

## Parent Connection Meeting Minutes May 19, 2009

The last PC meeting for the 2008/09 school year was held on May 19. The first PC meeting for the 2009/10 school year will be on September 15, 2009, early in the school year due to the late start. Dawn Granger will speak in September about what is new at CHS.

Two PC leadership members are retiring this year, Carrie Thompson (secretary and past chairperson) and Pat Collier (Staff Appreciation). They have made large contributions to CHS and will both be greatly missed. We have three new members joining the leadership team: Kathleen McAteer will be heading the Staff Appreciation committee, Dawn Vermeulen will be the CHS Parents Listserv Moderator and Sally Olson-Edge will take over as the secretary in the fall.

The CHS Parent Connection's primary goal is to foster communication between the parents and guardians and the CHS community. The current activities supported by PC include staff appreciation, volunteer coordination, parent's listserv, and next year a plan is in place to allocate funds for improvement of the school website, staff picture board and Beyond CHS College Planning night.

Mary Ellen Brown, Treasurer, reported that the PC funds total over \$4000. Expenses this month included \$287 for the staff picture display and a deposit of \$94.87 was received from escrow.

Shanna Molitor, PC School District Liaison, reported that the cross-school meetings organized by Fred Kane have been used to communicate the parent organizations in the district. The meetings were not held on a regular schedule, but they were highly valuable. She sent Fred Kane a thank you note and a request to encourage future meetings.

Nell Kolodziej, Volunteer Coordinator, reported that the next major volunteer request will be for the August registration week on August 26-28<sup>th</sup>. A notice will be sent via the listserv as we get closer. A parent is also needed to participate on the Wellness Council, a multi-school effort. Please contact Nell Kolodziej if there is interest at [nkolodziej@comcast.net](mailto:nkolodziej@comcast.net).

Pat Collier, Staff Appreciation, reported that the Freshman sponsored luncheon will be on Thursday, May 21st. The menu theme is Mexican. The remaining staff pictures will be taken tomorrow for the staff picture board, with a plan to have this fully in place prior to next year's registration. These pictures will also be used for the website.

Alicia Ward, Assistant Principal, spoke about the Latina Parents Meeting. This group has completed its 3<sup>rd</sup> monthly meeting to bring together Spanish speaking families to review the CHS calendar, discuss upcoming events and address questions. Childcare is provided. Plans are in place to continue this in the fall with parent generated topics and speakers for further discussion. Contact Alicia for more information at [alicia.ward@corvallis.k12.or.us](mailto:alicia.ward@corvallis.k12.or.us)

Dawn Granger, Principal, addressed the agenda topic of this year's accomplishments and discussed what to expect next year.

42 Presidential service awards are being given to students for almost 9,900 hours of service learning this school year. In the past only 4-5 students at CHS have been eligible for these awards.

More than 500 students attended the prom. It was a lovely night which went off without incident. The students enjoyed the Secret Garden theme and the chocolate fondue fountains.

Dawn's goals for this year were to improve the school climate for staff and students. Towards fulfilling this goal for students, she has put into place:

- Monthly student council meetings
- monthly Ask An Administrator Days
- an open door policy for students to consult with her on class projects and other issues
- a policy which allows administrators to be out in the school in classrooms and common areas four days a week
- support for service learning that is student driven
- support for student clubs and organizations like PAW, global studies, Diversity Club, Latino Club, Green Club, and the Gay-Straight Alliance.

Students were also asked to complete a survey for the principal on some classes. This feedback will be used to improve student administrator relationships next year.

Dawn expressed concern that the achievement gap is growing. This is something that is happening at schools everywhere, but that does not mean we can accept it here at CHS. The Site Council, school district, and staff of CHS will be using data to improve learning for all students next year with a focus on narrowing the gap in achievement. School Improvement goals to meet this challenge will be drafted in September.

The Staffing changes for the next academic year will be described in the June newsletter. There are three classified positions being cut and the certified positions will be reduced by 2.5 FTE. There are two teachers retired, Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. Kiersky. Good news is that the English Language Learner family outreach position will continue next year. There will be four full time counselors next year to meet our growing student need. In addition to offering student counseling with counselors assigned by alphabet, the Counseling department is taking responsibility for the Advisor periods. Each of the counselors will have responsibility for a full year Advisor curriculum for one grade.

Dawn Granger provided copies of the results of the Parent Survey for feedback on the CHS Principal. Thanks to all parents who participated. The results can be found on the CHS website at the following link:

[http://www.csd509j.net/chs/Parents/CHS\\_Parent\\_Connection.htm](http://www.csd509j.net/chs/Parents/CHS_Parent_Connection.htm)