

CRLS School Council

November 29, 2011

Attendees: Jessica Daniels-co-chair, Principal Damon Smith-co-chair, Greta Hardina-parent liaison, Vice Principal Bobby Tynes, Amy Stein, Adam Manacher, Natassa Mason, Lauren Gibbs, Mike Frutkoff, Mary White, Ross Benson, Donna Erikson, MJ Jensen

Revised Honor Roll Policy

Principal Smith introduced the new honor roll policy and the rationale for changing the policy. He distributed copies of the honor roll proposal and asked for questions or comments. Mike asked if the second honors could include an "A" grade. P. Smith felt that first honors requirements be increased, but second honors should create the baseline. The new policy would not negate previously awarded honor status. It was noted that AP grading is not scaled for the honor roll. It was recommended that before the change goes into effect a presentation is made to the student body and a letter goes out to all parents. This policy is set to go into effect in the 2012-13 school year.

It was recommended that certificates be issued to students who (have not earned honors but) have made significant improvement in school achievement. This is something the individual learning communities (LC) have done in the past. What steps can be taken to implement and ensure this practice school wide?

CSAG (committee re: innovation agenda/new middle school structure)

Lace and Jessica were the reps to this city wide group. CSAG has said they want participation from HS parents, but Jessica felt the high school was not part of the conversation and has decided to step down. Emily (?) and Lewis agreed to represent the high school along with Lace. Jessica is waiting to hear if CSAG accepts the new reps. The sense is the high school is still under-represented in this group.

In addition, at least two other committees are emerging to review concerns regarding the formation of the middle schools.

Jessica asked that the committee step back to review our goals for the year. She asked us to consider what is this school council and what should it be. Principal Smith views the School Council (SC) as an advisory body that helps with various issues that arise at the high school. However, to effectively advise on budget and policies, he felt the SC would need to spend more time to have adequate knowledge to be able to advise as such. One suggestion was that material to be reviewed, discussed or voted on at school council, first be emailed to SC members prior to the meeting.

As for SC make-up, are we only going to have one teacher representative? one or two student reps? Currently parent reps are one from each learning community and two at-

large. In terms of voting power, what are we voting for – is it binding, how does it connect to our mission? Lauren requested greater representation from a more diverse group of parents and students. Another parent indicated that parents in general don't recognize the SC reps as actually representing them. As for teacher representation the time of day does not work for many teachers.

P.Smith feels there is an information gap that needs to be addressed. Are we a working committee? MJ stressed the importance of having a mission to keep the committee focused on task. Topics included the achievement gap, parent communication, increase parent involvement. VP Tynes suggested the author of Beyond the Bake Sale could make a presentation to the SC council regarding developing parent involvement. He agreed to find the previous SC policy as a base to work on. Several suggestions were discussed to increase the actual representation of parents through the elected members of the SC.

VP Tynes will search for the past policy. Jessica will use current info and combine with past info into a policy draft. VP Tynes and Jessica will confer and email to those present.

Lauren feels there needs to be more communication about parent concerns being brought to the agenda and the administration's attention. At this suggestion Adam discussed his concern about the implementation of the school's disciplinary policies and whether this is the forum to discuss this issue. Most folks agreed that school council should review educational policies that impact the home and continue to involve more parents. P.Smith noted that the council is only one way for parents to communicate their concerns. Adam said when he has a concern he contacts the dean of his child's LC. Jessica suggested that a volunteer corps of parents with small and specific expectations of commitment might be one avenue for involving parents.

Parent reps expressed their frustration with their lack of purpose and understanding regarding the mission or purpose of the school council. The agendas feel random, and many folks come to better their personal understanding of what is happening at the high school. MJ and Natassa expressed similar concerns regarding 1) the need for purpose/job descriptions of parent reps and 2) the lack of connection between parent reps and the parents whose concerns should be represented at the SC.

Jessica expressed that in this transition year for high school administration that it is especially important for the council to develop a policy document that defines the structure, formation and power of the school council.

Action Plan:

School Council Policy Draft (Jessica, VP Tynes)

Jessica and VP Tynes are working on a draft of a CRLS school council policy that will address mission and purpose, membership and voting rights. VP Tynes will look for past documents and Jessica will integrate this with current information available.

School Council Agenda & Materials available in advance: (Jessica, P Smith, Greta)

Agenda and related info will be emailed to school council members and regular attendees

The Agenda will be posted/distributed/emailed to the CRLS parent population

Increase Profile of SC and Parent Representatives to promote greater connection with larger CRLS parent population: (SC Members) Continue discussion at 12/20 mtg.

Unresolved: Policy to institute consistent practice among all LCs to issue certificates to students to mark significant improvement in school achievement.