

May 20, 2008

Parent Connection Meeting Minutes

Officers' updates. Carrie Thompson, chairperson: passed out questionnaire seeking feedback regarding this year's agenda item choices. Posted on long lists were Parent Connections accomplished tasks this year, projects still in progress and goals for next year. (See lists at end of these minutes.)

Treasurer, Mary Jo Chapman: no income this month.

- We spent about \$70 on fees to get the Handbook and Catalog translated into Spanish.
- We have decided to fund a one-time set up expense (about \$4,000) to purchase equipment to set up a video display for daily announcements. We have requested the daily announcements be prioritized and we will review the project quarterly. Chris Becerra is organizing this project.
- Master calendar is stalled. We are still interested in supporting the project financially.
- Parent Connection (PC) traditionally provides a recognition to retiring teachers and staff.
- For staff appreciation week, on behalf of parents, PC gave each teacher a truffle, note of thanks, and made available a bucket of low odor dry erase markers.

Listserv Moderator, Alesia Duncombe: The listserv will be moved onto the district listserv this summer.

Staff Luncheon Coordinator, Pat Collier: May 29th freshman parents will sponsor staff appreciation luncheon. Pizza will be served. Parents will be asked to contribute desserts, green and pasta salads, and money to finance the pizza.

Site Counsel Liaison, Jan Zajicek: Haven't accomplished much this year.

Q: Posting of minutes on listserv?

A: Posting of minutes was delayed because we always needed to wait until the next meeting to have them approved. The intent was also to translate them into Spanish.

Principal Report, Suzanne Dalton

- Showed a poster made by student, "A Tradition of Excellence, Preparation for the Future" Melissa Queen won \$100 in the competition and other students from various grades won \$25.
- District is hiring a replacement for Jim Hogeboom, Assistant Superintendent; there have been a number of mini-tours through CHS.
- CHS and CV are both hiring Assist. Principals. CHS Rynda Gregory is transferring to Cheldelin Middle School. PC chairperson, Carrie Thompson, will be representing parents on a joint interview committee.
- Volunteer Tea this Thursday afternoon

Q: What other teachers or staff will be leaving?

- Grace Lawson and Amy Lev with Special Ed

- Josie Parker, chemistry
- Stacey Hull, counseling (left early April with Diana Mortlock currently substituting)
- Cathy Wright (Career Ed Specialist) will become counselor next year (also in process of hiring a ½ time counselor who will spend the other ½ time at CV. It will be helpful to have someone who knows both schools.)
- Dennis Corliss (computer science) and Dennis Staats (fine arts) are retired and will be reapplying for their positions
- Scott Lasswell will be ½ business and ½ replacement for Career Ed Specialist position
- Jon Buford, (industrial engineer) formerly half time will not have adequate student sign-up to return next year.

Guest speakers: Rob Duvall, (teacher of metal, machining, welding, architecture, construction, vehicular design) and **Kevin Skillings**, (teacher of automotive, woodworking, carpentry)

- Rob Duvall, former CHS graduate, has taught shop for 20 years with 10 yrs. at CHS. Father also taught shop, 30 yrs. in the district.
- Kevin Skillings, trained as a carpenter, has a degree in science, skilled in automotive.
- Between the 2 teachers is a broad base of knowledge.
- Goals: Help people to gain the confidence to try.
 - When people aren't exposed to tools they lack the confidence to dive in.
 - "Microwave Kids" need to learn to slow down; learn a work ethic. Projects can take many revisions, musicians understand.
 - Students learn to use the equipment, some of it state of the art. They learn skills, we uncover many artists.
 - Our focus is more breadth, less depth; expose students so they are can find new interests and later in life are willing to try. They can gain training at LBCC.
 - We serve a wide variety of students from youth enrolled in AP calculus and physics to Basic Life Skills. We seek to appeal to everyone. We try to motivate.
 - Students follow a plan and keep attention to detail
 - Everything we make has a plan behind it, a reason for doing it
 - Strict about showing up on time, ready to go. Teaching a work ethic. We expect a lot.
 - In the past have taught solid modeling for prospective engineers.
 - Architecture class has many field trips, use Auto-cad 2008, we do a lot of engineering type learning.
- Some students don't care to continue with school, or just don't care for English classes.
 - Some of CHS's brightest kids have dropped out of school.
 - Discuss good choices with a 200 ft. tape measure representing a time-line.
 - Show there are a number of 1 or 2-year degrees that can move a person from earning minimum wage to \$17/hr.

