

Central Parents Council

Minutes from April 16, 2015

In Attendance: Lolita Reichbach, Beth Packert, Wendi DeSchutter, Sarah Trust, Nancy Israeli, Stephanie DiNozzi, Melissa Maraschiullo, Augusta Reese Donohue, Christina Bruderman, Terri Coyle, Genevieve Cimino, Ingrid Wright, Nicole Pultz, Karen Walter, Jill DeMarco, Kaitlin Eisenegger, Jenean Ketterer, Nicole Prizzi, Tricia Hammond, Pamela Sherlock, Sheila Acker, Fran Conte, Amy Brogan, Carolyn Walkin, Maura McGloin, Andrea Buonfiglio, Marie Reilly, Connie Robins, Ingrid Wright, Caroline Hodgson, Jennifer Leavy, Karen Spehler, Carol Kessler, Ana Shammah, Mari Strunk, Deb Aviles, Dawn O'Rourke, Janice Elkin, Diane Hastara, Lesa Starkins, Melissa Dago, Dana Lynch

Absent: Nancy Israeli, Melissa Maraschiullo, Ginette Reynolds, Kristin Robillard, Tim Ruocco, Robert Taglich, Heather Savarese, Lauryn Koke, Anne Scott, Anne Gummersell, Charisse Winthrop, Helen Daly, Angela Engel

CPC Business

Beth Packert, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:10. Beth led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sarah Trust, Secretary, asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2015 meeting. No March Minutes were approved because no meeting was held due to snow. Lolita Reichbach made motion to approve, Carol Kessler seconded. The minutes were approved.

Beth Packert stated that she will be working with Mr. Contess to get CPC its own link on the CSH district website so that we do not have to go through CFA since only a certain population gets information from that website. This helps cut costs because we do not need to pay for an additional website.

Beth also stated that in the coming year the PTG presidents will be more involved in setting CPC's agenda and helping choose speakers and parent items. We need a more formal process for getting feedback on the agenda.

The School Improvement Team nominations were due today. Beth will pick up on Friday giving people more time to nominate themselves. She and Sarah will review and Sarah Trust will let PTG presidents know who was nominated.

Ed Tech was postponed. Stephanie DiNozzi said it will be rescheduled for sometime in May.

Meet the Candidates night is 8pm on Monday May 4th. There are two spots on the board open, incumbents are not challenged. Ingrid Wright has to officially run for her current spot.

At the next meeting we will have Dr. Bernard's budget discussion and Andrew Rosenberg, the new head of guidance will be speaking.

May 12th is the Budget Comment Period. May 19th is the Budget Vote.

Frank Bruni came to discuss his book about the college admissions process.

We had two speakers at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, State Senator Carl

Marcellino and Rep. Chad Lupinacci. Lupinacci discussed a new initiative to keep students in NY State. If they are top 10% in their high school class, attend a SUNY or CUNY and commit to staying in NY for five years, tuition is free.

There was a presentation on Google Classroom. It was impressive and with it they will have the ability to have a standard library for the teachers, which allows for a more systematic structure.

The Robotics Club is going to the finals in St. Louis.

Treasurer's Report

Lolita Reichbach, Treasurer, announced that she would be sending invoices to the PTGs for the refreshments per the schedule set at the beginning of the year. She asked whether PTG treasurers had received invoices from Gerri Tiger. They had not. Lolita said she would follow up.

Status and Resolution Report

Wendi DeSchutter, Vice-Chairperson, gave the report. The parent items addressed in the S&R were the Light Sale program, The Opt-Out Controversy which would be discussed with Dr. Wilansky and Mrs. Bellino. The Vaccinations issue was addressed: only 1% of our students have exemptions. This is the correct number, not the one that circulated about having an 82% vaccination rate.

School Reports

GH: Kaitlin Eisenegger gave the report. See attached notes. GPFA purchased a piece of equipment for the playground – a playhouse. They will be having a plant sale on May 9th for Mother's Day.

LH: Gussie Donohue gave the report. See attached notes. They have started a Philanthropy Initiative allowing students to volunteer at the Tri YMCA once a month and help with homework and bring extra snacks. Next Thursday's meeting with address Cyber Bullying. They are meeting at 9:30am in the District Conference Room.

