

CFA Minutes – November 5, 2013

Meeting held in the JH Library. Guest speakers were Ms. Holleran and Ms. Waters and students.

In attendance: Nancy Israeli, Janice Farynick, Wendy DeSchutter, Dianne Breitstone, Kerith Freidberg, Florie Marion, Ana Shammah, Mary Hooks, Mr. Matuk and 15 audience members

Community Service (Ms. Holleran)

- Look at Ms. Holleran's website for information regarding Community Service. In a few weeks there will be a link from the CSH website. There is a link on the CFA website.
- "Share the Warmth" – a charity set up by Alex and Allison Grey. They donate used sweatshirts (even those with logos) to homeless people. They were featured in Newsday. There's a drop off bin in the lobby. They have a website: sharethewarmthsweatshirts@gmail.com.
- Thanksgiving Food Drive – Drop off non-perishable foods for distribution to various charities on Long Island for Thanksgiving dinner. It will run until November 20. There is a collection bin in the lobby.
- Toy Drive – Please donate unwrapped gifts for children of various ages (no weapons) in a bin in the lobby. They will be collected for distribution to various local charities including LI Cares, Salvation Army, Tri-CYA, Toys for Tots.
- Michael Dischman, student who is the President of the Student Council. He cares about the student community and is a member of the Huntington Youth Council. Congressman Steve Israel started the first Youth Cabinet. Michael was nominated to participate in it. He is the first CSH student to participate on a government cabinet. Congratulations Michael!

Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) (Ms. Waters)

- A club officiated by Ms. Waters, English teacher, teaches tolerance and acceptance of others. It's a mix of social, activists, and educating the community. We don't want to be a community that focuses on the negatives only. We are looking at how to make situations better. Also, we are not looking to being limited to gay-straight alliance. We are looking at bullying and any other types of issues. There's a great video called "Bullying Project". In the Spring is the "National Day of Silence". We will send out an email blast to remind everyone.

Cultural Arts

- Robin Manos – Vets are coming in to visit 7th/8th grade Social Studies classes on Thursday, November 7. Kids learn a lot listening to personal experiences. Really a wonderful program. It's nice for the students to meet actual veterans (while they are still around).
- On 11/25 there will be a speaker, Irving Roth, a Holocaust survivor. He will be speaking in the PAC with grades 10 – 12 during 2nd and 3rd periods and grades 7 – 9 during 8th and 9th periods. He wrote a book "Bondi's Brother". He was twelve years old when Germany entered his town.

Principal's Report (Mr. Matuk)

- Mr. Matuk showed a video of the Pep Rally. Kids did an amazing job. Most schools would not want to have 1,000 kids in the Gym. Our kids are good and love it. We cleaned up the mascot.
- "Hawk Talk" – showed a clip from the morning news program. It runs every morning and demonstrates CSH Spirit. It is a really nice communication vehicle. These days you need to have a visual hook with kids! All children can participate from 7th – 12th. Ms. Levy picks everyone. A parent asked if parents will ever have access to Hawk Talk. Mr. Matuk said he will have to look into releasing children's faces and would need waivers.
- He is looking to hold another Pep Rally in the spring for the spring sports.
- Testing -- Mr. Matuk attended a meeting in Poughkeepsie to discuss the new Common Core curriculum with state education commissioner, John King. He and Dr. Wilansky asked questions at the meeting. He said there were a number of schools attending the meeting with similar issues. To learn more regarding the Common Core, please google it. This year students will need to take two regents, i.e., the original state regent and the new Common Core regent. Administrators feel it is too much testing! If parents have issues with the Common Core, they should write to their politicians, e.g., Senator Carl Marcellino.

President's Report (Nancy Israeli)

- Fundraising – we used to have a Book Fair, however, the money we made from it wasn't much. We also ran two fall fundraisers through two Huntington restaurants which weren't very successful . For the last few years the CFA has been trying to raise money for a glassed enclosed showcase for art projects in the hallway outside the Guidance Office. However, we haven't been able to raise enough money. If anyone has any ideas we would be more than happy to hear them. A parent mentioned "Bring in the Funk" as an evening fundraiser at the HS just for parents. It was successfully done at Lloyd Harbor. Another idea was The Wizards basketball team. It is easy and doesn't require too much work from parents.
- Also CFA membership stands at 50% of families. To date 340 families have signed up out of 684. Only CFA members only have online access to the CFA website which has a lot of information.
- We would like to get more people to come to our meetings. Please mention to your friends.

JH Report (D. Breitstone/K. Freidberg)

- JH Dance held on Friday, November 1 was a success. 150 students attended. We had 30 pizzas and high school students set up a "Spooky hallway" which was a lot of fun.