

CSH PTG Meeting
Oct. 13, 2020
Via Zoom

Meeting held remotely. Start time 9:35.

In attendance:

From Board of Education: Janice Elkin, Amy Brogan, Ingrid Wright

From PTG: Lynnette Simmons, Tami Stark, Dianne Breitstone, Carol Kessler, Tara Vaccaro,
Irena Dabakarov

Lynette Simmons, PTG President

President's Report:

Minutes approved by Dianne Breitstone, Tami Stark seconded.
PTG will help everyone to try to navigate an unusual year.

Tara Vaccaro, Chair of Committees:

All committees are chaired. Colleen Haskell, Dawn Flower, Nicole Boutis and Tara Dircks and are heading up the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.
The Staff Appreciation Breakfast was pared back but received very favorably by the staff.
This Friday the cafeteria will be decorated for Halloween.

Dianne Breitstone, Membership Chair:

Membership is somewhat stalled at 180 families, which is a 30% participation rate. Not having either Back to School Nights hurt membership as those nights are big solicitation opportunities.
This Friday the directory will be electronically posted.
Weekly Notes are going to only PTG members now.
Please email me with any updates or changes to your contact information.

Lynette Simmons, President:

The budget has been posted as the Treasurer can no longer attend the PTG meetings. We are not sharing the Weekly Notes with the whole school community regardless of membership, as when we had done this awhile back it resulted in a membership decrease. As all main fundraisers for all the parent groups have been cancelled, please join them to show support. Links to groups were then posted in the Chat.

SEPTO:

An evening meeting next week with Denise Campbell is planned to discuss what is working and not working with the virtual teaching model. The date and time will be posted in this Sunday's weekly notes.

Dr. Bolen, Principal:

Spirit Week was moved to the last week of Oct. Monday is pajama day, Tuesday is tie dye day, Wednesday is class color day and Thursday and Friday are Halloween costume days. Each grade gets points for participating in Spirit Week, and the class with the most points has their grade added to the Class Cup. This encourages fun competition.

Due to alternating virtual learning, testing days are no long valid. This is temporary. Teachers do a combination of home and in school testing. They're supposed to rotate between A and B testing at home and at school.

They are trying to roll out GoGuardian software on each student's Chromebook, which is necessary so when tests are taken teachers can see if a student is on a website with answers instead of on their exam, reducing cheating.

Teachers are happy with the social distancing and use of masks. What they are concerned with is the slower pace of instruction, feel the academic pace of the classes is problematic.

Dr, Bolen advised them to focus on skills, worry about content later. Some enriching activities are not being offered due to time constraints.

Have not heard that Regents exams are cancelled, so they are teaching as if they are still going forward, but Dr. Bolen feels it is unlikely that they will be held.

They will add to the high school profile that this quarter (and any others going forward) had alternating virtual instruction.

Tonight the Board of Education is meeting and will discuss the possibility of school returning to in person learning five days a week for all students.

Mr. Bongino, Athletic Director:

Just attended a High School Athletic Director's Association meeting. A few weeks ago a vote was taken by the athletic counsel to postpone sports until Jan. 4, 2021. Winter sports will begin on that date with an 8 week season, fall sports will begin on 3/1 with an 8 week season, and spring sports would also have an 8 week season beginning 4/22. These dates are for both varsity and junior varsity teams.

Sports would end, due to the truncated season, at the County Championship level. Perhaps a Long Island Championship will be held but not definite at this time. The main focus of the athletic directors is to have as much competition as possible.

Some sports are still considered high risk. These are Cheer, Basketball, and Wrestling. If this status does not change by January they would be practice only, no competition. Winter track will go forward outside, probably with smaller teams. This decision is made by the Governor, the Department of Health, and the NYS Athletic Association.

Rules about spectators are under discussion. Currently, each athlete is only allowed two spectators, as decided by the state. The final decision will be left to the district, which they will decide as Jan 4 draws nearer.

This Friday the Junior High Athletic calendar will be discussed. They are looking at the same start date. Mr. Bongino would like to keep the four athletic seasons, six weeks for each season. As there may be a shortage of officials, competition may be scrimmages only with a smaller catchment area.

Mr. Bongino put together a power point proposal, which has been submitted to the school administration. It involves offering the students a program of weight training and conditioning, off season training, practices, etc. to keep them active. He should have more information and feedback in a few weeks about this proposal.

He will put in writing which sports will be available so parents and students can consider which they would like to try out for. Depending upon interest, tryouts and cuts will still take place. There may be limits to the roster size as dictated by the NYS Public High School Assoc. due to social distancing on buses, sidelines, etc.

Lynette Simmons, President:

A survey to gauge interest in a virtual literary luncheon will soon be sent out.

A link to the directory with a password will also be issued shortly.

Our next meeting is at 9:30 on 11/10/20.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.