

Parent Connection Minutes

September 15, 2009, noon

Chair Report: Carol Hennessy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Carol introduced herself, and as the new Chair, is always interested in new thoughts and ideas and welcomes all input. chenness@peak.org She then introduced the rest of the Parent Connection (PC) Leadership Team.

Secretary: Sally Olson-Edge

Treasurer: Mary Ellen Brown

District Leadership Representative: Shanna Molitor

Staff Luncheon Coordinator: Kathleen McAteer

Volunteer Coordinator: Nell Kolodziej

Listserv Moderator: Dawn Vermeulen

Website: Alesia Duncombe

Treasury Report: Mary Ellen Brown—PC Bank Accounts \$7,227.47 (\$2,555.00 from sponsor donations and \$418.62 from escript—May through Aug. combined)

Expenses paid out for entrance staff photo board (\$287.41) and staff appreciation lunch reimbursement (\$105.00)

PC will fund College Planning Night, Oct. 1st, with a \$500.00 donation to Beyond CHS. Nancy Shaffer provides dinner to college reps.

CHS Website Update: Alesia Duncombe—PC funded the CHS Website rework this year, accomplished over the summer by the CHS Alumnus Scott Duncombe. Staff and parent volunteers will work throughout the year to keep the content up to date.

Check it out at www.csd509j.net/chs

Provide feedback to spartanwebmaster@gmail.com

The website rework mission is in line with the PC goal of improving communication:

1. Improve ease of use and ability to find useful information
2. Remove old, stale information (buried, but still available)
3. Provide path for simple maintenance over time
4. Provide communication path to meet the needs of students, staff, parents, and community.

Staff Luncheon Coordinator: Kathleen McAteer—There will be a staff appreciation lunch on Thursday, September 17th (pizza from Cirellos). PC Leadership Team will bring desserts. There will be five to six other events through the year, including dinners at conferences. Email will go out to ask for volunteers to provide food for these events.

Volunteer Coordinator: Nell Kolodziej—wishes to thank all volunteers who helped during registration.

District Leadership: Shanna Molitor—First meeting with Corvallis Public Schools Foundation on October 21st about fundraising. There will be a morning and evening session (with Fred Kane, Executive Director). Shanna is our liaison between the PC and the foundation.

One 509J Foundation fundraising goal is to give money to school principals on an as-needed basis. Toward this end, there will be a ***Magic Show*** from Las Vegas on October 29th, 7-9 pm, at LaSells Stewart Center. Las Vegas illusionist Garry Carson's show was voted the top family-friendly Las Vegas act by the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*! Visit his website at [Carson Entertainment](http://CarsonEntertainment.com) to learn more about his amazing illusions. The event benefits our Student Opportunity for Success (SOS) Fund providing assistance to students whose families are facing financial challenges. There is already about \$10,000 in the fund. Tickets are \$20 and will be available beginning September 18 in Corvallis at Gracewinds Music and All About Kids and in Albany at Frogs and Pollywogs; they can also be purchased online through the foundation website (www.cpsfoundation.org/).

Dawn Granger—Principal

What's New at CHS—Because of budget losses, CHS lost 2 ½ teaching positions and 3 support positions. Dawn's big push is to empower teachers in classrooms, which is a difficult job with fewer teachers and more students per room. She wants to offer professional learning community time and focus learning in classrooms. Chad Morrow, one of our two Behavior Specialists last year, did not return, so Dawn Granger and the two assistant principals, Eric Wright and Alicia Ward-Satey, will be more visible in the hallways. CHS has lost some office support staff. Parent volunteers are now at the main desk and student aids are learning to answer the main office phones. The Pierce Street entrance is now closed—the smoking corner was increasingly used by non-CHS students. Note: smoking is not allowed within 1000 feet of a school.

Student Safety: Swine flu is an issue of concern. For any flu symptoms, especially for fever over 102, all students and staff should stay home. Wash hands regularly, cough into sleeves, and masks, if needed, are available at school. If a student is out sick, teachers have websites (Blackboard or School Bell) and will try to keep assignments up to date. Students should also have classmates' phone numbers, and they will have as much time to make up work as they missed. Flu updates will be made available as the situation changes.

School Mission: "Educate responsible and knowledgeable, actively engaged global citizens", with focus on student learning. CHS encourages students to become conscientious voters and environmental stewards, as well as caring individuals.

