

Parent Connection Minutes

February 17, 2009

Co-President Alesia Duncombe opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to PC's second evening meeting of the year. She shared that she has had feedback indicating interest in more evening meetings. If you have comments concerning the meeting times for PC, please email Alesia with your comments at alesia.duncombe@gmail.com.

- The next PC meeting will be Tuesday, March 17 at noon in the CHS Band Room. Dawn Granger will present the most current (and hopefully final) budget information along with Eric Wright who will speak to the new graduation requirements.
- If you are interested in becoming a member of the PC Leadership Team, or more involved with Parent Connection, please email Alesia. All officers are willing to share, hand over or shift their jobs if you would like to become involved.

Reports of Leadership Team:

Treasurer:

- Mary Ellen Brown reported PC has \$1487.00 in checking, \$3028.00 in a money market fund and a savings balance of \$120.00. Most of the income at this time of year comes from general donations, donations for Staff Appreciation meals and e-scrip. Expenses include newsletter translation fees, Staff Appreciation meals and room name plates.

Staff Appreciation:

- Pat Collier reported the next Staff Appreciation lunch will be Thursday, February 26. The Sophomore class will host this Italian themed meal. Please watch the listserv for an announcement of needed items for the lunch. Monetary donations are always appreciated.
- Pat is working on a picture display case to be mounted on the wall outside of the Counseling Center. The case will have pictures of all CHS staff members with their names and jobs they perform at CHS. This coincides with Parent Connection's mission of improving communication within the CHS community.

Volunteer Coordinator:

- Nell Kolodziej reported that the next call for a lot of volunteers will be in mid-April when Donna Keim will be needing

help. Please watch for an announcement concerning this on the listserv sometime in April.

District Liaison:

- Shanna Molitar attended the last District Leadership meeting. The topic of the meeting was the District's budget. Much information was shared by the Superintendent and she encouraged input and ideas from all people. It was emphasized that the District is trying to educate and be as transparent as possible to as many people as possible during this budget discussion.

Co-Chair:

- Carol Hennessy will look into the readership of the translated newsletters. She will research how many people read the translated newsletter and look at different alternatives to address making communication effective for the whole CHS community.
- Carol encourages all parents and guardians to become familiar with the Pinnacle Grading/Attendance System. Each student and parent is given a login and have access to the student's attendance and grading record. Carol shared with us that it is possible to register to have an alert sent to a parent's email within 20 minutes of a tardy or unexcused absence. One may also ask that an alert is sent if a student's grade drops below a designated threshold. Pinnacle is a great tool for staff, students and parents. If you have misplaced your login information you may contact the Registrar at Karen.nelson@corvallis.k12.or.us and request that information.

Site Council Representative:

Jan Zajicek submitted the following:

- The new parent member who will join site council is Deborah Lindsay.
- As requested by site council, more details and data were given regarding drop out statistics. This included 'early leavers', regarding their nationality, gender, those that were transfer students, students who never showed up to enroll, those that should be in 12th grade were actually still in 11th grade, students who were within only 4 credits of graduation, etc.
- The budget update at the time of the meeting was given as well as state forecasts and their effect on CHS.

- Updates on our goals of literacy and climate were discussed:

Literacy - in the process of evaluating 7th and 8th graders writing curriculum.

Climate - there will be a meeting with students 2/25 and 4/23. There will be a representative from each advisor Group at the meeting. This will allow for discussions and Info to be shared regarding the climate of CHS.

- Next site council meeting agenda will include:

Discussion of staff development next year
New teacher member
Budget update
Diversity update
Drop out data
Review action plan

Eric Wright and Alicia Ward were our guests for the evening. The subject being the budget and where to make necessary cuts. However, Eric opened their talk with good news. The results from the district Diversity Study are in and they indicate that CHS is a place where students overwhelmingly feel safe, respected, cared about and fairly treated. The administration is very proud of the climate at CHS.

Alicia distributed a sheet with discretionary items and their costs. The original discretionary budget was \$240,000 but with the latest budget news, that needs to be cut to \$180,000. The administration is asking that people go through the list and document where you think the cuts should be made. Comments are very helpful and encouraged. Personnel budget is mandated by the district, the administration only has control of the funds used for discretionary items.

The list of discretionary items has been distributed to staff and students who have also been encouraged to make suggestions and give comments.

The administration's goal is to keep the CHS 'family' together, continue to offer the breadth of electives and keep class sizes small. They are committed to looking at teachers' endorsements and talents and will utilize all resources to keep CHS the great school it is.

Next year classes will only be offered if they have the set minimum number of students registered. That number will be determined by the administration.

Discussion ensued, particularly the ideas of grants. If you have ideas and/or expertise in this area, the administration would love to talk with you! Please contact them if you are willing to look into grant opportunities.

Attached is the discretionary form with items and budget information. Please return your completed form with comments by March 1, 2009 to the administration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Thompson

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