

Minutes of the CRLS School Council

May 31 Meeting

In attendance: Chris Saheed, Ross Benson, Greta Hardina, Amy Stein, MJ Jenson, Louis Bryant, Natasa Mason, Lace Campbell, Holly Modovock, Mike Frutkoff, Pamela Massey, Jessica Daniels (note-taker)

1. Introductions

- Louis Bryant has been elected as a Council member for 2011-12. He has a grandchild at the school, and is an administrator at BB&N.
- Natasa Mason attended for the first time and submitted her name to be elected.
- The seat for the rep from Learning Community L remains open.

2. The policy on robo-calls for excused absences

Parents have complained about receiving robo-calls, even when their students' absence has been excused. Ross Benson explained that (as a teacher) he can only enter here/not here into the attendance system for his class. The learning community dean of students offices are supposed to enter the code that indicates the reason for an absence.

Chris Saheed said that fixing the problem at the dean of students offices (of which there are only four) will be relatively easy. He will bring the matter up with the deans of students.

3. Chris Saheed described the current "season of celebrations":

- Athletic awards taking place after the School Council meeting
- City Scholarship awards night (40 \$2500 scholarships awarded)
- Annual school scholarship night, offering \$140,000 in scholarships
 - some ongoing scholarships from organizations such as Rialto restaurant
 - some scholarships awarded in memory of someone
- Arts celebration
- AVID year-end celebration
- Workforce banquet
- Bilingual awards ceremony and recognition night
- graduation rehearsal and senior picnic (funded by Friends of CRLS)

In addition, the "Super Seniors" web page is now up, featuring the top 10 ranked students and three from each Learning Community, selected for personifying the values of opportunity, diversity, and respect.

4. Construction news

Chris Saheed said the schedule for teacher moves has been established. All teachers have been assigned a room. The project is on track to finish on time.

5. Final week of school

Monday/Tuesday, June 20/21 will be the final exam days

Wednesday, June 22nd all students will attend classes

Thursday, June 23rd, students can assist teachers in packing, in exchange for community service credit.

6. Parent handbook

MJ Jensen is still working on it, and will have it done this week. Jessica Daniels will then proofread it. The plan is still to mail it to families before the start of school in September.

7. Race to Nowhere (June 8)

Ticket sales are moving along. Amy Stein will be meeting with Patty Nolan and Ms. LeeKeenan to set up the panel discussion that will follow the film.

8. Prom-related events

MJ Jensen asked whether CRLS has ever offered pre- or post-prom programming. Greta Hardina said that such events would need to be organized by parents. Lace Campbell noted that the Arts Council offers a party after plays closed, to help control the celebration. Chris Saheed noted that convincing students to attend a prom after-party at the school would require a change of culture. The Council members agreed to put this issue on the agenda for September.

9. Chris Saheed asked Council members to mention something going well at the school and something that could be done better.

The suggestions of things going well were:

- Robo-call reminders of upcoming events
- Some teachers are very responsive to parents
- The current timing for homeroom
- The support offered by guidance counselors
- The Open House night -- wonderful opportunity to get contact information and learn what the school is about
- External organizations building relationships with CRLS -- finding the school very supportive
- Some stellar teachers

Suggestions of things that could be done better were:

- While some teachers are very responsive to parents, that responsiveness isn't institutionalized -- it isn't yet the culture for teachers to be responsive to parents of either special needs or typical students.
- Better communication about students' classes. (One meeting attendee noted he hadn't known that his student's teacher was out sick for much of the term.)
- Greater diversity needed in all school/family organizations. Families should model involvement.
- Need to draw more families to the Open House -- make it bigger/better/easier to attend
- School should continue to provide info that helps external organizations to do their work
- The 504 process should be streamlined
- College counseling should be bolstered
- The school is not as responsive to change as it could be: better communication and greater transparency/accountability is needed. (Example cited: how does a coach get hired?)

Chris Saheed suggested writing a letter to teachers with these Council suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00. A brief post-meeting discussion led to the decision to meet again (as scheduled) on June 14 to discuss the parent handbook.