

SCG Zoom Meeting on 1/11/21, 5:30pm

Attendees: Carmen Marietta-Francisco, Erin Reed, Shaun Smith, Eric'ka Lalanne, Diane Nolan, Sylma Vasconcellos, Veronique Kildare, Laura Funez, Julianna Aybar, Ailani Aybar, Jane Norgren, Margaret Hiller

The meeting opened with the revision of the minutes from the previous meeting; everyone posted their suggestions in the Zoom chat.

Mrs. Francisco announced that the CPR training, through Yale New Haven, would be postponed to the end of Feb/March.

Mrs. Carmen Francisco did the roll call.

The suggestions for the revision of the minutes were reviewed. Mrs. Francisco requested to Mrs. Lalanne that she list the names of those who attended the previous meetings and meeting to come in the minutes.

The minutes were approved in the chat.

Mrs. Francisco asked about public comment. Ms. Reed shared that Multicultural Day was successful, over 250 people attended, over 23 countries were represented, and students had a lot of fun.

PTSO reported that they had fun and that it was an amazing experience.

Chairperson report

- Mrs. Francisco mentioned that this was the 3rd meeting that Joseph Vitale missed. He will be sent letter stating that he will be removed from office according to the bi-laws. SGC will need another parent representative.
- This is the 4th meeting that Dominic Lewis has missed and his position will need to be filled.
- There was a 3rd person on the ballot for the parent run off election. A motion will need to be made, and that person will be invited to the next meeting to fill the position.
- Mrs. Francisco shared that we will not be doing straw pull because of inconsistencies in participation. Mrs. Francisco applauded those who want to stay in their position for two years.

Principal's report

- Dr. Graf provided a summary to Mrs. Smith of what needed to be discussed with the team.
- There are updated policies and procedures for COVID. Copies will be provided for parents and Ms. Reed.
 - If students have a known exposure or have COVID, they are to contact the school nurse, and stay home. Positive results should be sent to Nurse Kim and Dr. Graf. Therese Bouchard, the Attendance Secretary, should be contacted for absences. The nurse will let family know when the student can return.
 - If a student is absent from school they should stay up to date with assignments by logging onto TEAMS. All students are doing project-based assessments in all classes. The end of semester final is project- based and is 20% of grade. No excuses will be accepted,

and students will have the opportunity to bounce back academically if they weren't doing well in class.

- Laura Funez asked if students can complete assignments while at home. Mrs. Smith clarified that students can work independently, but teachers will not be providing online instruction/teaching.
- Ms. Reed shared that teachers are doing conferences calls and separate meetings to discuss what was missed in class for students.
- The new semester starts on January 31. Students will get 4 new classes. Students should contact their School Counselor if they have any questions.
- CHS is holding wellness day on January 31st. All students will have opportunity to participate.
- School visitors are extremely limited. Parents should make appointment to come to school for any reason. Conferences can be held online as well.
- A variety of events will be planned for Black History Month. Teachers will meet to be a part of the Black History Committee. Mrs. Smith asked if the PTSO could help.
 - Mrs. Smith shared that they are looking to hold an assembly; it could possibly be streamed or prerecorded. They would have a motivational speaker, poetry contest, etc. Mrs. Smith asked the PTSO or SCG for help with judging contest participants. There has been discussion about individuals who can speak to students about careers, individuals who can speak about Black History, having a panel so that students can ask questions, and sharing Black History quotes daily during the announcements. Students can ask their peers for different quotes. The committee is looking recognize Black excellence within the community and different businesses. Students discussed dressing up to represent Black fashion over the decades; they can dress in cultural fashion during the day. This committee is spearheaded by a group of students. Parent and teacher support is needed.
 - Dianne Nolan asked where to send suggestions for motivational speakers, and they are to be sent to Mrs. Smith.
 - Mrs. Francisco inquired how speakers will speak to students? Zoom? In classes? Mrs. Smith shared that if visitors are allowed to come into the building, they will be need to be vaccinated, but the speaking engagements mostly will be on Zoom/TEAMS.
 - Mrs. Francisco shared that Due Influence, Yale New Haven, and Junior Achievement (college and career) can potentially speak to our students.
- Prom, ring dance, graduation, and updates for seniors will be sent out.

PTSO

Juliana reported that the PTSO attended Multicultural Night. As far as future events such as CPR, they are unsure about holding events right now due to COVID; plans are on hold. Virtual events are a thought, but they are unsure of online participation. The PTSO would love to help with the coordination of Black History events. It was inquired about a PTSO webpage; there is a Facebook group with about 100 members. Mrs. Francisco asked if there is a way to post the COVID document.

Community Members

Margaret Hiller reported that the SGC should start looking at scholarship opportunities. The scholarship fund that did exist should be revitalized so that there are funds for those students who are graduating. Margaret asked how scholarships were dispersed when they were more lucrative.