WS: Nicole Pultz gave the report. See attached notes. The WSS 225th Anniversary is approaching on June 5th selling 225 tickets. The event is at the library. PTG meeting is on Tuesday, April 21. The school psychologist will be talking about the Friendship Club. . People discuss what they do in their house- How to unplug. They will be going to each of the PTG meetings.

CFA: Nancy Israeli gave the report. See attached notes. The Yankee Doodle Circus came. The Literary Luncheon was well attended and raised \$16,000. Tom Green was the speaker. The staff appreciation on 4/29 is being chaired by Claire Costa. There is a Fashion and Film show on 4/24. The Jr. High's Shrek the Musical was great. The next meeting is on 5/12. People are concerned that the PSAT is being held during the school week taking up three class periods.

CSH Ed: Stephanie DiNozzi stated that the POP Party was fun with many new faces and parents of younger children. The generous sponsors covered the cost of the party and \$50,000 was raised. They are working with the administration on how to place those funds. They will also be holding smaller fundraisers throughout the year.

Arts Booster: Applications are due on Friday for Arts Scholarship. Friday after the pep rally the Whiffenpoofs will perform 7-7:30.

Cultural Arts: Friday after the pep rally the Whiffenpoofs will perform 7-7:30. LHS will have Sleeping Beauty and Pay to Clay. WSS will have square dancing in the Weir barn.

Seahawks Booster: Karen Walters gave the report. We have the highest membership ever, have tripled in size of active members. There is new clay for the baseball and softball fields and new batting cages. There are new nets around the lax field. Seahawks camp sign up has started, it includes new sports like crew, golf, fitness and gymnastics. Camp sign ups can be found at seahawkssportscamps.com. The Boosters are still selling banners and bricks. Casino Night will be at the HCC on 5/2. Seahawks booster scholarships are for a boy and girl: \$2500.

New Business

Bylaws: Sarah Trust, Secretary, reviewed changes to the bylaws. Lolita made a motion to approve and Janean Ketterer seconded. The motion passed unanimously and changes to the bylaws were adopted.

Dr. Wilansky discussed assessments. Changes to APPR will be mandated by 6/1. Carl Marcellino indicated at the BOE meeting that some aspects will be locally bargained. Since APPR was passed, no teacher at CSH has ever received an ineffective rating.

Our opt out numbers were 18% (WS 14%, LH 17%). On par with Jericho. On LI the opt outs were from 3% to 81%. Because our number was above 5%, we lost our ability to be a Reward School. There is no impact on funding. We only lose funds if we do this for three years. There is no such thing as “opt-out” it is test refusal.

Colleen Haskell asked whether the assessments were used for class placement. Dr. Wilansky replied that they are not used for placement in classes. However they do look to see if additional assistance is necessary.

Instead of test refusal, political advocacy is the proper way to make your voice heard.

Are the assessments grade-level appropriate? Yes, but they are rigorous.

Why were kids allowed to stay in the class without taking the test? Schools don't have an obligation to provide additional area during the test. That sends a tacit message that students are supposed to be in there taking the test.

Our teachers association did not participate in ads or robocalls encouraging people to opt out even though a lot of Huntington schools did.

Teachers Contracts: There will be a negotiation in the last week of April. The administration remains optimistic. The Board has adopted the fact finders report.

Guest Speakers

Mrs. Bellino addressed the issue of Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR).

They consist of:

20% Growth Measure Score – the state assessment. 60% of teachers (special subjects, other grades) don't have state assessments. The principals of each school get scored based on how the assessments in their schools were. Teachers who don't get assessed get the same score as the principal. Everyone is in it together. This avoids additional testing, saves money.

A Growth measure is how did a student grow based on scale scores. Also a growth score against the rest of the state.

20% Achievement Measure – this is a local assessment. Every teacher does one. This is hard because there aren't real guidelines. Some schools use the state test again. Some created k-12 assessments. Our teachers can pick a unit of instruction and assess at the start and the end. Grade levels get together and agree on a performance based assessment (PBA). Teachers don't grade their own, they do it all together.

60% Local Standards Measure. This is based on a minimum of two in class observations - one announced, one un-announced. The observation is based on planning and preparation, classroom environment, instruction, professionalism, classroom visitation (peer to peer evaluation).

A teacher improvement plan (TIP) – if they're marked as "developing" we create a TIP. The administration and the teacher write it together. Where do we need to see improvement? Every administrator is certified as a lead evaluator.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45. Motion to Adjourn by Sarah Trust, Seconded by Nicole Pultz.