

## Parent Connection

April 21, 2009 Minutes

Co-chair, Alesia Duncombe opened the meeting.

- Alesia reported that new Parent Connection leadership positions are available for next year. The openings include secretary and listserv moderator, although all jobs are ultimately open with continuing leadership members willing to be flexible! This year we added the Volunteer Coordinator, which has been very successful, and we feel other roles may be changing next year with the potential for PC to become more involved in fund raising for the school.
- School board met last night regarding the drug sniffing dogs. A shout out to Dawn Granger for representing the feedback she had received from the CHS community and the statistics she had gathered. She had crisp data and stood among her peers and represented CHS. Dawn did not dissent, but specifically said that the information and facts from CHS do not indicate the need for drug dogs. This meeting was a fact finding meeting with no public testimony. There will be a meeting with the School Board in the future where public testimony is allowed. The process for giving public testimony to the school board is described on the districts website at [http://www.csd509j.net/district\\_information/school\\_board/2008-2009/How%20to%20Provide%20Input%20to%20the%20Corvallis%20School%20Board.pdf](http://www.csd509j.net/district_information/school_board/2008-2009/How%20to%20Provide%20Input%20to%20the%20Corvallis%20School%20Board.pdf) Note that you must give notice in before the start of the meeting to be able to testify.
- The PC May meeting will be with Dawn and final information regarding next year.

Carol Hennessey, Co-Chair:

- It has been decided that monthly meetings for Spanish-speaking parents/guardians will be offered in place of translating the school newsletter into Spanish. Alicia Ward, Assistant Principal and Monica Schlechter, ELL Family Specialist will host these meetings. In addition, a one page calendar of school events in Spanish will be distributed at these meetings. The next meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be available. Parent Connection will provide refreshments and arrange the childcare. If you would like more information about these meetings, please contact Carol Hennessey at [chenness@peak.org](mailto:chenness@peak.org), or Alicia Ward at [Alicia.Ward@corvallis.k12.or.us](mailto:Alicia.Ward@corvallis.k12.or.us)

Mary Ellen Brown, Treasurer:

- Savings has \$3000, checking \$1600. PC is in discussion with Dawn about how to use these funds. It is looking like a decision about these funds may need to wait until next year after final budget information is in.
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- Nell Kolodziej and Mary Ellen spent 6 minutes scratching off lottery tickets and made \$1500 for the school during the 'Scratch for Schools'. In addition there were two people from KEJO radio station who helped scratch tickets for CHS.

Nell Kolodziej, Volunteer Coordinator:

- This month Nell has worked on filling specific requests for individual teachers. As the requests come in, the jobs are filled.

Pat Collier, Staff Appreciation:

- This committee is looking for committee members for next year.
- The meal for conferences went well and was greatly appreciated by the staff.

Jan Zajicek, Site Council:

- Rich Larowe, Alissa Wall, and Deborah Lindsay are the Site Council's new members.
- At the last meeting, the committee discussed "early leavers", or kids who leave CHS before they graduate. They are trying to find where these kids have gone and what are they doing.
- Site Council broke into three sub-committees for data analysis with the goal being that each group analyze their area and assess how it would fit into one of our goals for improvement in practices and policies and increasing achievement. The findings will be disclosed at the April and May Site council meetings. The groups are: SAT/ACT/AP access and achievement; OAKS state testing analysis and process evaluation; drop out analysis and prevention. They are looking at equity and access issues as well as overall achievement. The information from these committees will be used for goal setting for next year.

