

CFA Minutes

October 3, 2017 Meeting held in JHS Library @ 9:30 am – first meeting of the school year

In attendance: Wendi DeSchutter, Tara Vaccaro, Lynette Simmons, Christina Goetjen, Mr. Bolen, Mr. Fenter, Lizabeth Squicciarino, Andrea Will, Jennifer Keschner, Ingrid Wright, Monica Stingi, Carol Terracciano, Vicki Lampeas, Dianne Breitstone, Ana Shammah, Michele Theobald, Tami Schneider, Suzi Berg, Amy Brogan, Beth Packert, Stephanie DiNozzi, Jenean Ketterer, Karen Reiter, Dana Lynch.

BOE Board Members in attendance: Ingrid Wright and Amy Brogan

May 9, 2017 minutes reviewed and approved by: Approved by Tara Vaccaro and seconded by Wendi DeSchutter

Wendi DeSchutter: CFA-PTG President

President's Report:

- Board Introduction- members of the CFA-PTG Executive Board were introduced.
- Approval of May 9, 2017 minutes. Tara approved and Wendi seconded.

Tara says membership is currently at 223. Directories have been distributed. Mr. Bolen says there's an estimated 500-600 families (948 students). Wendi begins by explaining that we want to change our name to CHS PTG and in addition to noting the change in our by-laws, we need to vote on it. Response from those in attendance indicates that all are in favor.

- Wendi says we need volunteers for JHS Liaison (with an accompanying Committee) and for May 9, 2018 Literary Luncheon.
- Wendi announces that the cocktail party that was held at Acker Residence on 9/15/17 was a success. The event had a great turnout and our goal of publicizing the CFA-PTG was achieved.

Guest Speaker: Monica Stingi

- Announces that April 18, 2017 is Literary Luncheon date. The novel chosen is "Lilac Girls." Tomorrow (10/4) is the first meeting. Hoping to get a student to review the book and publish the review in local paper.

- FOCUS discussion to be held on Oct 19, 2017 in PAC @ 7pm. Dr. Stephen Dewey will speak on The Effect of Drug and Alcohol Use on the Developing Brain. Parents and students are encouraged to attend what is sure to be an unforgettable discussion.

- First SIT meeting was yesterday (10/2) and the chairperson is a student this year. They are in the process of outlining their goals for the year and she says there will be a continued focus on the educating our students about the harmful effects of Drug and Alcohol Use.

- CPC meeting is approaching (10/5/17). Parents are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Bolen

Principal's Report:

- Spirit week is this week culminating in Pep Rally on Friday, Oct 6, 2017. Due to this, early dismissal drill (that was previously scheduled for Oct 6th) is now moved to Nov 3, 2017.

- Shipment of Junior High agendas are expected to arrive in approximately two weeks. Mr. Bolen states that he hopes to eventually eliminate the need for agendas and utilize Canvas calendar for this purpose. He explains that teachers are still getting comfortable with Canvas and working out the kinks a bit. If there are issues, he suggests having the students alert the teachers right away.

In response to question regarding Chromebooks, Mr. Bolen says students are improving on a daily basis. Mr. Bolen sees the evolution of Chromebooks to be a positive one. He will inquire about printing from the Chromebook directly to a home printer.

- Mr. Bolen says Dr. Dewey's upcoming presentation for SIT will likely have memorable impact on listeners. The presentation will be posted online so other grades can view it.

- Speaking about the clubs at our school, he says our school is fortunate to offer such a large variety of clubs. Often clubs meet Tuesday and Thursday. Morning times would be difficult to accommodate but if the advisor is up for it, it's possible to offer morning times for clubs as well. Any students interested should speak to their advisor.

Mr. Fenter

Superintendent's Report:

- Thrilled that we are discussing the Chromebook Initiative and how our

students are using them so effectively in and out of the classroom. Our teachers and staff are still discovering ways to foster a better learning experience for our children. Our goal is not to go paperless but to prepare our students to excel in a technologically advanced world. Upper class teachers are eager to acquire them next September 2018.

- Creative learning labs are offered in our elementary schools. Such learning spaces are currently at West Side and soon to come to Lloyd Harbor and Goosehill.
 - Over \$200 of improvements in our school.
 - Conversations of Drug and Alcohol Awareness – looking to offer these programs for the upperclass students who missed out on them when they were 10th/11th graders.
 - JHS students will have more future opportunities to bond with their peers – in the form of team building exercises later in the year.
 - Mr. Fenter discussed district goals: wanting to improve student writing, immediate data review, and science research.
 - In response to question about online bullying, internet safety, and digital citizenship, he says we will endeavor to teach our students in CSH not to be part of that and help them navigate safely through the internet. Parent response indicates that all are in favor of offering these programs for all throughout the school, not just at the JHS level but at the HS level as well. Mr. Bolen adds that this year we have a dedicated full-time psychologist (Dr. Maim) for 7th and 8th graders. She hosts social-emotional learning games for the entire middle school.

Guest Speaker: Ana Shammah

- Veteran's Day, November 8 and 9, 2017: We will be hosting a lunch for veterans who come to talk with the 7 and 8th social studies classes and 11th grade history classes. We need volunteers to bring food in for breakfast and snacks. She passed out sign-up sheets.

Guest Speaker: Stephanie DiNozzi

Educational Foundation

- 5 years = \$500,000 donated. The Foundation has been successful due to group effort between families, schools, and the community. She says they don't do many fundraisers but all money raised goes directly to the students. For example, the Chromebook Initiative (7,8,9th grades) has been a direct product of the Foundation. They are committed to providing Chromebooks for every

student in every grade by September 2018. She urges us to continue to spread the word about the Foundation.

- Issue raised about payment of dues for CPC and FOCUS for the year. Discussion to be continued among the Board members.

Meeting adjourned at 11 am.