

Central Parents Council Minutes: March 4, 2021

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Welcome, Call to Order — CPC Chair, Cristina Monterroso

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM.

3. Approval of Minutes for February 4, 2021 Meeting — CPC Secretary, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn

Lynette Simmons motioned to approve the February minutes; Lisa Smith seconded.

4. CPC Chair Report — CPC Chair, Cristina Monterroso

5. CPC Status and Resolution Report — CPC Vice-Chair, Heather Morante Young

6. CPC Treasurer Report — CPC Treasurer, Randa Reford

7. School and Club Organizational Reports:

Goosehill Parent Teacher Group (GHPTG), Junior/Senior High School Parent Teacher Group (CHSPTG), Lloyd Harbor School Parent Teacher Group (LHSPTG), West Side School Parent Teacher Group (WSSPTG), Junior/Senior High School Parent Teacher Group (CHSPTG), Cultural Arts Committee (CAC), Families of the Community United with Schools (FOCUS), Arts Booster Club (ABC), Special Education Parent Teacher Organization (SEPTO), Seahawks Booster Club (SBC), Cold Spring Harbor Education Foundation

8. Presentation and Parent Questions (9:45 AM-end of meeting)

Superintendent Robert Fenter gave us updates on several fronts. He and School Improvement Team (SIT) member Stephanie DiNozzi shared an incredible achievement stemming from a spring 2020 initiative of RISE-UP, the Junior/Senior High School's character development program. As part of the RISE-UP initiative launch, students organized a district-wide food drive for the Townwide Fund of Huntington, which then distributed the generous donations and money raised to five member agencies that the Fund supports.

Mr. Fenter noted that as of now, about ninety percent of the district's students are attending school in person. District faculty is in the process of getting vaccinated against COVID-19. He noted that the district has achieved "a fragile victory"— i.e., schools in the district are

functioning smoothly right now, but it is not time for people to let their guards down in terms of precautions against infection.

There had been some question about the NYS assessments for grades 3-8; Mr. Fenter said that as of now, those state tests in ELA, math, and science are proceeded as previously scheduled. He noted that remote-only students aren't obligated to come into school to take these tests, although they will certainly be provided the opportunity to do so. (The state tests are not given remotely.) In contrast, the Board of Regents is planning to cancel all Regents exams except those federally mandated: biology and earth science, English, and algebra. It is unclear at this time whether Regents exams will be offered virtually. AP tests will be administered, in-person and virtually, in the second half of May.

A parent asked whether CSH children will be disadvantaged by an undue burden in taking the state exams, since unlike some other districts, the majority of students have been attending school in-person full-time. She wanted to know whether our district will be held to a higher standard. Mr. Fenter replied that he did not believe that the assessments will disadvantage the district in any way. He noted that while there were New York state administrators who were hoping to waive the state assessments for another year, whereas the federal government wants to document the educational status of children to learn about the effects of the pandemic. He said that this year's state assessments for grades 3 through 8 are "low stakes": the results are only for the purpose of data collection, and will not affect teacher or administrator evaluations, nor will they affect district or school ratings.

Another parent wanted to know why the federal government has a say in whether Regents exams are required, when they are overseen by a New York board. Mr. Fenter said that every state must provide a means of measuring students' progress.

9. Important Dates

Next BOE meetings (virtual): Tuesday, March 9 at 8 PM

Next CPC meeting (virtual): Thursday, April 8 at 9 AM

10. Meeting Adjournment — Cristina Monterroso

Janene Keegan motioned to end the meeting, and Heather Morante Young seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:02 AM.