

CFA Minutes – September 10, 2013

Meeting held in PAC– First meeting of the new school year.

In attendance: Nancy Israeli, Florie Marion, Janice Farynick, Wendy DeSchutter, Dianne Breitstone, Kerith Freidberg, Ana Shammah, Mary Hooks and 50 audience members

President's Report (Nancy)

- Board introduction.
- Review of committees. Please come to CAC meeting on 9/19 at 9:30 in JH library.
- CFA supports all after school clubs. Clubs ask us for money. We also help contribute to some scholarships.
- We changed the monthly CFA meetings from 9:00 to 12:00 to accommodate Nancy's work schedule. This time may accommodate people who either work or work out in the morning. We will try to limit meetings to one hour and end at 1:00.
- Great fundraisers : 9/27 Frozen Kettle frozen yogurt (next to Paramount Theater) 4:00 – 8:00 20% of sales will go to CFA (please tell them you are from CSH school district) ; 10/6 Cucoo Restaurant (by back entrance to Dunkin Donuts) 4:30 – 8:00 20% of sales will go to CFA (please let them know you are with CSH school district); Value Drugs rebate – every purchase made, a percentage will go to CFA (either use key fob or tell them at cashier that you are with CSH school district); Innisbrook Ongoing – use our school code when ordering and 40% of your purchase is donated back to our school (school code is 105637); shop online at major retailers thru One Cause and 20% of eligible purchases will go to CSH schools. Look on website for more details. On 3/19 is the Literary Luncheon (supports CAC and CFA). More details will be coming over the next few months.
- Arts Booster supports all school sponsored programs that pertain to the arts, i.e., new sound system in PAC, creative writing, senior scholarship \$.
- If you have any major issues you'd like the CFA to address, please let us know. We can bring speakers to our meetings.
- CPC (Central Parents Council) – Helen Daly is President. It meets the first Thursday of the month at the District Office on Goose Hill Road. Please come.
- The next CFA meeting will be on Tuesday, October 1 in the Junior High Library at noon.

Principal's Report (Mr. Matuk)

- Welcome back.
- We have a new security system. Please enter the school via the front entrance. If it's your first time, you'll need to show your driver's license and they'll take your picture and enter you into the system. The next time you come, the security person will look you up and give you a pass. To date, it's only in the JH/SH. They may expand it to the other schools in the district.
- Security may make further improvements including alarms on doors during school hours and install more cameras around perimeter of school.
- School opened with 1,001 students. 20+ new students this year (averaging 20+ per year for the last five years).
- Offering some new programs this year: VEI (Virtual Entrepreneur) -- taught by Ms. P. Connelly for double period. Students will be placed in pods (teams) and be able to operate their own companies. Writing workshops for 7/8 grades and are linked with English classes (same teacher). Will work on writing/literacy skills.
- Homecoming/Pep Rally – Homecoming is on 10/12 at 3:00 and Pep Rally is on 10/11. Students asked to hold Pep Rally in Gym this year. HS Dance is on 10/12 at 7:00 p.m. and is only for HS.
- A number of new teachers were hired, e.g., part time music teacher (experienced teacher from Levittown who taught for 9 years); new part time math teacher and several in the Language Department.
- Regents exams – the State is giving "core" regent exams. On 6/3 new common core regents will be given. All other regents will continue to be given in the middle of June. Everyone will be required to take the new common core regents. Eventually the state will no longer offer the regular regents.
- Dr. Janice Elkin, from the Board of Education, mentioned that Mrs. Bellino has a good overview of the Common Core on the school website.

Assistant Principal's Report (Mr. Monastero)

- On the first day of school at 7:45 a.m. the hall was empty. The students knew where to go! The #1 stresser in the afternoon was "their legs"!

- There are 180 7th graders.
- Beautification Day – Mr. Monastero showed the murals the students made with magic markers; they will be hung up for BTS night for all to see.
- 7/8th grades sports clubs start today at 2:45.
- In about three weeks Clubs will begin.
- We want children to become independent.
- They all received “Agenda Books”. If they have no homework for a class we encourage children to write “None”. Event dates are included in the Agenda Books.

Director of Physical Education (Mr. Michael Bongino)

- Today after school 7th/8th grade sports clubs will meet.
- Background includes: he’s been in education for 14 years, worked in Half Hollow Hills and taught Gym in the Elementary level and HS level. He was an Assistant Principal for both HHH HS West and East and a Building Athletic Director. Coached varsity athletics, played two sports in High School (Soccer and Lacrosse) and one College sport.
- He feels playing sports helps build character development, friendships, team bonding and resumes along with academics. Overall, sports help build “well rounded” students.
- His office is in the Field House.
- He feels privileged and honored to be a part of this community.
- Football practices began in middle of August. On 8/26 all other HS sports began.
- White cards need to be filled out in order to participate in practices.
- Equipment can be stored in the Field House loft. Bins will be set aside labeled by sport. Students need to label their equipment.
- on 9/11 the Fall/Winter Code of Conduct meeting will be held in the PAC for all JV and Varsity sports.

Directory of Guidance (Ms. Cambria)

- Senior College Parent meeting next week on 9/19 .
- College applications changed this year. They’re not as intuitive as last year. She’s working with a few students and will go through the process with them. Students who come to Guidance for help with applications need to try it on their own first.
- PSAT registration for all 11th graders and 10th graders (any 10th graders who want to take it should take it). The deadline for PSAT registration is Oct 19. Need to get it in before deadline otherwise you may not be able to take it here. For ex, June PSATs need to register end of January.
- Visit Counseling Center website. There’s a lot of information.
- There will be a 9th grade parent meeting about how to make a Noviance Account.
- Counselors sit in with every college recruiter.
- CSH hosts well over 100 colleges a year only for students. Colleges want to see a “demonstrated interest”. Colleges start coming next week through December. The colleges that are coming are listed in the “Noviance Account”.
- Past colleges have said CSH’s recommendation letters from Guidance are well written compared to other high schools. Colleges love coming here. They don’t always come every year.