

CRLS School Council Meeting Notes for March 25, 2014

Damon Smith, Principal
Ross Benson, Teacher
Greta Hardina, Family Liaison
Rhea Dunn, Parent LC-S Rep
Gail Stubbs, Parent LC-L Rep
Jen McConnell, Faculty
Janet O'Reilly, Faculty
Trina Abbott, Parent
Nikola Arnaupov, Parent

John Delancey, Parent LC-C Rep
Teresa Walker, Parent LC-R Rep
Mike Frutkoff, Community
Bob Birnbaum, Parent
Craig Kelley, Parent
Beena Sarwar, FOCRLS rep
Guest: CHA Workforce
Adam Manacher, Co-Chair

Stabbing Incident which occurred today, 3/25

Principal Smith reviewed the timeline of the incident. He detailed the procedures and steps taken to ensure the safety of those at school. He also reviewed the communication of information to the entire CRLS community. Safety procedures after the incident, at this time, appear to have been handled seamlessly and proficiently. Communication channels within and outside the school followed established protocols. However delivering timely messages throughout the school and to parents proved more of a challenge due to particular difficulty in gathering all necessary information about the incident. Care and consideration was given to not misinform the community. This contributed to an uncomfortable time lapse for many. Principal Smith apologized in particular for the fact that the media got news out before the school could properly verify the facts and then share that information through appropriate channels. The Council discussed the challenges teachers have with the time lapse of receiving information and updates. Many teachers found themselves having to assist students in a situation where ambiguity exacerbated anxiety. The Council members discussed ways of improving the sharing of information in a crisis situation that is not at the level of a lockdown or major safety incident. The Council agreed that we should analyze and improve on this aspect of our communication.

Family Conferences

A robust number of families attended but need more participation from struggling students
Elka Uchman from CHA Workforce (public housing and section 8) spoke about their program
18 out of 26 (single parents with multiple kids) from her caseload attended conferences
Third year of collaboration with CRLS; families come in at 5PM to the Falcon's Nest for dinner
Have a five-year program with families that begins in eighth grade
Talk with families about which classes to visit; volunteer students take families to classrooms
Started outreach six weeks earlier; let's families know that report cards are coming in advance
Culture of expectation (doesn't ask "are you coming"); you come here and we take care of you
Many families returned afterwards to debrief with Workforce representatives
Workforce four locations in Jefferson Park, Windsor Street, CRLS, and East Cambridge

Ninth grade potluck during a Parent-to-Parent meeting will be MAY 6th! Council members are needed to volunteer to successfully run this evening event. Please verify with Adam you will be attending. Enter it into your calendar TODAY! (it's going to be a great evening).

Need to determine which seats are open for School Council Election

SIP

Two foundational documents to review (NEASC and 2-year SIP) will tell where the school is, what are our challenges, and where we need to go; updates to SIP at end of school year

NEXT council meeting: APRIL 29th!!