

CRLS School Council Meeting Notes for November 26, 2013

Attendees (please check the list for everyone):

Damon Smith	Adam Manacher	Greta Hardina
Ross Benson	Bobby Tynes	Teresa Walker
Emily Dexter	Gail Stubbs	Jen McConnell
Mike Frutkoff	Janet O'Reilly	Robert Birnbaum
Krystal Rincon	Larry Childs	Hae Kyung Chung
Kathy Clinton	Victoria Harris	Trish Martin
Beena Sanwar		

Ninth Grade Information Night

- Tuesday, December 10 from 6 to 8PM
- Presentations by Principal, Step team, and A Capella group
- Breakout sessions in TRC, Media Café, and other large spaces
- Will be a School Council table in lobby of Arts building with FOCA and other community partners
- Need parents to be a friendly face in rooms with Deans, Counselors, and students

Family Contact Book

- About 300 families out of 1700 at CRLS
- Make sure families that signed up get a copy but how to distribute extras
- One parent said she didn't sign up because of spamming and security issues (do not include home addresses in the future?)
- Opt in or opt out? How useful is the book? Potential problems with custody issues?
- If mailed, need about \$1800 for postage
- Perhaps there is a way to connect families through Aspen

NEASC Report

- Principal Smith showed his PowerPoint presentation (was Damon going to make this available to us?)
- Full report from NEASC is on the CRLS website
- Students, families, and community were involved
- Damon commended the tough, hard, reflective work of his courageous and honest staff
- 10-year cycle; four levels of ranking (exemplary, acceptable, limited, deficient)
- CPSS reviews about 30 schools and has six weeks to give recommendation
- CRLS did a really good job on their self-study; there were no surprises
- Damon thinks CRLS may have been harder on itself; not perfect but a lot to be proud of
- Some recommendations have been addressed already
- Regardless of CPSS vote, there is still work to do
- Some changes include community meeting improvements, a block scheduling review committee, class pairings, family conferences, and The Other Wes Moore book

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The Other Wes Moore

Want this book to start conversations about students at CRLS and how to increase achievement. Points and insights made and shared:

- How to apply book within school walls; balance between discipline & compassion
- Have a mentor and high expectations; gaining kid's trust is hard; bottom tier may have problems; how kids talk about race is difficult; two-way street
- Early years of life have been set; 14 years of things that happened that CRLS has no control over; father-son relationship
- What is school response to families without parental guidance?
- Don't re-enact what happened before; teachers should find a way to engage instead of checking out; disciplinarian may be a positive for students
- Zero tolerance
- Lots of students don't have structure to rely on and trust; demands patience; sometimes it only takes one teacher to be there at the right time
- Peer relationships
- Disproportionate classes from CP to HN to AP; one or two teachers should not have the most needy students; school-wide effort

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Principal's PowerPoint Presentation Highlights

Core Values

- + motto identifies core values
- + connection between civic and social expectations
- implement review process and ensure rubrics are consistent

Curriculum

- + robust and focuses on inquiry and authenticity
- increase technology training for teachers including future technology
- increase interdisciplinary connections

Instruction

- + multiple strategies and high-quality staff
- school-wide instructional guidelines in language, protocol, and practice
- evaluate 4x4 schedule (alternating, full-year, or semester)

Assessment

- + formal meetings to discuss student data
- + variety of assessments
- develop formal process to assess whole school and students need rubrics for social
and civic expectations

Culture and Leadership

- + positive, safe, and respectful atmosphere
- + proactive responses
- increase number and diversity of students in HN and AP classes

School Resources

- + student support programs and intervention strategies
- consolidate information into one portal

Community Resources

- + community support and renovated site
- detailed breakdown of budget to see how money is allocated