

Central Parents Council Minutes: January 7, 2021

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Meeting called to order at 9:07 AM.

3. Approval of Minutes for November 5, 2020 Meeting — CPC Secretary, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn

Lynette Simmons motioned to approve the November 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, Genevieve Cimino

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 (9:35 AM - end of meeting)

ON COVID-19 TESTING:

Denise Campbell, our Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Human Resources, spoke about the status of the state's micro-cluster plan given the current growth of the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that while nothing is certain as of the time of this meeting, school officials are expecting Governor Cuomo to issue new guidance which may supersede the previous micro cluster plan. Suffolk County has already hit approximately a 10% positivity rate

for several consecutive days. Right now, the communities that comprise the Cold Spring Harbor school district have infectivity rates that are below the county average, but Ms. Campbell said that the district is ready with various plans in place ready to go depending on state directives. There remains the possibility that we will need to implement testing random samples of 20% of the student and staff population in order to ensure that our schools have sufficiently low rates of infection to remain open. On-site rapid testing would be made available, with nasal swabs rather than the more uncomfortable nasopharyngeal swabs.

—There were questions about what kind of test is acceptable. Ms. Campbell noted that according to the DOH, a rapid test result is acceptable—but if you decide to get a PCR test, you should await those results. Students and staff can choose to get tested on-campus at the high school, or to use another medical office/laboratory to get tested.

—Someone asked whether the administration anticipates people refusing to have their asymptomatic children tested. Ms. Campbell expressed faith in the community's desire to help keep the schools open.

—Ms. Campbell made clear that students who are already sick, quarantined, or in the same household as a student selected for testing would not be part of the 20% testing sample. She said that the samples would be truly randomized and also current.

—Somebody else asked whether the random-sampling test requirement would be triggered by case numbers in our immediate vicinity. Ms. Campbell said that while the original micro-cluster plan was going to use zip codes, the state may decide to use overall county-wide numbers.

—Another parent was worried that her special-needs child might be traumatized by testing. Ms. Campbell said that extenuating circumstances would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

—Someone wanted to know whether teachers and other faculty will be included by Gov. Cuomo in the next round of vaccinations; Ms. Campbell said that the hope is that faculty will be eligible by early February.

—Someone else wanted to know if the vaccine gets approved for children under the age of 16, whether such vaccinations will be mandatory for school attendance. Ms. Campbell did not have information about that. She did note that distancing and masking will likely continue into the next school year.

—A parent asked whether there has been any in-school spread of COVID. Ms. Campbell noted that so far, according to the contact tracers, all cases of COVID have been brought into the school by community-acquired cases, and none have led to school-acquired new cases.

ON THE FEBRUARY 1 DEADLINE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN GRADES K THROUGH 6 TO CHOOSE LEARNING MODE:

Ms. Campbell said that another placement survey would go out to Goosehill, LHS, and WSS parents later this month in order for them to choose how to continue their children's education past 2/1 —via in-person or remote learning, and (if in-person) their choice of transportation.

—A parent asked whether we would have to commit from 2/1 through the end of school. Ms. Campbell indicated that the next commitment would not be through June, though she could not say at this time when the next date for reconsideration would be.

OTHER BUSINESS:

—A parent asked why the administration decided to make learning virtual during the few days before winter break. Mr. Fenter and Ms. Campbell noted that the local number of COVID cases had already begun climbing, and with some families beginning to travel, contact tracing would have been more difficult if schools remained open for in-person learning.

—Another parent raised a concern about remote students in the junior/senior high school cheating on graded schoolwork. Mr. Fenter asked that this issue be directed specifically to Mr. Bolen, that school's principal. CSH PTG president Lynette Simmons reiterated that Mr. Bolen is accessible and receptive to inquiries, and she offered to serve as a liaison to him if need be. CPC Chair Cristina Monterroso reminded the audience that issues should initially be brought up to your child's teacher, then (if not resolved) the principal, and finally, if need be, to district-wide administration.

—A parent inquired about testing later this spring. Mr. Fenter said that New York state tests for grades 3 through 8 are scheduled as of now. Regents exams have been cancelled for January but remain planned for June. The Board of Regents will be discussing its schedule this month. AP tests are still scheduled; at the end of the past academic year their length was reduced due to the pandemic, but it is unclear whether that will still be the case this year.

9. Important Dates

Next BOE meetings (virtual): Tuesday, January 12 at 8 PM

Next CPC meeting (virtual): Thursday, February 4 at 9 AM

10. Meeting Adjournment — Cristina Monterroso

Jennifer Kornreich Cahn motioned to end the meeting, and Heather Morante Young seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.