

Central Parent Council Minutes

Thursday, 01/18/2024

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Call to Order, Chair Report — CPC Chair, Tara Belfi

The meeting was called to order at 9:07am

To accommodate time constraints of our special guest speaker, the order of our meeting items were adjusted.

3. Presentation: Dangers of Social Media; SCPD Officer Jesse Levy

Officer Jesse Levy lead a presentation on internet safety and responsible usage of social media.

The following are key points that were emphasized within the presentation:

- Smartphones are one of the most addictive things we know of and use daily. **Games played on smartphones began the trend of addiction and shortly following that, social media apps took note of the addictive attributes of games** and applied them to their own software. These apps can lead to behavior that is addictive, impulsive, or dangerous.
- Popular mobile apps:
 - o Snapchat
 - o Instagram
 - o TikTok
 - o Omega
 - o YouTube
 - o X
 - o Facebook
 - o BeReal.
- Children as young as 3rd grade are aware of certain mobile apps however, **13 yrs. old is the legal minimum age required for most social media apps.** This is because *The Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule*

prohibits use, and/or disclosure of personal information from and about children on the internet. **Despite this rule, many children access apps by falsifying their birthdate or by gaining access in other ways.**

- Parents should keep in mind that children are using devices that belong to the parents. **Everything that happens on those devices is the parent's responsibility.**

- **Once you agree to the terms of use for an app, you are giving the company legal permission to steal your information.** For example:
 - once you take a photo from an app, the photo is no longer yours. Instead, it belongs to the company which owns the app.
 - Photos and videos that have seemed to be private or deleted actually may still exist in the app's database or as a screen-capture on someone else's phone
 - The app may gather your location data for marketing purposes, but can also sell your information to other data companies with the wrong motives.
 - Some game apps aren't necessarily made for the purpose of the game. Some of them are made mainly to steal your information.

- The **sharing of location** or accidentally posting photos with hints of your location (for example, movie tickets, a restaurant, a school mascot, etc.) poses serious dangers to users, even allowing predators to easily track the precise location of their target in real time.

- **Online predators**, particularly on gaming apps like Roblox, can easily pose as young students looking to enjoy a game with new friends, creating the perfect setting for **online grooming**. Disabling the chat feature is an effective way to prevent this.

- **Kids should not be online when the parents are not home.** Kids should never tell a stranger (adult or child) that they are home alone.

- **Cyber bullying** has taken over school bullying. Though cyber bullying occurs online, victims may be inclined to react irrationally, leading the victim to become the aggressor in some cases. It is advised to not respond to a cyber bullying message and to end it by saying, 'Stop contacting me.'. In serious cases, screenshot it and send it to the police. He added that one can be arrested for aggravated harassment in the second degree starting at age seventeen.
- Officer Levy noted that depression is now higher than ever. He advised that **parents should remind their children daily to stick up for other kids.**
- **"TikTok" challenges** such as the Tide Pod challenge, vandalism challenge, and the Benadryl challenge were a few social media trends that have gotten students into serious trouble both with their own schools and with law enforcement.
- What can parents do:
 - Track Screen Time (with apple devices)
 - Track Digital Wellbeing (with android devices)
 - Share My location
 - Track your child's location in real time
 - Life 360 – a family location safety app
 - Monitoring apps
 - Phone Shriff
 - Bark
 - Net Nanny
- A parent reminded everyone to tell our kids to not be afraid to step up in a potentially serious situation. TikTok challenges can get kids into trouble on their own, but kids should not be afraid to stop the situation from snowballing into something worse if someone becomes seriously hurt.

Ms. Gierasch added that in our district, the Chromebooks used by students are monitored with GoGuardian. Students who use their own private devices are also being filtered if they are logged on to the school Wi-fi. If students are searching for inappropriate content, or exhibit online behavior related to thoughts of suicide, the district administration is notified.

Mr. Monastero added helpful information that can be found on our CPC website using [this link](#).

5. Approval of Minutes from 11/16/2023 CPC Meeting

— CPC Secretary, Joann Kuncewitch

Erin Rechler mcd to approve the November 2023 minutes, and Monica Wells seconded.

4. Treasury Report — CPC Treasurer, Erin Rechler

5. School and Organization Reports:

Goosehill Primary School (GHPTG)

Lloyd Harbor School (LHSPTG)

West Side School (WSSPTG)

CSH Junior/Senior High School (CSHPTG)

CSH Special Education PTO (SEPTO)

Arts Booster Club (ABC)

Cultural Arts Committee (CAC)

Families of the Community United with Schools (FOCUS)

CSH Educational Foundation

6. District Updates — Jill Gierasch, Superintendent; Genevieve LaGattuta, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Ms. Gierasch gave a brief summary of Covert Investigations roll in the security of our school campuses throughout our district. Covert Investigations is providing services to be an extra resource for thorough security planning as well as assisting with speed in response timing during emergency situations.

A parent commented about student computer usage. She stated she was pleased with the ban of using phones on the school bus but she mentioned that children are using their chrome books on the bus to play games. Ms. Gierasch responded that the students'

chrome books are monitored for inappropriate activity, including games. The parent added that the game, Geometry Dash ends up not being a game about geometry.

Ms. Gierasch announced that there will be an upcoming curriculum night in February that will be replacing last year's STEAM night.

Ms. Gierasch announced that in March, the district will hold the annual Teacher's Sports Night charity event for Corey's Promise.

Ms. Gierasch announced that the new science wing was recently renovated and will be opening soon. The new STEAM wing is multipurpose for robotics. Currently, the robotics club does not have its own storage space and the district is building a double doors closet to accommodate their storage needs.

Ms. Gierasch announced that Mr. Danbusky has received feedback from parents regarding Regents scores and the weighting of the scores and will discuss this topic during the February BOE meeting.

STAR assessment reports will be discussed with parents during the next parent-teacher conferences. The STAR report presentation provided by our administration can be found here: [Informational Meeting for Families Gr. 2-8, January 2024 \(Star, CBT & Title I\) \(1\).pdf - Google Drive](#)

Ms. Gierasch announced that due to declining enrolment over the past 8 years, we are potentially losing approximately \$600,000 in state aid if Governor Kathy Hochul's proposed changes pass. Governor Kathy Hochul is proposing changes to the formula that determines school aid for districts. The BOE will review the budget over the next few meetings. A parent added that since the change has not been passed yet, parents can make a difference if they reach out to Albany.

8. Parent Questions/New Business

No new Questions were asked in this portion of the meeting

9. Important Dates to Remember:

BOE Work Session —Tuesday, 1/30/24, 7:45 High School Library
February BOE Meeting — Tuesday, 2/13/24, 8 PM

District Wide Family Night—Thursday, 2/15/24
Next CPC Meeting — Thursday, 1/18, 9 AM District Office

10. Meeting Adjournment — CPC Chair, Tara Belfi

Joann Kuncewitch motioned to adjourn, and Dori O'Brien seconded at 11:31am.