

School Governance Council Meeting 12/14/21, 5:30pm

Attendees: Carmen Marietta-Francisco, Erin Reed, Eric'Ka Lalanne, Shaun Smith, Aaron Newcome, Eva Canales Sylma Vasconcellos, Veronique Kildare, Laura Funez, Kenneth Greaves, Julianna Aybar, Ailani Aybar, Jane Norgren, Tanya Bernard-Patterson

Mrs. Francisco started the meeting; the roll call was not done, however, the attendance was taken.

Public comment: No concerns.

Parent Reps

Parent rep election results: Joseph Vitale was elected as one of the parent reps.

Mr. Greaves will be joining the SGC and was elected as a parent member, and Mr. Lewis was also elected. He will become the parent at large, and will be joining SGC when he comes back from abroad.

TSTT (Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers)

TSTT's advisor has an office in the Central Magnet office. There aren't a lot of students who expressed interest. The program advisor is there 2-3 times a week. This organization is geared to groom students to become teachers. They are working very hard to recruit students.

Mrs. Francisco suggested that the PTSO advertise about the program so that it's posted in more than one location.

Mr. Greaves asked if students were aware that an advisor was there. TSTT is targeting grades 9 and 10, but is open to accepting students from grades 11 and 12 as well.

HOSA

HOSA certified 36 students on 11/7 in CPR. They spent the day being trained and taking a physical exam. All students have 2-year certifications. Another training was secured for another 32-35 students for free. Students don't have to be HOSA members to participate. HOSA will inquire about for training for parents as well.

Central Clubs

Mrs. Smith shared that there are a lot of clubs that students can be a part of. The Robotics Club was highlighted and students will be able to participate in competitions. The Girls Leadership Group's goal is to work with students to strengthen skills and work on self-esteem.

Ms. Reed shared about the Outdoors Club; they took students to an indoor rock-climbing facility. Students will be going skiing in January, and ice skating. Friday Night Live takes place at CHS on Fridays. Someone inquired about the Future Business Leaders of America, however, it isn't an active club.

It was reported that students inquired about the Debate Club, and Mr. Newcome will be sponsoring it. Teachers aren't getting paid to sponsor clubs, but are supporting the students. It was inquired if clubs can get a stipend for students who are here after school.

NGSS

NGSS (Next Generation Science Assessment) started today. It's an assessment, not the real test, which will take place in spring.

Magnet Information Session

On 12/2, magnet held their 2nd information session, which was success. The program targeted all schools throughout Bridgeport. CHS Magnet is outperforming other magnet schools in the district. CHS offers the most amount of AP courses; they have a great college prep program.

Multicultural Night

Multicultural night is taking place this Thursday. It will be the largest event.

Ms. Reed shared that they are over capacity. 23 countries will be represented. 4 different restaurants will be supported (family-owned). PTSO will be assisting with supplies. A lot of new students, new to CHS, will be attending and participating. There will be a photographer and videographer so that those who cannot attend can view. There will be performers from other organizations and alumni returning to perform.

PSAT Scores

PSAT scores are out and 11th graders can go online and view scores. In the spring, the SAT will take place. It will no longer be a paper assessment, but will be a computer assessment. The average school score was an 863, the state average score was a 956, and the district average score was an 826.

Student Activities

The Honor roll assembly took place. There were over 600 students. Parents were able to watch the ceremony virtually. It's important to look at the positive and showcase the good things that are happening at Central.

Ms. Reed shared about the two acceptance days that took place. University of Bridgeport's Acceptance Day was on Thursday and students received an average of a \$22,000 scholarship. University of New Haven's Acceptance Day took place as well.

A blood drive was run through the NHS.

Seniors have been working on financial aid. Many incentives have been given to help support and encourage students to submit the FAFSA.

Winter sports have started. Boys and girls basketball and indoor track are taking place.

Report Card Conferences

Dr. Graf inquired of feedback from parents on virtual report conferences. One parent reported that the conferences were too short and didn't give teachers enough time to prepare for the next meeting. Perhaps 15-minute blocks opposed to 10-minute blocks would be better.

Career Events

There will be more career related events in the next year. Mrs. Lalanne mentioned the Trade Expo that took place on 12/1. There were electricians, roofers, construction workers, automotive technicians, plumbers, etc, present.

PTSO

The PTSO will be participating in the multicultural event, there will be an immigration event in January, on 2/8 there will be a CPR workshop, and there will be a ParentSquare and TEAMS workshop for

parents. The superintendent held a round table, but parents weren't there. As far as April through June, they are still brainstorming ideas, but will try to have an event during each month. The PTSO has received a lot of suggestions from various people on what can be done; they just need to be approved with the rules. They need to get more parents involved.

Black History Month

CHS will be utilizing students to learn what they would like to see and create a plan. There will be about 8 students that can work on it.

The PTSO offered to help with black history month events.

Scholarships

Jane talked about ways to get involved with the community and how students and faculty can make a difference.

A request was initiated to Marge Hiller, who is the Executive Director of the school foundation and former president of Peoples Bank. They created a foundation to send students to college and provide scholarships for students interested in higher education. They need to work out how to fund the needs of students and build a fund. The purpose of the fund will be to revitalize the existing scholarship fund and brainstorm ideas about raising money from alumni and other sources. Mrs. Francisco, Marge, and Jane will brainstorm ways to raise money and write grants.

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Ms. Reed inquired about how to start a foundation: there are legal implications, financial implications, they have to register with the state, and have find out what the board of education says. The mission has to be established, and they need to find out how to establish a long-term foundation. The rotary provided laptops and scholarships.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Francisco will meet at the end of the year to see what students will qualify for scholarships; the scholarships will be as low as \$10. Students aren't really seeing the value in small amounts. There are only 6-7 larger scholarships. Students need to see that what they're doing here has value.

Student Concerns

Student concerns were about bathroom and only one bathroom being open. Many students need to use the bathroom, and the line is often long. Mrs. Smith shared the need to monitor bathrooms because there are students who want to hang out or smoke; it's more of a management concern.

Mrs. Francisco shared that students think they can relax their mask, and there is a strong need to wear the masks properly over nose and mouth in order to keep everyone protected. Share with PTSO as well.

Actively Learn

Ms. Reed shared Actively Learn. This is a way for teachers to assign different tasks, and tasks are organized by grade level. It goes by lexile level (level of difficulty assigned to text). Teachers are able to

customize lessons. Teachers can create classes. All teachers and students have access. Program isn't available for parents.

SGC Terms

According to bi-laws, there are staggered terms for elected members (parents, teacher, chairs), and a straw can be drawn to decide if the term would be a single year opposed to two years. Mr. Newcome stated that he would like a single year opposed to a two-year cycle. Motion was made to forgo straw draw, and Julianna will carry a two-year term. We will maintain the 2-year terms for the balance of the members due to inconsistencies in involvement and the difficulties getting people to fill the positions.

During the next meeting, we will move committee meetings forward.

The January and February meetings will be on Zoom.