

CRLS School Council: September 24, 2013

John Delancey:	LC-C rep: (parent of 9th grader)	johndelancey@comcast.net
Teresa Walker:	LC-R rep & Secretary: (parent of 10th grader)	teresacwalker@comcast.net
Gail Stubbs:	LC-L rep: (parent of 10th grader & CRLS graduate)	gail.stubbs@umb.edu
Rhea Dunn:	LC-R rep: (parent of 10th grader)	rtd989@mail.harvard.edu
Louis Bryant:	At-Large rep: (grandfather of 12th grader)	lbryant@bbns.org
Agnès Frouté:	At-Large rep: (parent of 10th grader)	agnes.mfayokurera@gmail.com
Emily Dexter:	CSAG rep: (parent of 12th grader)	emilydexter@comcast.net
Beena Sawar:	FoCRLS rep: (parent of 11th grader)	beena.sarwar@gmail.com
Lace Campbell:	CRLS Arts Committee rep.	lace@beyondthe4thwall.com
Larry Childs:	FOCA rep: (parent of 9th and 12 th graders)	larschilds@comcast.net
Mark Gardner:	C-PAC rep: (parent of 11 th & 7 th graders)	markgardner@jenningsfishman.com
Mike Frutkoff:	Community rep.: Cambridge Youth Programs	jmfrut@comcast.net
Ross Benson:	Faculty rep. (math teacher)	RBenson@cpsd.us
Greta Hardina:	Family Liaison (parent of graduate)	GHardina@cpsd.us
Amy Tung:	Student body rep: (president of student body)	
Adam Manacher:	Parent co-chair of Council (10 th grader & '11 grad)	amanacher@comcast.net
Damon Smith:	Principal co-chair of Council	DSmith@cpsd.us
Bob Birnbaum:	(parent of 9 th grader)	rjbirnbaum@partners.org
Hae Kyung Chung:	(parent of 9th grader)	hkmallorca@yahoo.com
Tom Rawson:	(parent of 10th grader & 2011 grad)	t8O1@mindspring.com
Trina Abbott:	(parent of 9th grade twins)	ksabbott@comcast.net
Ann Chiriboga:	(parent of 10th grader & 7th grader)	armchiriboga@hotmail.com
Trish Marti:	(parent of 12 th , 10th & 5 th graders)	trishmarti@verizon.net

Discussion and Review of 2013 Open House

- Open House welcoming and instilled a sense of positive energy amongst the parents.
- Potluck was a success as a social opportunity for parents and we will improve on the set-up and the flow.
- Microphone presentations were hard to follow and not clear.
- Need to clarify the goal of the 30-minute presentations: to determine what the administration would like to share and what parents want to hear.
- The informational meetings seemed “abbreviated” and rushed. There is a sense that we attempted to accomplish too much in the evening so that people felt too rushed.
- Teacher presentations were good and overall better than in past. Good use of technology and they were well prepared for brief class introductions.
- Improvements for next year: bottlenecks in people flow, entryway is a log jam (tables with schedules and information need to be spaced differently to improve flow of people), student guides were good but need a few more and it would be helpful to have more directional assisters at the top of stairs or clear signs posted to direct parents, have translators or language facilitation table
- Some parents received welcoming phone calls from Home Room teachers to invite them to the Open House. Need to increase this outreach.
- Visits to Home Rooms were notably missed. This was dropped from the format due to time constraints. Perhaps Family Conferences could be the time for a Home Room visit.
- Should have tables for School Council reps, clubs, after school programs.
- Future 9th grade orientations may be on a different night.

There was a brief discussion given to the upcoming family/teacher conferences. In particular about planning the flow of parents upon arrival and clear directions to classrooms. Also promoting teacher and/or Guidance Counselor phone outreach to parents to attend the conferences.

Principal Smith discussed the discretionary budget for 2013-14

An excellent, brief introduction to the group as to what the discretionary budget is and how it is allocated. Council role is to advise and review with Principal. The budget will be addressed more thoroughly in upcoming Council meetings.

Discussion of School Council Focus for Year 2013-14

- Build relationships throughout community.
- Improving school climate with recognition that an improved climate can have an impact on student achievement.
- Improving communication between parents and teachers.
- Improving student achievement across the spectrums by looking at and understanding different data points from MCAS, PSAT, and SAT scores.
- Promotion of a “learning group/community” at CRLS.
- Engage community in a year-long conversation about issues and/or circumstances of our urban students and what are “barriers” to achievement? A holistic perspective: teacher support, discipline, social group perceptions, expectations and pressures, etc.
- Identify interventions and innovations to change achievement outcomes.
- Council is going to read the book *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*. This is a real world reference for conversations about student/young adult success and achievement. Perhaps Student Government, Leadership Team and Faculty Advisory group could read the book as well.
- Proposal for viewing of film *Brooklyn Castle* for student and staff; perhaps parents too. An inspirational story of successful student body achievement surmounting life’s obstacles.
- Is there an opportunity to engage local university in some kind of achievement study: a look at achievement in ALL students? The study could be used to develop action plans.
- Identify ways to promote connection/contact between CRLS and Middle Schools to foster continuity in academic and social development.

Next School Council Meeting: Tuesday October 29th 6:00PM