

CRLS School Council Meeting Notes from February 24, 2015

Attendees:

Damon Smith, Principal
Bobby Tynes, Assistant Principal
Greta Hardina, Family Liaison
Ross Benson, Faculty
Gail Stubbs, Co-Chair
Teresa Walker, Parent
John Delancey, Parent
Adam Manacher, Parent
Bob Birnbaum, Parent
Trina Abbott, Parent
Lace Campbell, Parent
Sharon James, Parent
Laverne Wilkinson, Parent
Joan Abrams, Parent
Victoria Harris, Parent and FOCRLS
Larry Childs, Parent and FOCA
Marie Antoine, Parent
Elka Uchman, Workforce
Ayesha Wilson, Community
Mike Frutkoff, Community

Sue Walsh talked about the Office of College Success that was started in 2014. Students enroll in college but somehow come back to the community for financial, academic, social and/or other reasons. Harlem Children's Zone continues support for students in college. Cambridge launched Baby U and started to think about how to support college students. Housing Authority surveyed graduates from the Workforce program that is a 5-year wrap-around program. Barriers that students faced were the same that adults faced. Coordinate services better to support students once they get into college.

Pilot program started at Bunker Hill Community College. How can students who attend BHCC and UMass Boston (where a large number of CRLS graduates go) get additional support?

Emily Singer started working in November 2014 and is focusing on and identifying the primary goal of the College Success Initiative. About 50% of CRLS are low-income and qualify for free lunch. Focus on equality and try to bring the numbers together so that more low-income students complete college. The piece that is missing is parent involvement and student leadership. Peer mentoring and student leadership works on campus. There is a peer-mentoring program at UMass Boston. CSI wants to work with all students, not just low-income students. Identify with guidance counselors those seniors with 2.7 GPA and who do not have a post-secondary plan. There will be an event in March similar to a College Fair. Last year there was an event in April for parents who receive a financial aid award letter and how to decipher it.

Curriculum alignment at CRLS: Some CRLS students remediate in college if they take HN or CP courses which Damon would like eliminated which is from a SIP two years ago

How can parents talk to their children about building confidence in themselves?

Most RSTA students are in a certificate program

Take PSAT in 10th and 11th because it may be an indicator of first-year college success

39 CRLS graduates in 2013 who had to be remediated in college

28 CRLS graduates in 2012 who had to be remediated in college

Remediation (taking college courses that re-teaches what was taught at CRLS) can be a result of melt or loss of support in college

Want to get more family members involved in the process (meets from 1-3PM in Principal's Conference Room on the third Thursday of the month)

STEAM Initiatives

Bridge the gap to get students exposed to backyard biotech during school years

Find mentors to see how academics are relevant

Provide training with a rigorous curriculum in and out of CRLS

Make it a graduation requirement

Need for cataloging and coordinating of services and programs

Devise ways to evaluate process

Have STEAM-based professional development for adults

Parent wants AVF policy reviewed again to see if it is detrimental to student GPA

Have a portal/clearinghouse for year-round STEAM programs

There are RSTA students who have paid internships/co-op as seniors

Workforce also has paid internships programs

CRLS Student Clubs

Community Service and School Spirit

Used to have 10 clubs but now there are 61 clubs with CRLS spending \$90,000