

Parent Connection Meeting Minutes December 18, 2006

Site Council Report: Jan Zajicek gave a report from the “new” CHS Site Council. This year there has been a restructuring. In the past the CHS Site Council included Department Chairs and a few parents. Site Councils are mandated by the state to develop an annual school improvement plan based upon supporting all students’ growth and achievement. This year the Department Chairs have their own meetings and the Site Council meets separately with a membership comprised of 3 parents, 3 teachers, 3 classified staff and our principal, Suzanne Dalton. Jan is our parent liaison.

The new Council has spent the fall writing their bylaws. In January, they will begin to set priorities for the school year. They will seek ways to incorporate district goals (such as increasing literacy). All 8 members of the CHS Council attended a District training to assist them in learning how to set norms and goals for a school improvement plan.

Minutes from Site Council meetings will be available as attachments to the CHS Newsletter. They will also be posted on a bulletin board by the front office and in a binder in the staff room.

Staff Luncheons (lunch meal provided by parents for faculty and staff, giving teachers and staff an opportunity to relax and connect with each other over a noon meal they didn’t need to prepare.) Some parents find sending a check (“Parent Connection”) easier than contributing food. The junior class will be hosting the next luncheon. Checks may be dropped off in the office at any time.

Principal’s Report: The front bulletin board currently featuring photos of new staff members will soon be replaced with postings of Daily Announcements and minutes from the Site Council and Parent Connection.

Next term will be hiring for a new position teaching 2 periods of psychology. Jim Dort has currently filled this position in a temporary capacity.

Building will be closed to all the week of December 26th. The police will practice tactical exercises within CHS to get to know the building.

CHS administration continues to strive to nurture and improve neighborhood relations. Occasionally there is a neighborhood complaint about driving speed, littering or smoking. Trash cans maintained by CHS staff have been placed in two community locations with positive response.

In January a Gazette Times reporter, Jennifer, will come to tour CHS and become better acquainted with our community.

Winter Formal was fun. Students were well-behaved, with great manners and polite behavior.

National Honor Society presentation by Sarah Theurer, NHS advisor

- National organization with chapters throughout the U.S. We've had our renewed charter since 1979 (original 1931), which is when we decided to become a service-oriented chapter.
- Initial requirement: 2 graded semesters here at CHS with minimum 3.6 accumulative GPA (grade point average – shown on report card)
 - Transfer students are admitted if already a member at previous school.
 - Otherwise must wait until attained 3.6 accumulative GPA here at CHS, (2 semesters).
 - Excludes exchange students.
- Sarah requests list from registrar at end of year of potentially eligible students.
 - Checks with counseling office to confirm eligibility (not transfer student, still CHS registered.)
 - Applications are handed out to invited students in the fall.
 - Must be filled out and returned by due date (about 2 ½ weeks.)
 - Students detail their extracurricular activities, leadership positions, community activities, hobbies, plus a paragraph sharing their feelings about a character trait most important to him or her.
- Sarah sends list of students to all staff with student contact (teachers, counselors, library staff, secretaries, administration, possibly kitchen and custodial staff.)
 - Opportunity to gather positive input for student's file and also discover where there are concerns about student citizenship.
 - Confidential process, if 1 staff member has a concern about a student Sarah will meet with the staff member to discover the severity of the issue. May then meet with the student and discuss.
 - Concerns may come up with 5-6 students a year. Students need to be a positive example.
 - Sometimes 2 or more staff members say the same things about a student's attitude, rude or disrespectful behavior, or unwillingness to help others. Further conversations occur and 1-4 students are not accepted each year. Parents may talk with Sarah Theurer about the specifics if their child is not accepted.
 - Non-acceptance can become a growth opportunity.
 - Student may apply again the next year.
 - 3 staff members need to approve application to permit entry into NHS.

- Induction into the National Honor Society occurs at the end of November or beginning of December depending on the availability of the auditorium. Formal induction includes candles and speeches.
- NHS membership requirements:
 - Community service:
 - 10 hours per semester, including 1 NHS sponsored activity. (Activity considered NHS sponsored if announced during the NHS meeting.) Students do not need to meet the requirement their first partial semester.
 - Numerous options include: volunteering at CHS Open House, tutoring students, April Sr. Citizen's breakfast, large school activities such as Mr. Spartan (can only count up to 5 hours for NHS), other activities of student's choosing. Service cannot be for a family member and the student cannot be paid.
 - Students log their volunteer hours on forms in the counseling office. Signatures are not required, logging hours is done on the honor system.
 - Meetings are 1st Wed. of every month during lunch. Attendance required. (Can be dropped for failure to attend meetings.)
 - Students must maintain a cumulative 3.6 GPA (1 semester below, flagged for probation; 2nd semester falls below will be dropped from NHS.)
 - If dropped from NHS for whatever reason student cannot get back in.
- NHS membership includes approximately 20% of the student population.
 - CHS initiates new members in the fall to permit seniors the opportunity to join their final year of school and sophomores to participate the majority of the year. Most other schools initiate in the spring. Noting membership in NHS on college applications is considered helpful.
 - CHS leadership class does more of what NHS used to do.

Parent questions:

Q: How do we know who is in NHS? A: Will be announced in the newsletter.

Q: During NHS Induction next year could there be more lighting so parents can see the students as they are presented their membership card? This year the students walked in front of the stage. Next year could the stage be used? Is there a way to be able to see the faces of the students so parents can take a photo?

Reminders: Beyond CHS is available to answer questions for any parent or student about options after high school. If you enter the building from the front, take a right down the hall and you'll see the BCHS office on your right.

- Students and parents may drop in any time during the school day and volunteers are available to assist you in finding answers to a wide variety of questions.
- We are welcome to simply come in and read or check out resources.

- Information regarding post high school choices available.
 - Colleges, internships, career and technical education programs, foreign exchanges, military. (This is where you find information on foreign exchanges.)
 - Students are encouraged to bring in their college application materials, including essays, for personal feedback.
 - Beyond CHS encourages every CHS student (and parent!) as a freshman, sophomore, junior and senior to drop in and see what they have to offer.