Student Council: has a surplus of \$18,000 carried over from many years ago. Student Council Leadership has agreed to buy four Smart Boards. These are computerized whiteboards linked to the Internet, with individual remotes/clickers for each student. With the Smart Board a teacher is able to ask a question of the class and receive immediate feedback when students "vote" with their clickers for the correct

answer. The teacher can quickly ascertain what percentage of the class understood the concept and in fact which individuals may need further assistance. Teachers will apply to receive a Smart Board with applications due October 21st. Application priorities: 1) teachers who close the achievement gap, and 2) teachers must need the whiteboard, use it and commit to the training sessions, as well as support of this technology. The school has about 12 Smart Boards and inter-write boards.

CHS Award: We are the most eco-friendly high school in the nation. CHS won a \$20,000 Earth Day Every Day grant from Walmart by getting the most votes online. The money will go towards buying solar panels for the school.

Alicia Ward-Satey, Vice Principal

Counseling—one counselor is in charge of each class. Students attend 20 to 45-minute sessions once per month with advisors. Seniors receive information about graduation, and juniors receive personal finance classes. Five 45-minute lessons will be given through OSU Federal Credit Union. Advisors help students forecast their classes for next year (1 ½ hours total set aside for forecasting). Student body elections, speeches and voting occur during advisor sessions. General info, attendance, handbook information, and OSU visit day all occur during advisor. Also, career-related learning requirements are infused into advisor classes (*Donna Keim* has a sheet with Career-related Learning requirements). In general, students are grouped by class (9th, 10th etc.) and will have the same advisor through their entire high school years. Advisor class size is usually 20 to 25 students. Students must attend advisor; they must complete career-related requirements to get a passing grade.

Donna Keim, CHS Career-related Learning Assistant

Advisor—Many students did not get advisor credit last spring. If your child got an N for advisor, that means there is a career requirement missing from last year. State career-related requirements must be completed in order to obtain credit. Students cannot graduate without advisor credit. OAKS testing is coming up. Last year, some students were missed, but all students must take it. Donna will need 10 to 15 parents to help proctor the OAKS test, and an email will be coming asking for volunteers. Outdoor School is now called the “Outdoor Experience”. Sixth graders no longer stay overnight; they do day classes only, and are back at 3:00 pm every day. High school juniors and seniors can choose days to volunteer. Applications were due September 17th.

Sarah Theurer, Social Studies Teacher, National Honor Society Advisor

National Honor Society—CHS began their charter with National Honor Society (NHS) in 1931, and in 1978, CHS renewed the charter. A student must attend two semesters at CHS before applying for NHS, unless they were a member of NHS at a previous school. The primary requirement for membership is a GPA of 3.6. Sarah sends applications to 100-150 students, mostly sophomores, and forwards all applications to staff. Teachers evaluate each student in four categories: scholarship, character, leadership, and service. If at least two staff members have concerns, the student may not be selected for NHS. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving is the induction date. The applications go out before the end of September, and are due back mid-October. Students in NHS (about 250 kids here at CHS) attend monthly meetings and serve 10 hours per semester in community service in a variety of ways. NHS plans

to include more peer-tutoring this year as community service. Sarah is a clearing house for volunteer opportunities. There is usually an NHS-sponsored activity such as a senior citizen breakfast in the spring. If a student's GPA drops below 3.6, the student has one semester to bring it back up or they will be removed from NHS; this is the national standard. Teacher-documented cheating, plagiarizing, etc. will cause a student to be removed from NHS as well.

Charlyn Ellis, English and U.S. History Teacher

Clubs—Charlyn advises several clubs, including “Variations” and Sherpa club, as well as Students for Peace and Global Responsibility. “Variations” is a magazine published once a year that celebrates art and literature and is student-motivated. Students for Peace and Global Responsibility raise money by making soup, cookies, etc. and then donate that money locally and internationally. Sherpa Club is involved in “gorilla art projects”—unofficial unsanctioned impermanent art. Other clubs include knitting, French, Anime, Gay Straight Alliance, Ballroom Dance, German, Craft, Artisans, Z Club, Model UN, Green Club, Latin America, Magic Card, and Drama.

If students have an idea for a club, pitch it to a teacher (**Alicia Ward-Satey** is the main club advisor and a student should also speak with her to get a club started), fill out the form, put it in the announcements, and see if it flies. Most clubs meet at noon, Charlyn Ellis lets her clubs meet in her room. The CHS Club schedule is on the website, in the handbook.

Next PC Meeting—Oct 20, noon, in the band room. We will hear a regular update from *Dawn Granger* and *Julie Williams* will speak on Sustainability and Society, Green Club, GSA, and the solar panel grant.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sally Olson-Edge
PC Secretary

[Parent Connection](#) is a group of parents, for parents and guardians, who foster and facilitate communication within the CHS community. There are monthly meetings scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of each month with CHS Principal Dawn Granger. Everyone is welcome.