Dawn Granger, Principal:

- The drug dog issue came up 5 months ago. Dawn has been receiving feedback from parents, students, and teachers. The class presidents have been asked to gather feedback from the student body. There is a comment box in the forum where students may submit their comments.
- Right now, the feedback from parents indicate that people do not feel that right now, there is a substance abuse problem at CHS. It is the general feeling that the administration, along with the staff and behavioral specialists, have a handle on this issue. However, Dawn realizes that substance use issues have a lot to do with personality of classes, and this year CHS does not have any classes where drugs/alcohol are a predominant theme. The feedback from parents indicate that they don't want to cast a broad net, rather they would like to target a specific problem if there is one.
- 'Budget of Tears 'has arrived (version 2 of the original budget which means more cuts). Dawn was told she needed to cut an additional \$130,000. Dawn shared that that amount is the

equivalent of 2 FTEs. The total cuts for next year approach \$375,000. In order to make the additional cuts, Dawn took more money out of the discretionary funds. CHS does have funds at the Foundation that can be used for discretionary funds. Dawn wanted all to know that those donations are greatly appreciated. The good news about the continual changing budget is that registration has occurred so now the administration knows the numbers of kids registered for individual classes. This allows for more precise cuts based demand. Dawn continues to use feedback she has received and feels the district will do all they can to help in the budget situation too. She warns that there will be more cuts. The Board is looking at the possibility of asking for the full amount of the levy that was approved by voters .

- Dawn is open to feedback about her performance. She realizes that she impacts every child here and may not interface with all of the families. The survey is on the CHS website in the Parent Connection section or can be accessed at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB22943XZRMZB>
- There are 19 questions and space for open ended feedback. Dawn would like everyone to see the results of the surveys, she will respond to the people who want it, and then she will share what her responses are to everyone. The survey is live now and will be closed on May 12. There are copies of the survey in the office if people do not have internet. Normally a principal waits a year before handing out surveys however, Dawn feels that we (Dawn and the CHS community) have been together long enough and been through a lot ( budget) that she feels there has been enough time to evaluate her. She plans on using the feedback in her preparation for next year.
- Dawn also suggests that if you have concerns about a teacher or district employee, it is best to handle those concerns directly with the employee. The majority of the time direct contact is the most effective method of resolving issues. However, if that option is viable, one can always contact an assistant principal, principal or the superintendent with their concerns. Dawn can handle complaints in an informal or formal process. If there are serious allegations concerning the safety of students, those should go directly to Dawn.
- Positive feedback concerning teachers and staff members is welcome too! Dawn's goal is to make CHS a place where communication is open and people feel respected and heard.

Eric Wright, Assistant Principal:

- The State created new graduation requirements a few years back. The requirements include, in addition to academics, career and extended learning aspects.
- The new requirements that started with 9<sup>th</sup> graders this year include: 4 years of English, 3 years of math and 3 years of science. For the Class of 2014, the 3 years of math must start at Algebra 1, no lower. CHS understands that math is not everybody's strength and is looking at various math classes that will make math meaningful to all students. For instance a business math course could be added.
- There are now 'essential skills' that are necessary to master before graduation. Beginning with this year's 9th graders they will need to demonstrate that they are able to: read effectively,

write effectively and speak effectively. They must show that they can use math in a variety of settings. The State's definition of proficiency means students must pass the OAKS tests with the set passing scores. Students can take the tests up to 3 times a year during their high school career.

- The OAKS tests are administered within the regular classes. Donna Keim is in charge of making sure all students are tested.
- All students have personal education profiles and this is where the test results are kept.
- If test expectations are met as a freshman, there is no need to retest in later years.
- Math teachers, and English teachers score the work samples.
- The new requirements are an exciting challenge. CHS is constantly looking at ways to make learning meaningful and successful for students. For example, the Math department is looking at various ways to base assessment on proficiency and give students several opportunities to show proficiency even if the class is moving on.
- The standards are going higher, but the school is supportive and excited about meeting the challenges.
- Go to: [www.getreadyoregon.com](http://www.getreadyoregon.com) to learn about the new diploma requirements for classes starting with the class of 2012.

Before Alesia closed the meeting, she reminded us that PC is for the CHS community and if anyone would like anything specific to be discussed at the May 19 meeting to please let her know at [alesia.duncombe@gmail.com](mailto:alesia.duncombe@gmail.com).

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Thompson