

3/8/22 SGC Meeting at 5:30pm

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

Meeting started at 5:36pm.

We need 10 attendees in order to approve the revisions from the January meeting minutes. Aaron and Julianna motioned to approve the minutes.

Public Comment

None

Chairperson's Report

Erin and Carmen met with Dr. Graf regarding the Scholarship Committee about fundraising. SGC is not a governing body, we are an advisory panel, therefore the Scholarship Committee cannot be under SGC.

Principals' report

Dr. Graf will follow up to provide specifics on how money can be spent. Letter will be sent.

The Honor roll Assembly will take place at 9:30am for CHS and 1:30 for CHS Magnet on Friday 3/11. Parents can attend virtually or in person. The link was sent through ParentSquare.

We are celebrating Women's History Month. Students from the Girl's Leadership Group have made morning announcements in regards to Women's International Day.

3/23 is the SAT/PSAT testing day for grades 9-11. 9th and 11th graders will be testing digitally, and 10th graders will be testing on paper. School laptops will be used and need to be charged. Over 1200 students will be testing on that day.

On March 1st, the Black History Assembly took place. There were a group of students in the auditorium and the remainder of the students were able to watch it live from class. There were dancers, a guest speaker, jazz band, etc.

There were 3 winners for the poetry contest. They are still trying to work with PTSO to provide prizes for the winners. There was a door competition. The 1st place winner was Mr. Benenati, 2nd place winners were Ms. Goda and Ms. Leblanc, and there 3rd place winners were Ms. Covington and Ms. Bennett.

Ms. Francisco suggested that a phone blast go out to parents a day before for students to charge their laptops and bring their chargers so that they can have at least 5 hours of battery life. There are 5-8 outlets per classroom.

Students will need to turn off their cellphones and give it to the proctors to be placed in a bag.

There aren't any plans for the seniors as of yet: Dr. Graf will inform parents about plans for seniors.

Aybar inquired about parents being notified of student's not having access to phone during testing day. There was a suggestion to add this in the phone blast.

PTSO

Parents aren't coming out. Eva has talked to some parents and has been out to different schools to see how they are doing it; she went to Winthrop and Bassick. She talked to Mr. Graf about things that she would like to do, and about 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes for poetry contest winners. Mrs. Francisco stated that the money has to be allocated to parent engagement.

It was inquired about a phone blast. It has not been done, but the PTSO has made phone calls to parents; parents said that they would come, but have not shown up.

Mrs. Francisco inquired if a PTSO calendar was posted. It was suggested to make it more available to the parents. There's a FaceBook page with about 100 members. The main office can potentially assist with sending a ParentSquare message to all parents.

There are events lined up (speakers, trainings, etc.), but parent participation is low. There can be a Zoom option, but they need a computer/laptop. Laura mentioned that she does not receive any information about parent meetings.

Mrs. Smith mentioned how to meet parents where they are because of their busy schedules. Look at what the needs of the parents are. Send a survey to target the top three needs of parents. Look at what captures the interests of the parents.

There has been difficulty with BOE supervisor of family engagement approving funds.

It was suggested to record and post the meetings. It would be more helpful bringing information rather than organizing.

There should be a PTSO page, calendar of events, and overall should have a place where parents can go to get information.

Mrs. Francisco volunteered to meet with the PTSO to gather information, organize, and potentially get information on the CHS website. Ms. Norgren volunteered to help.

Ms. Norgren mentioned that including parents in community relations, because they are stakeholders, should be 50% of focus.

Ms. Hiller suggested that guest speakers would be more compelling and would draw parents.

Funds need to be allocated by April.

Community Representatives Report

There are potential mentors from rotary club; the SVA will need to perform background checks. Will need to follow up with Dr. Graf about mentors. There are real estate mentors and there are job shadowing opportunities. Mentors have to be vetted.

Ms. Norgren shared that she is a member of the "Wildcats", and graduated from Las Vegas High School. She shared how their alumni group raises money and they have a reunion every year. They have fundraisers to raise money for scholarships.

Student Representative Report

There are volunteer opportunities at St. Vincent's website.

On 3/22 Yale New Haven Health will be presenting to HOSA through Zoom for a discussion panel for students interested in the medical career or careers connected to the medical profession. (Zoom call will be posted for all students to participate)

600 pounds of food was collected for the food drive.

Talked with Ms. Pitcher is looking for more internships for students.

4 students from HOSA completed at the state level

\$693 of the funds are going towards the HOSA Scholarship Fund for a graduating senior this year

Students enjoyed the Black History Month assembly and were happy that they were able to watch it from their classrooms if they weren't able to go into the auditorium.

Students want to know if a security guard could be upstairs at the corner of F and B corridor for the school bathrooms so that students can have to bathrooms to use; the line for the bathroom is normally very long.

The rescue mission was very grateful for the food. Will set up campaigns at Walmart and Stop and Shop. HOSA is trying to find ways for helping those who need it in Ukraine. Medical assistance and supplies to families in Ukraine.

Old Business

There are 2 parents who have missed 3 or more meetings. Letters have been sent. Neither one has chosen to return. Will need to start taking nominations for parents to replace them. Need to make motion to remove Joseph Vitale and Dominic Lewis. Margaret and Julianna motioned. Phone blast will be sent for parent representative. Information will be posted on website the as well.

New Business

Nahama Precile has missed 4 meetings. A motion to remove Nahama Precile from her position by Ms. Norgren and Mr. Newcome.

Mrs. Francisco and Ms. Reed met with Graf on 2/22. The scholarship fund cannot be under the SGC name; it would need to be under CHS. They discussed the steps on how to get the scholarship fund initiated. The proposal was sent to Superintendent Testani. The proposal included the purpose, criteria for eligibility, projected number of scholarships, monetary range, and whether it is a one-time scholarship fund, or annual. The proposal was approved. The next steps would be to contact the head of grants office to create an account for the fund. The Foundation of Excellence for Bridgeport Public schools. Have different folder on how to organize account.

Proposal came from us as committee and will be put on the CHS website. \$10,000 collected funds per year is the short-term goal, and \$20,000 collected funds annually is the long-term goal. Many scholarships are low in funds. The goal is to increase the minimum amounts from \$250 up to \$2,500. It should be available to all CHS seniors. Requirements include: having a GPA of a 2.6 or higher, VOG portfolio, and demonstrate financial need. If a student has a full scholarship, he/she would not be eligible. Teachers will nominate students. Students will go through voting process with scholarship committee: Erin, Diane, Carmen, Smith, Tanya, Aybar, Aaron, Kaplan, Rauscher, Hugart, McConnel, Kruase, and Vasconcellos.

There will be a scholarship support inquiry letter for businesses and alumni, and flyers will be posted around the community. All checks would be mailed to CHS. We will provide immediate thank you letters and receipts. Committee plans to put business logos (those who donated) on the back of the graduation programs or scholarship programs. Business can also be posted on website, and can give thank you's to businesses during half-time of sports games. Funds will be sent directly to CHS rather than downtown. There are already 10-12 people who stated that they are willing to give \$100. Letter will be on letterhead with Dr. Graf's signature. Letters can be sent to businesses via email as well.

Nothing to report for community relations and achievement.

Tentative scholarship meeting will be on 3/22.