

October 12, 2006 CVPO Meeting and Principal Coffee

CVPO Business

Introduction and Welcome: CVPO President Roberta Lundeberg opened the meeting with a welcome to all attending and everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes: The minutes of the 9/14/06 meeting were approved with the following additions:

Empty printer cartridges: If parents want to donate empty printer cartridges to the school, they should give them to Kay Eilers in the library. They will be exchanged for supplies at Office Max.

Bus policy: Last year we had the luxury of busses traveling between the two schools six times each day. Unfortunately they were nearly empty on many trips and with the cost of fuel; the district cannot afford to continue. Therefore, the district will only provide a bus for the tier 1 or district sponsored courses- Intro to Engineering, Auto 1, Technical Theatre and orchestra. I realize this is hardship for many families and I am in conversations with the district regarding the issue. Currently a bus runs between the two schools for A and D blocks only.

Treasurer's Report: Available funds of \$5,993.09 were reported. This month, \$3,540 was received in membership dues and \$825 was received in donations.

Treasurer Debbie Cassidy prepared a 2006-2007 budget based on last year's proposed and actual budgets. Highlights include an increase to \$300 budgeted for the Staff Appreciation Lunch and \$3,000 budgeted for teacher grants. Julie Gardner and Pinnacle Mortgage were thanked for donation of the Student Directory, both this year and for several past years. The proposed 2006-2007 budget was approved.

Teacher Grants: \$1500 will be awarded for teacher grants. Cherie Stroud will solicit grant proposals, due by Nov.1, 2006. A committee will review the proposals and present their recommendations to the CVPO for approval at the November meeting. The committee members are Roberta Lundeberg, Deddie Cassidy, Lora Hediger, Tammy Davis, Bill Brock, and Deb Killeen.

Volunteer News: Nancy Pliskin in the Career Center has a desperate need for parent proctors for the PSAT, which will be given at CV this Saturday, October 21. If your student will be taking the PSAT, you can still be a proctor and you will be stationed in a separate room from your student. If you can proctor, please contact Nancy at nancy.pliskin@corvallis.k12.or.us or 757-5916.

A **Correspondence Secretary** is still needed. The duties of this position are receiving information about life changing events of staff and CVPO members and writing notes of congratulations and condolence in response. Please reply if you are interested.

Conference Dinner: Daryl Thaw reported on plans for the staff conference dinner. Historically, the CVPO provides a dinner to the teachers on the day of arena conferences so that they can have a pleasant, but short meal break. This fall the dinner will be on Thursday, Oct. 26 from 4:30-5:30.

Daryl will provide a large salad and toppings such as grilled chicken and fried fish. We are asking parents to donate their choice of additional salad toppings, bread (buttered and wrapped in foil), soup in a crock pot, or a dessert.

We also need people to help set up at 4:00 and clean up at 6:00.

Please bring your dish to the foods room (B9) between 2:30 and 4:00 or to the front office earlier in the day. Pick up your labeled container that evening at 7 pm from B9 or later from the front office.

If you can provide food or labor, please call Daryl at 738-8921. Thank you!

Site Council: CV has an opening on the Site Council. Please contact lundeberg@earthlink.net to begin the application process. The application deadline is Oct. 15.

Ethics Survey: Roberta presented a recently released report from the Josephson Institute of Ethics that suggests that high school students exhibit a high level of dishonesty while at the same time have a high self image of their ethics. From the report, ""The good news is that things aren't getting any worse -- the 2006 results are almost identical to those reported in 2004. The bad news is that unacceptably high rates of dishonesty have become the norm. It doesn't bode well for the future that so many kids are entering the workforce to become the next generation of corporate executives and cops, politicians and parents, journalists, teachers, and coaches with the dispositions and skills of liars, cheaters and thieves.""

Principal Topics

Dance Review: Principal Cherie Stroud reviewed the recent Homecoming Dance. Four to five hundred students, three administrators, 3 teachers and their spouses, and several parent chaperones attended the dance. Parents present at the dance reported that there was a better variety of music and that most of the students seemed to be enjoying themselves. Cherie reported that not all students were satisfied with the music choices and dancing style policy. Some parents thought that some of the music choices were poor. Student members of a senior dance committee that is working with Cherie concluded that this was the best dance of their high school career so far.

Upcoming Conferences: Will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 26 and 27. On Thursday, conferences (10 minutes each) will be held in the cafeteria, arena-style, from noon to 7:45 p.m. with breaks from 2:30-2:45 and 4:30-5:30. Scheduled conferences in the teacher's classrooms will be on Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Parents who would be inconvenienced by waiting or who desire confidentiality are better served by scheduled conferences. Call the office at 757-5801 to schedule conferences.

Part-time teachers will have an abbreviated conference schedule, so check the CV web-site: <http://www.csd509j.net/cvhs/>

Progress reports: Were given to every student on Thursday, Oct. 12. Progress reports for students with a D or F average in a class were mailed home on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Schedule Committee: District superintendent Dawn Tarzian has convened a group of administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and students from both high schools to examine issues concerning course schedule, such as unassigned time and the new state graduation requirements which affect this year's freshmen by requiring more credits in English and math. The committee will be looking at how credit requirements are aligned with the schedule and how dropping a class will affect how a student meets graduation requirements. Cherie will report on the committee's activities during the course of the school year.

