

CENTRAL PARENT COUNCIL  
COLD SPRING HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
STATUS AND RESOLUTION REPORT - March 1, 2018

DISTRICT ITEMS 2017-2018 DISTRICT GOALS – ONGOING, adopted July 11, 2017 (see Board website for full goals handout)

Instructional Goal

- To examine and further develop our current K-12 curricula to ensure cohesive instruction aligned with Next Generation English Language Arts and Mathematics Learning standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and the Social Studies C-3 Framework,
- To develop a K-12 research and writing continuum to ensure that all students are engaging in thoughtful and original research at all levels.
- To further enhance our Science Research program to provide interested students with the opportunity to engage in high level research and compete in national science competitions (Siemens, Regeneron, etc.)
- To examine our current Junior High School program to determine if the structure of the time and support for our early adolescent students represents an optimal design.

Technology

To implement Creative Learning Labs in all elementary schools to support student learning, collaboration, critical thinking and research.

To expand our emphasis on thoughtful use of technology, including the establishment of the position of, Executive Director of Instructional and Administrative Technology, to support student-centered learning, small group instruction, and inquiry-based research for students at all grade levels.

Professional Development

To provide continuous and comprehensive support and professional learning through the implementation of a four year Mentoring Program for teachers new to Cold Spring Harbor.

Health/Wellness/Safety

To maximize the impact of our social and emotional programs, as well as that of the efforts of our staff, including a newly added psychologist at the Junior High Level, to promote healthy and safe decisions in our students.

To implement the Too Good For Drugs in the Substance Abuse Prevention Program (SAPP) in grades 8 and 9 as a means of addressing the issues of drug and alcohol use.

Facilities

To revisit and review the next steps to improve our facilities to address academic, physical education, and wellness programs as well as the areas of security and energy efficiency.

Finance

To continue to navigate the impact of the tax cap and recent developments in the changes to state aid formulas to ensure the financial health of the district in the long-term.

TEACHER ITEMS

None

PARENT ITEMS

Bullying

- Parents are concerned about school approaches to bullying. The district is training teachers and administration in Restorative Justice which is an “approach to discipline that focuses on repairing harm through inclusive processes that engage all stakeholders. Implemented well, restorative justice shifts the focus of discipline from punishment to learning and from the individual to the community.
- At the jr/sr high level, students are assigned to the “Citizenship Room” after school for an hour. The staff works with students to help them make good decision and engage in reflective exercises. Ending at 3:30, students will have to explain to their coaches why they were late for practice.
- Parents questioned whether the administration is permitted to tell the victim’s parents what steps have been taken in dealing with the bullying. Mr. Fenter agreed to look into whether there were privacy issues.
- In response to student and parent concern about bullying issues, the High School held a 1/2 day of assemblies in which the Anti-Defamation League and Facing History and Ourselves gave presentations. Unfortunately, 1/3 of students failed to attend this important day of school.

### School Safety

- Parents are concerned about safety at the schools in light of the recent Parkdale school shooting.
- The schools are protected by former law enforcement officers at their security desks. The recent upgrade to Lloyd Harbor School’s front office security, including safety glass was completed two years ago. West Side school is scheduled for additional safety work this summer.
- The high school has several doors to the outside. The administration is looking at this seriously. Mr. Stuccio is the head of the safety committee and takes this issue very seriously. They are looking to add more security cameras and looking to accelerate all scheduled school safety work.
- The administration is also looking into running safety drills at different times of the day, not just while students are in class, but possibly in between classes or during a lunch period to help prepare for different threat situations.

### Test Returns

- There are still a small number of teachers at the high school who do not return tests to the students so that they can review them at home. For those teachers who do not return tests, the students and their parents now will have the opportunity to review the exams. If parents or students are still not able to access the exams, please contact the director.

## OTHER DISTRICT ITEMS

### Health

- The district has added “Too Good for Drugs” program to LH, will do West Side after Christmas break. Too Good for Drugs is a 5-8 grade school-based program that gives students the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to make good decisions and avoid drug use.

- The high school will extend the Substance Abuse Prevention program to grades 11 and 12.
- The Administration held 1/2 conference day for the health teachers for grades 4,5, and 6.
- The Administration will be addressing parent communication at the elementary level between health teachers and parents. They are considering a Health related newsletter twice/year with students working to generate content.

### Science

- There will be a Science Symposium for the science research program. The students will be sharing their work in May, parents will attend.

### Technology

- Creative learning labs have been unveiled at Lloyd Harbor and Westside. Parents toured them at PTG meetings and students are starting to use them.
- The new website has launched. The site looks different depending on whether you are using a phone or computer or ipad. The site is ADA compliant which is why there is a lot of white in the background. We suggested that there be quick links to the parent portal and the teacher websites.

### Writing

- Parents raised the issue of whether teachers were adequately working on writing with elementary level children. Many of the teachers recently met with staff developers from Columbia Teachers College to train on proper implementation of the program.
- The administration will consider providing workshops for parents on the ELA and writing to further the home-school connection.

### Assessments

- There have been several changes to assessments at a state level this year. The district will send out a letter outlining them. Some of the changes include that the tests have been shortened to two days instead of three. They are un-timed, the standards have been revised.
- Under ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), schools are required to have at least 95% of students taking the assessments. Last year, we had 20% opt out.
- Our schools are making adjustments to our own benchmark assessments, determining which tests are necessary in an effort to minimize testing.

### Code of Conduct

- Parents have discussed the need for one, uniform code of conduct, not just an athletic code of conduct, but one that all students are subject to. There are several areas where rules and regulations are listed, including in the student planners, but parents suggested that a stand-alone sheet of paper that is signed by each student and parents would bear more weight.

### Vaping

- Vaping was addressed on the first day of school in a direct way. This will serve as notification of the policy so that all students are aware of the policy. Violations will be discussed with parents first, another violation will result in punishment.
- Students have already received disciplinary action for vaping and offenders will continue to receive disciplinary action.

- The administration is researching the symptoms to look for in children who are vaping so that the information can be shared with parents.

### Curriculum Committee

- CPC and the Administration will work on a document to establish this committee for next year.

Ongoing:

Class Sizes

School Lunch and Snacks

Returning Tests

Science education in elementary school

Sport Facility

Tutoring

FLES

Science Education

Athletics Schedule

Next Gen Standards

Code of Conduct

Pride Survey

Buses and underutilization

Previous topics: Athletics Scheduling, Busing, Class Sizes, CPC Accessibility, Drivers' Education, Downtime near holiday breaks, Drugs, Flood at HS, 7th Grade Honor Roll, 8th Grade Accelerated Math, Security, Teacher recruitment & retention, Test Scores, Rankings, Lead Testing