

CRLS School Council Meeting 4-26-16

Attendees:

Damon Smith, Principal
Sandy Stone, Special Assistant to Principal
Greta Hardina, Family Liaison
Ross Benson, faculty
Tom Arria, faculty
Gail Stubbs, co-chair
Teresa Walker, parent
John Delancey, parent
Kim Goldstein, parent
Edwidge L. Hercule, parent
Trina Abbott, parent
Kim Goldstein, parent
Trudy Wilcox, parent
Bob Birnbaum, parent
Niguisti Ghile, parent
Jean Hilaire, parent
Emily Dexter, community
Mike Frutkoff, community
Elka Uchman, Workforce

CRLS Athletics

Tom Aria has been here 3 years and won 3 state championships
Hardest part of athletics is fall season that starts at the end of the school year in May/June
Tom has visited some Upper Schools
Fall Tryout dates will be published soon
Signup process is more extensive with permissions and medical information
May 8 is the Fall Sports meeting date
June 1 to August 15 is registration time
Open House on June 14 from 4:00 to 6:30PM to help with registration, concussion, and impact testing
August 23 information session for parents to collect papers and tour Field House
August 24 impact testing
@CRLSFalcons Twitter feed
Participation and registration numbers have grown every year
Student performance in fourth quarter determines eligibility to play Fall Sports
Otherwise cannot play until Thanksgiving
GPA of 70 is higher than MIAA requirements (65) as well as passing 3 of 4 classes
Students must also earn 40 full credits for the 2015-16 school year (usually get 40 per semester)
Can take summer courses to regain credit for eligibility
Varsity Baseball lost a lot of boys this spring who were not academically eligible (10 maybe?)
Talk about a one-time hardship exemption if student still meets MIAA requirements
Might allow some students who are on the cusp to practice with the team
There are some students who do really well the quarter before for a sport then incentive drops
Trying to hire from within; 4 out of 9 coaches are CRLS teachers
Perhaps athletes could get an email from coaches to remind students of academic eligibility
Raoul is an athletic connection with the HSEP
Is there a way to improve connection with out-of-district students (130 out of all grades)?
Families initiate some communications
No-cut: football, cross-country, crew, fencing, wrestling, track and field, hockey, rugby, lacrosse

Incoming 8th graders will be playing on freshman teams a week before school starts to build community
Being involved outweighs not being involved; don't want to be an 8:00AM to 2:30PM student
Most coaches should be accepting of students who have to meet with a teacher once a week
50% of student body plays at least one sport (probably because school doesn't charge fees)

CRLS Food Project

Developed in a short period of time
Greta wrote grant two years ago for the Weekend Backpack program
Idea didn't go over too well having to carry a huge bag of food
Partnered with Alanna Mallon (Food for Free) and FOCRLS
Visited a school in Worcester to see how it works
Working with Culinary students who pack the weekend backpacks on Thursday for elementary schools
Art Class is doing a mural
Biggest problem with food insecurities is a stigma
Hardest part is to get students to come anonymously
A lot of students are ELL and also in community programs
Backpacks are available for students to use
Checklist is available to take home and have a bag prepared in advance
Guidance Counselors and teachers have been contacted to help with anonymity
Want to provide meals in the future (everything for a spaghetti dinner like pasta & sauce plus bread)
Time has come for donations (cooking oil, rice & beans, hygiene products, snacks)
Checklist will soon be translated
A wishlist will be developed to send home to families to ask what they would like
A consignment shop could be in works
Has been open for two weeks (about 60 students have participated)
Also want to be open during the summer
Set up products so they are grouped into a meal (perhaps by culinary students)
Want this program to continue for the next couple of months
Cafeteria is building a new dynamic where students stay to eat
Food stability is key to student achievement
Ask families to bring donations/specific items during school events
Would like to use Food Rescue from Harvard or MIT but not enough storage or refrigeration
Could call it a Market and have it open to every student
Could also ask some student clubs to help out

Coffee with Damon

Started with 7-8 parents but now 4-5 parents
Timing is not great for some parents
Perhaps talk could be about a specific topic