School Culture Survey Results: Cherie reported on a survey that all students were given recently. A copy of the results can be obtained from the front office. Cherie noted that 67% of respondents disagree or are neutral on the statement, "Students are drug/alcohol free at school." The survey was prompted in part by a record number of student suspensions related to drug and alcohol use and by the discovery of drugs on campus. Home football games have been problematic, with students loitering on campus during the games. Students who come to the school for a sports event are expected to enter the stadium or gym and stay there for the duration of the game. Outside beverages are not allowed.

A district drug plan is being written. The superintendent, departments of health, juvenile, and sheriff, and the commission on children and families are all being involved in the drug plan. In addition, for CV, the plan will include the following:

1. Advisor conversations and student feedback.
2. Information given out during Parent Coffees and through the Raider News.
3. A parent night in early November with practical information about students and drug use.
4. Information sessions for parents of students who have been suspended for drug and alcohol use.
5. Staff training on Nov.1.
6. A school assembly for students.
7. Surveying and soliciting parent input and information about where and when they observe students using drugs and alcohol.

The parents at the coffee held a lengthy discussion about the drug and alcohol problem on campus, including the confusion about the policy on students leaving campus. Cherie clarified that freshmen do not have any unassigned time as they are in a supervised study hall and freshmen and sophomores should not leave campus during the school day.

School Report Card: Cherie expressed her feelings of devastation by the "Low" overall rating that CV received from the Oregon Department of Education. The rating was the result of the school not meeting the 95% participation goal for testing sophomores. CV was six students shy of meeting this goal. The staff is working to ensure that the testing goal is met for the next report card. The significance of the low rating is that it appears bad and the school will be held

to a higher standard of accountability and improvement planning by the state, but there is no financial impact.

Testing participation takes precedence over school performance, which was rated as "Strong." Academic achievement improved in reading, writing, and science, and stayed the same in mathematics. Also, CV's dropout rate decreased from 2.4% to 1.1%, while the attendance rate remained at 92%, contributing to a "Strong" rating in this area.

The CV math department is fully aware of and concerned about the lack of improvement in mathematics performance reflected in the report card. In the last year, the math curriculum has been aligned throughout the district and new text books for grades 6-12 have been brought in.

Levy and Ballot Measures: Kari Rieck, CV parent and School Board member, spoke on three ballot measures in the upcoming election that will impact schools.

The local option levy, measure 02-58, if passed, would add \$3.2 million per year to the school district budget. Most of the additional funds will be used to reduce class sizes in middle and high school. Past budget cuts have adversely affected class size at this level, resulting in 12-16 more students per class in the core academic courses.

Some of the money would be channeled into Athletics and Activities with the aim of keeping participation rates up. 80% of students in the district participate in extracurricular activities, which is significant. Lastly, some money would be directed toward literacy initiatives, which go beyond simply learning to read and address reading, writing, and comprehension and evaluation of complicated factual material.

For more information on measure 02-58 and to use a calculator that determines your exact tax burden was the measure to pass, see the district website: <http://www.csd509j.net/>

The political action committee in support of 02-58 can be contacted through Board liaison Donna Keim at 740-1309. She can provide you with yard signs and buttons. The PAC will hold a rally this Saturday, Oct 21 at 9 a.m. at Linus Pauling Middle School. A literature canvassing opportunity will follow.

Ballot measure 41, Federal Deduction, if passed, would result in cuts to the Corvallis School District general fund of ~\$821,000 in 2006-2007 and ~\$4.4 million in 2007-2009. It would bring an estimated tax savings of \$16 a month for the average OR taxpayer. A budget reduction would need to occur this school year and could result in up to 8 school days eliminated during Jan-June 2007.

Ballot measure 48, State Spending Limit, if passed, could result in cuts to the Corvallis School District general fund of ~\$5.4 million this year and ~\$10.9 million in 2007-2009, if the measure is retroactive to the current biennium. The courts will decide if the measure applies to the current biennium. If it is not retroactive, then the district would need to cut ~\$4.8 in 2007-2009.

Both measures 41 and 48 would also result in cuts to other public services such as health care, police and prisons, and higher education.

Regardless of your stand on these measures, Kari encourages you to vote. Letters to the editor of the Gazette-Times, either pro or con, regarding these measures, are also encouraged.

For more information on these three ballot measures, contact Kari Rieck at 745-0245 or kari.rieck@comcast.net.

WebGrade: If you still have not received your student's ID number or password, contact Paul Buchanan at paul.buchanan@corvallis.k12.or.us. If your student's account still reflects last year's classes, contact the teachers of those classes.

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones should not be out during class and must not be a distraction. If a phone rings during class, the action taken is left to the teacher's discretion. A phone may be confiscated and taken to the office for a parent to retrieve.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, Oct. 18: College Planning Night for freshmen and parents, library, 7 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, October 26-27: Conferences, no school

Thursday, Nov. 9: CVPO meeting and Principal Coffee, staff dining room, 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Vincent