Student report

- Ailani reported that students wanted to hear more about scholarship opportunities, resumes, and how to apply for jobs in the future.
- Mrs. Francisco mentioned the after-school program that is run by Mrs. Frank and Ms. B in the career center.
- Mrs. Lalanne shared that students have access to Xello (college and career readiness platform) where students can create a resume. There are also lessons for each grade level regarding job interviewing, job preparation, career interests, and more. Xello is heavily explored in CCR classes for juniors and seniors, and counselors go into the 9th and 10th grade classes to explore Xello lessons.

New business

- There is a scholarship fund in place. Mrs. Francisco shared that we need to find a way to get more money into that fund. Teachers and members will help writing grants. Mrs. Francisco asked where to look for that money and what we can do between now and the next meeting.
- Jane will start looking for local grants in small family foundations. One of best ways to get money is from alumni. We need a list of alumni who has given to fund in the past. Mrs. Smith shared that the money isn't what it used to be and is not aware of alumni who contributed to the fund.
- Dianne asked if we could form a committee to get alumni to contribute.
- Ms. Reed shared that there is a CHS alumni group, but that she's unaware of the age group.
- Mrs. Francisco asked if the SGC should start a scholarship committee outside of SGC? Ericka, Diane, Erin, Carmen, Elizabeth, Shaun, Selma, Jane, Juliana, and Margaret all agreed to be apart committee. A meeting for this committee will take place next Tuesday 1/18 at 5:30pm. A motion was made to formally establish a scholarship committee. Diane was the first to motion and Juliana was the second. The motion was carried. The meeting will be held on Zoom.

Academic Achievement Discussion

- The school's goals are to have students improve their reading and writing skills.
- There are online platforms to increase reading and students can answer SAT/and PSAT questions.
- The average scores are still below state average.
- It was suggested to have a boot camp for students taking the PSAT. Students are struggling with inferences and vocabulary with English. Students are having difficulty understanding what the question is asking them to do. Students need more practice. Students can log onto Khan Academy to get more comfortable with questions and time limits.
- Mrs. Francisco shared that students felt as though they didn't have enough time during testing. Students are also struggling with questions regarding punctuation and sentence structure. Teachers are going over content in class, but a boot camp would be helpful.
- Mrs. Smith shared that the PSAT/SAT will be held in March. She inquired about an after-school program to get them to practice. A proposal can be made to present to Dr. Graf.
- Math, Science, History, and English teachers could rotate assisting. Diane Nolan shared that students can work on building stamina.
- 9-10 graders will take the PSAT, and grade 11 will take the SAT.
- Mrs. Francisco talked about infusing SAT prep in CCR. CCR teachers from different subject areas can move from class to class with teachers to go over subject matter from the SAT.

- Teachers could potentially go into 1st period classes for 9-10 grades according to cohorts. 10th graders could also attend boot camp, and 9th graders can receive instruction within cohort group.
- Ms. Reed shared that when the SAT/PSAT was 6 weeks away at the beginning of the first semester, she held lessons that explained the test, the setup of the test, timing, and format. She broke down the percentages of math types of questions (Algebra, Geometry) and lessons on study habits.
- Ms. Reed shared that seniors reported that math is the area that they struggle with more.
- 9-10 graders can be assisted with direct instructions, developing more skills sets, and practicing timing.
- Mrs. Smith shared that students are practicing in Humanities Lab.

Community Involvement Discussion

- MAAC's is at CHS on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Mrs. Francisco inquired if MAAC's can stay after school to help with SAT prep with grades 9-12. Mrs. Lalanne will follow up.
- TSTT (Today's Student's, Tomorrow's Teachers)
- Slyma shared that there wasn't any information shared to her daughter, who is in Aqua, regarding Upward Bound since she has been at CHS.
- Margaret shared that the Rotary Club has gone virtual.
- Mrs. Lalanne discussed the partnership with Caribe. Programs that they offer are, SAT prep, Success 2.0, entrepreneurship training, and trade preparation. It was inquired as to how many students can participate in the program, and if the information can be shared on the website.
- Ms. Reed mentioned the opportunity for students to shadow alumni in the spring. HOSA held a virtual shadow opportunity using a GoPro. Students were able to send questions to the doctor at the end of the day.
- Rotary club - Doug Wade
- Mrs. Lalanne mentioned the high school partnership program with Housatonic. Mrs. Lalanne will share information and will find out the number of students that can be accepted into this program.
- It was inquired about the manufacturing program at Housatonic. Mrs. Smith expressed that we need to know what specific programs CHS students have access to and how many students are available for the each of the programs.

The meeting adjourned at 7pm. Marge was the first to motion and Diane was the second.