

CRLS Council 5-26-15 Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Damon Smith, Principal
Greta Hardina, Family Liaison
Gail Stubbs, Parent Co-Chair
Elka Uchman, Workforce
Trina Abbott, parent
Lauren Gibbs, parent
Haekyung Chung, parent
Bob Birnbaum, parent
Laverne Wilkinson, parent
Ross Benson, teacher
John Delancey, parent
Edwidge L. Hercule, parent
Maria Figueiroa, parent
Nancy Berberena, parent
Edwidge Hercule, parent
Marie Antoine, parent
Rhea Dunn, parent

City-wide school council event on family engagement

Greta, Damon, Gail, John and Lauren attended.

Feeling that CRLS is doing well in terms of engaging families. Off-site School Council meetings, changes to parent-teacher conferences. Can we make changes to Curriculum night? Look at best practices and put on the agenda for next year. Student ambassador program? 30 hours of community service – volunteer for events. Should the 30 hours of community service be a graduation requirement? Some students don't know what to do.

Student Clubs

Vary in terms of when they meet – some during week, some on weekends such as Habitat. All are listed on line, all have staff advisor, get the word out with flyers, facebook, moodle. Starting a new one can be challenging. Set up meeting with Mr. Tynes who will ask about purpose and what students will get out of it. What will it bring to the school? What is recruitment plan? More than just hanging out with friends. Might already have a similar group in place so have to show how it is different enough to justify new club. Currently waitlist of proposals.

Student trips/events

Permission from CRLS plus sometimes outside organizations. Ex: Model UN is overnight, so more of a process. Out of State – mandatory parent meeting. Hard to get approval if missing school. International, out of state, overnight all need Central Admin approval.

Fundraising

Huge challenge. No bake sales. Food most popular fundraisers – require scheduling so there aren't too many at once. Slots fill up quickly. Fundraising form goes into a central book. Parent nights and open houses popular nights for sales. Students also do letter writing asking for donations, car washes, etc. Bagel Bench is a student activity area – not just food sales. Student elections, info, etc. Changes to cafeteria menu coincided with changes to allowable sales. Can earn as little as \$70 or as much as \$300-500, depends on advertising/day of the week. Parent events do well.

Co-Curricular Experiences

Damon wants number of students involved to be 100%. Data shows that students involved have an outlet, are connected to the school. Many clubs thriving, some are undersubscribed. Some students are “super consumers” involved in 2 or 3 substantive things. They are multiplying their connections, learning how to budget time. What are barriers to getting to 100% involvement? Some activities have minimum GPA requirement. Athletics requires 70. State minimum for athletic participation is 65. GPAs tend to rise during season. Theatre Dept. also has GPA req. Set this up as a 9th grade expectation to join something? Idea of a searchable matrix. Website project this summer. How to keep the site updated? Club Day can be overwhelming for students. What is the current % of participation. We have data on athletics, but not club participation. How to track participation in non-CRLS program involvement such as City Links, Workforce, Breakthrough, Just a Start. Can it be integrated with Aspen? Aspen use uneven. Potential for being more useful, but is complicated. Some juniors and seniors work 5-6 hours after school, some are responsible for family paperwork, communication if they are the English speaker, childcare for siblings, etc. – don't all have time to join club.

Can some kind of credit be given? Maybe general credit, not distributed. Many clubs offer community service. 9th graders meet upper class students – have someone to ask questions. How do we raise the level of expectation? How do you encourage your child if they are shy or just aren't “joiners?” Different types of learners. Important to find ways to have students take the lead to present information about their club and invite other students in. Maybe part of requirement of having a club – mentors to pull in a freshman and bring to club day? Student Mentors– go into freshman Community Meeting once a week. Sharon Lozada oversees program. Are there requirements for some clubs? Can students get dropped from a club? This varies – some take attendance such as Student Government. A cappella has auditions. Nest Fest – asking clubs to be involved in organizing and running event.

CPS Budget Hearing

Some questions and concerns were raised at the CPS Budget Hearing in December related to student achievement, teacher support, and resources. Damon invited those who were able to stay late to continue the discussion, and he addressed those issues he could.