- Currently a huge demand for welders and carpenters.
- 20 yrs. ago CV, Monroe, Alsea, Philomath, CHS all had auto shop. Now only CHS.
 - We have 2 teachers for 5 different disciplines.
 - Issue is not the budget; as shop teachers have retired there are no employees to hire. It is a dying tradition.
 - We do compete for electives. We need students to sign up.
- Metals class teaches a variety of skills: machining, welding, lay out.

Q: Gender ratios?

A: Gender ratios: architecture equally balanced female to male.

- Typically have 2-4 girls in classes of about 24 students in other classes

Q: How do you attract students?

A: Recently met with counselors and explained our program. We think every freshman needs woods or metals.

- We don't see a lot of the kids who will eventually work in trades taking our classes. Corvallis as a community emphasizes going on to college. We can help the students who are less interested in academics.
 - Some students become overwhelmed by too many choices and need one goal.
 - We know the path kids need to take, for example, to become an electrician.
- Architectural/Engr. Graphics (Drafting) is fast paced and students cannot afford to miss class.
- We received Perkins money which has helped us purchase very expensive equipment. The money cannot be used for expendable supplies, only permanent equipment.
 - Recently acquired a large printer to print architectural drawings.
 - Fortunate to be able to use the industry standard, next year hope to purchase \$5,000 brick lathe.
 - Students are inspired using the new equipment and it's a relief to not need to do the continual maintenance necessary on older machines.
- Some people need to see something completed besides paper. Many need to experience "I built that." It is an amazing feeling to realize I took that material and I made that!

Parent Connection, next year officers:

Co-presidents: Alesia Duncombe and Carol Hennessy

Secretary: Carrie Thompson

Treasurer: Mary Ellen Brown

District Leadership Representative: Shanna Molitor

Volunteer Coordinator: Nell Kolodziej

Listserv Moderator: Alesia Duncombe

Staff Luncheon Coordinator: Pat Collier

Next year PC is considering alternating, every other meeting, presentations from a teacher with a CHS club representative.

Lisa Namba, with City Transit Bus, informed us the city bus regular route will no longer pass in front of CHS next year. The bus never coincided with bell times. There will be a route from Buchanan, Kings, Walnut, Witham Hill that will arrive in time for school and also after school. Busses will continue to be available on 9th St. and Kings Blvd.

Donna Keim announced she will be doing more career related work next year as Cathy Wright becomes a CHS counselor. She would like 4 parent volunteers to help oversee testing. State tests are becoming ever more important.

Link Crew is a new mentoring program next year. Juniors and seniors will be directly linked with 8-10 freshmen. The goal is to get more students exposed to freshmen.

PC's mission this 2007-2008 year was to increase and improve communication between CHS families and the school.

PC 2007-2008 Communication Improvements

PC minutes posted on listserv

Listserv guidelines

900+ Listserv subscribers

Translated into Spanish:

Course Catalog

Student Handbook

CHS newsletter

Updated PC registration forms

Present at 8th Grade open house

Fall Ice-Cream Social

Display cases

Staff appreciation gifts

Supported Master Calendar

Transparent PC Financials

Classified Employee Breakfast

PC Ongoing

Staff appreciation monthly lunches

New teacher nameplates

Volunteer coordination

Monthly PC meetings

Parent/principal liaison

PC 2008-2009

Focus on website improvements

Track master calendar progress

Create PC webpages

Your suggestions?

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Hennessy
Secretary