6 and 7th and 8th grades. Also, Mr. Crane attended a science related workshop.

Starting a summer program for Independent Science Research through the Education Foundation. There is equipment available for the students use.

The DNA Learning Center does life science units with 5th & 6th graders. Next year there will be online learning courses available to HS students i.e. Finance.

Substance abuse is a concern so adding dedicated health specialist at elementary schools to discuss topics such as drugs, cyber safety, non academics.

Starting “Drop –in” lounges at Jr. High and in Ms. Pickerings office. Adding a teacher assistance for academic help. Adding part time Social Worker to school and “Book Talk”.

Need the whole community to come together to address issues.

Students go to sports coaches more than others. Not always a parent.

Ask a friend to vote!

Some 7th & 8th graders opted out of the Common Core Exams.

Reminders: 5/5 @ 8pm – Meet the Candidates

5/29 – calendar meeting

Helen Daly thanked the CPC Board

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am. Motion to adjourn Lolita Reichbach and Nancy Israeli.

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