

Parent Connection
November 18, 2008 Minutes

There were 29 people in attendance.

Alesia Duncombe opened the meeting. Her report included:

- The CHS website has information regarding PC. Please use the following links to find the different information concerning PC:

Find on PC CHS website link off of the school website front page:
http://www.csd509j.net/chs/Parents/CHS_Parent_Connection.htm

Archives of all the PC meeting minutes at:
http://www.csd509j.net/chs/Parents/PC_Meeting_Minutes.htm

Instructions to sign up for listserv at

http://www.csd509j.net/chs/Parents/PC_ListServ.htm<http://www.csd509j.net/chs/Parents/PC_ListServ.htm>

<http://www.csd509j.net/chs/Parents/PC_ListServ.htm> or send
Email to chsparentsmoderator@yahoo.com

- The electronic CHS calendar is alive and well. It can also be found on the CHS website. Recently added are the home athletic events. If you have suggestions for the calendar, please let PC know.
- PC is here for the needs of the parents and guardians of CHS students. If we are not meeting your needs, or if you have ideas for agenda items for future PC meetings, please send them to Alesia Duncombe at alesia.duncombe@gmail.com.
- The next PC meeting will be on December 16 at noon in the band room. Cathy Wright will be discussing the new Advisor period: What is it? Why do we have it? When do we have it? Etc. Cindy Gullledge will teach us about KidShare and how we can help. Julie Williams will give a brief explanation of the Seminar for Sustainability. Cookies will be served! Hope to see you there!

Leadership reports:

- Treasurer, Mary Ellen Brown, reported disbursements were made for translation services and staff appreciation/conference meal.
- Secretary, Carrie Thompson, thanked Carol Hennessey for assuming secretary responsibilities for October
- Staff Appreciation, Pat Collier, reminded us that the next lunch for staff will be on Thursday, December 4. The senior class will be sponsoring this lunch. Look out for a notice on listserv listing needed items for the lunch. Of course, monetary donations are always accepted and appreciated.

- Pat is also organizing an effort to get a display case at the entrance of the school with all of the staff's pictures and building responsibilities listed. As the mission of PC is to foster communication within the CHS community, we feel this project is a good use of PC's resources that many will benefit from.
- District Leadership Liaison, Shanna Molitar, will attend the district meeting on November 19 and will report back to PC at the next meeting.
- Site Council Liason, Jan Zajicek submitted the following report:

Alecia Ward presented information regarding attendance and climate activities for our school goals. WE need to work on attendance and participation of students actually taking the tests to help improve the Adequate Yearly Progress Report. We discussed options of when they should be given (dates/time of day) to ensure every student takes it. The number of dropouts for CHS was given and the group asked for more information regarding the students, their records and their whereabouts. Linda Keller and Dawn Granger will be obtaining that information for the next meeting. How drop outs are calculated was of interest and that information will be presented at the next meeting.

Site council is looking at the possibility of adding math as a goal. Due to deadline constraints of goals, this will be dealt with later in the year. The math department will be approached for input on activities and measure of success.

Climate goal activities were mentioned and how they would be measured. Reading/Writing Literacy goal topic revolved around the new literature and writing texts which Lisa Egan feels does and excellent job on writing skills and the action plan that has been drawn up.

The NAAS report was handed out and Alicia Ward will be present to help decipher them.

Site Council is still recruiting for a parent volunteer for a term.

Principal Dawn Granger's report included:

- Site Council is looking for a parent who would like to serve a two year term on the site council. This position will be open for nominations (self nominations are welcome) next month. In February, ballots will go out, followed by elections. The Site Council is a steering committee for the school and its goals. The two goals the school is working on this year are school climate (attendance, how do people feel about being at CHS, etc.), and literacy goals. The time requirement is approximately 1-1.5 hours/month.
- School safety. The new gate located at Pierce Street is functioning well. After meeting with student leaders, Dawn has discovered that the majority of the student body appreciate the gate. The gate is closed during school hours, eliminating the entrance onto school grounds from Pierce Street. With CHS

situated in the center of town, school safety is imperative. All guests are required to enter the front doors of the school and sign-in.

- Members of Oregon Department of Education civil rights review committee interviewed several students from CHS and CV as part of their study. The results of their discussions indicated that students at CHS feel they have an adult staff member they can go to for help if needed. Also, the overall climate of CHS was excellent where it is believed that there is a place for everyone.
- With the onset of winter and the holiday season, it is proven that drug and alcohol use increases. With this knowledge, the staff will be focusing on safety. Next month the staff will be trained in drug and alcohol abuse/use. They will learn how to detect use and what to do if detected. Ed Strowbridge will be leading the workshop. The staff is trying to use all of the resources they have when identifying and handling issues related to drugs and alcohol. This is an on going issue, and the school is asking for parent support and help. Although there are cameras on campus, and staff around, some use can be missed. If parents are aware of any abuse/use of any illicit substance, Dawn wants them to report it. These reports will be handled anonymously and will be treated only with the best interest of the child concerned. The school needs to work together with parents to help identify and minimize the issues of drugs and alcohol at CHS. In addition to parental help, the staff will be instructing students on the difference of tattling and telling. Dawn wants to use all resources when dealing with drug and alcohol use. "Every child is important" according to Dawn and she is asking all people (staff, parents, students) to help with this issue.
- Budget process: At present, 509J is accepting public testimony at their November and December meetings concerning suggestions for the budget. In January, each school will be notified their amount of budget for next year. February will bring work to the individual schools trying to work and plan for their individual budgets. By March 15, 2009 each school must have a budget plan to the district. At the March PC meeting, Dawn will announce the budget plan for CHS. Dawn's goal for this process is to be as transparent as possible. She is open to suggestions and discussion about the budget. Student learning is always top priority in the district. Class size and programs will all be considered. Dawn will be working with each department within CHS asking for their input also. Dawn would like to hear input from any CHS community member concerning where they feel money is well spent. After hearing news from the governor's office about education budgets for next year, Dawn is not encouraging people to suggest funding new projects.
- A question was asked if Dawn was interested in starting a fund through the Corvallis Schools Foundation (like the one that has been started on behalf of CV. Notes concerning this fund were in last month's minutes and an addendum to those notes is attached to this month's minutes). Although Dawn is appreciative of all financial help, she is very cautious to ask for more money from the community. She is very aware that everyone who pays property taxes is contributing to CHS financially and she is extremely grateful to those people.

Donna Keim, Career Relations, was our guest speaker. Donna spoke on the career related credits that all students are required to complete for graduation. The career related credits encourage students to look at options that may be open to them beyond high school. These credits are mandated by the state. The implementation of the tracking of these credits is handled by Donna and Scott Lasswell. Two years ago, when the mandates took place both CV and CHS hired a full time and a part time staff member to create a scope and sequence and oversee its implementation.

By graduation, all students will have completed all requirements in this program. Each student will have a portfolio of activities, projects, resumes, etc. that they will be able to keep current throughout their life if they choose. The Career Information System is the software that the state has purchased for use by all students during their career at CHS and their life times. If you would like to access this program from home to check it out, please contact Donna Keim for log on information, or stop by her office and pick up a detailed explanation of career related requirements broken down by grade and instructions how to access the CIS system. Please contact Donna at donna.keim@corvallis.k12.or.us if you would like more information on these requirements or if you have any questions. At the end of her discussion, Donna took all interested people to the computer lab to show them the infinite information and benefits CIS has to offer our students.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Thompson
PC Secretary