

CRLS School Council Meeting
February 28, 2012
6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

Present: Principal Damon Smith, Vice Principal Bobby Tynes, Jessica Daniels, Greta Hardina – Parent Liaison, Ross Benson, Adam Manacher, Mary White, Victoria, Mike Frutkoff, Emily Dexter, Amy Stein, Victoria Harris

Announcements were made regarding upcoming meetings and events.

School Council Elections: The council discussed the need to recruit new members for next year's council. The April 15 edition of the high school newsletter will ask for nominations of parents willing to serve a 2 year term. Nominations must be submitted by May 15. The intent is to stagger membership to allow an equal number of new members to be elected each year. It was suggested that in addition to the reps from the four learning communities, the arts council, the C-PAK, and one or two at-large members, the council considers nominating a parent of a freshman for a one year term. Current reps are asked to encourage interest in the school council and help recruit new members.

In addition to recruiting parents for school council, members discussed other options that could be made available to interested parents: volunteers to promote family engagement, student achievement, and work on specific school policies.

As there are four school council meetings remaining, Jessica requested suggestions for topics we could address, within this time frame.

Principal Smith reviewed the new process for signing up for parent-teacher conferences online, which parents were glad to hear about. The previous process of going from classroom to classroom to sign up for a ten minute conference on the afternoon or evening of the conferences frustrated many. Sometimes parents would arrive to meet with a teacher and the conference list was full or there wouldn't be an opening for an hour. The concern with this new method is – who has easy access to online sign up and how many parent-teacher conference slots are available for each teacher/class? The conference will be held from 2:30 to 3:30p on Tuesday and 6 to 8p on Thursday. The council agreed for Tuesday and the first half hour on Thursday to be scheduled online. The remaining 90 minutes on Thursday will return to the classroom sign-up list outside classrooms.

It was agreed to keep the conference slots to 10 minutes, although 5 and 7 minutes were suggested. It was also recommended that teachers have information available on each student's progress including scores on quizzes, tests, reports, projects, homework, and perhaps a sample of the student's work.

As many clubs ask to hold bake sales, a club participant could be required to act as a student guide for visiting parents. National Honor students would also be expected to serve as guides.

To get the word out about the online sign-up option for parent-teacher conferences Greta will include it in the newsletter, post it on the website and mail it with the progress reports

Emily Dexter gave a brief summary of the last C-sag meeting (related to the innovation agenda), which asked the parent representatives in attendance what their interests were and what topics do they want discussed. A common theme was how to engage a diverse group of parents.

Online course registration for fall 2012 is available to ninth graders. Support and guidance is available for students to help them develop a successful semester schedule. In an effort to promote family engagement, there will be a workshop, Keys to Success, on March 15, from 6 – 8 pm, that includes a light dinner. It will cover course selection and there will be presentations from the principal, deans, and representatives from a variety of programs (AVID, workforce, etc). Transportation will be available to specific areas throughout the city.

Note: Changes/additions to Parent Handbook (in a Word document) should be complete by March 27 and sent to Jessica or Greta.

Next meetings: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 and April 24, 2012