

## **Parent Connection Meeting Minutes February 19, 2008**

### **Officer's reports**

#### **Alesia Duncombe, Listserv Coordinator:**

- Listserv has sent out 145 messages so far this year. In January there were 33 and February there were 11 so far.
- The listserv is ours, for us to use. Anyone can send a message through the listserv.
  - You craft your message, add the email contact, send the message.
  - It will be checked for appropriate content by Alesia and then forwarded to those who have signed up to receive listserv messages.

**Pat Collier, Staff Appreciation Luncheon Chairperson:** Next week is Classified Employee Week and Parent Connection will be hosting a brunch Monday for classified employees. The next Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be hosted by the sophomore class.

**Mary Jo Chapman, Treasurer:** January received \$125 in donations for luncheons. Total in the account is \$7,100. Mystery: there has been no income from e-script in the last month.

- A parent reported she was told she must renew her e-script membership every November. She also discovered that while she and her husband each had their own card, e-script only recognizes one per family. In her case none of her purchases had been considered e-script eligible.
- Parent Connection plans to give seed money to help create an extensive and complete master calendar for CHS, which would include all dept. music, academic, sporting events etc. This will involve a paid staff member. More information will be available at the March PC meeting.

**Katie Zajicek, Site Council Representation:** No report

#### **Rynda Gregory, Assistant Principal:** CHS Advisor Program

[Note: Advisor program is separate and distinct from CHS counseling staff and the work/advising that they do.]

History: Rynda has been at CHS for 2 years. Feedback about advisor program has been that it wasn't consistent. There was a fair amount of discontent among teachers and parents.

- A committee was formed with Rynda, a school counselor, the career related standards representative, 2 teachers and occasionally Nancy Schaffer.
  - Addressed: purpose of advisor? Expectations?
  - Developed a plan and presented it to the staff
  - Proceeded with training for advisors (approx. 4 hrs.)
    - All full-time teachers are advisors as well as some classified staff.

- Mission Statement: The mission of advisor groups is to create the opportunity for students and educators to build relationships, to support students' academic progress by celebrating their achievements, and to offer support to those who are struggling. CHS realizes that relationships with educators are invaluable and influence how well students fare in school.
  - Purposes: Implement Career Related Learning Standards
  - Present any school wide information
  - Build consistent adult contact/relationship with students
  - Create class unity – identify leadership students
  - Connect teachers to material/information – (provide incentives)
  - Promote affective skills; a “place to belong”
- Each advisor has a binder with lesson plans for each advisor group meeting. Binders also include a list of resources for possible referrals such as Beyond CHS, student body president, class president, counselors etc.
  - Students are assigned to an advisor group with other members of their freshman, soph., junior, or senior class. The current plan is to continue with the same group and advisor for all four years.
  - Advisor meets typically for 45 minutes and groups range from 13 to 24 students. The larger groups were previously formed groups that wanted to stay together.
  - Some of this year's topics include:
    - Career Related Learning
    - Inclusion: Bullying, Harassment, Sensitivity with invited speakers (state required)
    - Fall Forecasting
    - Registration
    - Drinking/Drugs Assembly (state required)
    - Student Elections
- Our use of advisor is similar to other schools. Part of an advisor's job is to get information out to the students and start a student on a path.
  - Advisor offers more opportunities for students to have support systems -- they are in addition to counselors.
  - Greater possibility of preventing students from falling through the cracks.
- Rynda would welcome questions, thoughts, suggestions, or student feedback.
- Request went out on listserv for parents to volunteer in advisor as mentors.
  - Result of unfortunate miscommunication. Apologies.
  - Advisor program isn't ready yet to incorporate parent volunteers. It may be something considered for the future. Possibility will be addressed by the advisor committee.

### **Principal's update:** Suzanne Dalton

- Thanks to Parent Connection for their assistance during upcoming classified staff appreciation week.
- Last spring when visiting CHS Suzanne asked for a master calendar, gradually came to realize there wasn't one then and there was no one whose job it was to put one together.
  - Currently working to create a master calendar and solve the numerous challenges inherent in the creation of one. It will be a gradual process.
- To talk with Suzanne please contact Sherry Fowler, our office assistant.
- A new principal's fondest hope is to bring in new resources. Next year, despite passing the local option levy, we will have fewer.
  - State of Oregon Dept. of Education makes the decision on how the money a district receives per student is weighted.
    - Districts receive slightly more money for serving certain populations: students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, special needs students, English Language Learners, pregnant and parenting teens
  - In the past, the Corvallis School District made a decision some sub groups of students would be weighted twice, (school receives twice as much money for a student in that category).
    - Special needs students, English Language Learners, students from high poverty homes
  - **Change:** Corvallis School District (by committee recommendation to superintendent) has recently made the decision that only one group will be weighted twice, students who are both qualified AND signed up for free and reduced lunch. (This is an income designation that is not related to whether the student eats lunch at school or not.)
    - We will no longer receive the dollars we have received in the past for the higher weighting of students in special ed, English Language Learners, or students identified as Talented and Gifted.
    - Becomes very important to reach and encourage the families who qualify for "free and reduced lunch" to fill out the paperwork.
  - In addition we will have fewer students next year (best estimate is about 65 fewer)
    - School Board decided a few years ago to institute a 7% enrollment cap on transfers.
      - In the past many students chose to transfer to CHS, which left CV with fewer resources (since money is allocated per student). The School Board made a decision that would help keep the 2 high schools comparable.
      - CV will have about 41 more students next year
    - Schools districts spend approx. 85% money on staff. Less money will mean fewer teachers.
      - When the 13 new staff (part-time and full time) were hired last year (for this school year) to reduce class sizes CHS had no idea the school district would reduce weighting.

- Suzanne must submit names of programs to reduce next month. She has already personally spoken with teachers who are hired in a temporary capacity. Some positions will need to be posted, (opened for new or rehiring.)
- “Basic School” requirements:
  - A committee with representatives from K-12 came up with a list of things every school needs. The expense to meet these needs will come off the top of the school district budget.
    - CHS will need to increase the number of counselors from 2.75 to 4 next year.
- Sports and activities funded by the local levy will see no change.
  - Local option levy currently remains under the discretion of school principal.
- Q: CHS has an excellent performing arts center. Does the high school get a cut for leasing the building? In addition this creates extra work for the custodial staff.
  - A: The district funds part of Elizabeth Wyatt’s salary. All rental fees become a part of the district budget, not the CHS (or Linus Pauling) budgets. Our custodial staff also handles the increased load from our hosting LBCC evening classes and the district catering kitchen. [The principal is working with district staff to review the allocation of custodial staff and supplies necessary for those services.]
  - Suggestion: Could we add a \$1 per ticket to support the arts? Response: Put your suggestion in writing.
- School district has a budget committee. Meetings are public and posted on the school district website.
  - Decision as to allocation of resources for music.
- CHS budget is presented to assistant superintendent, Jim Hogeboom
  - Challenge necessary for the CHS administration to address is where to make the necessary reductions?

Donna Keim requested this information, which could not be presented due to time constraints, be included in the minutes:

Save the Date! Woodstock’s Spring for Kids Run/Walk is scheduled for April 5, 2008. This marks the fifth anniversary of this fun and important community event, which provides small grant funds for Corvallis educators through Corvallis Public Schools Foundation. This year look for the addition of a health and wellness fair. Come celebrate 5 years of educational enhancement! For more information, call 757-5857.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Carol Hennessy, Secretary