

## **CSH PTG June 11, 2020**

Via Zoom

In attendance: Lynette Simmons, Genevieve Cimino, Dianne Breitstone, Irena Dabakarov, Dr. Bolen, Mr. Monastero

Meeting began 9:00am

### **Lynette Simmons, PTG President**

#### **President's report:**

President outlined agenda and welcomed new sixth grade families from both elementary schools. Congratulated Jr High 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates, then congratulated Senior High 2020 graduates.

Announced slate for 2020 – 2021 board. There will be no changes as everyone is willing to stay on. The nominating process was difficult due to coronavirus constraints.

The 2020 Literary Luncheon has been cancelled due to the pandemic, too much uncertainty about the fall, and too many rescheduled events already crowding the calendar. The event chairs did not cash anyone's checks so they will be destroyed at end of the month unless they hear otherwise. Monica Stingi and Claire Costa will help the new chairs, Sandra Reilly and Caroline Tsekerides, and they have already begun working on next year's luncheon. They signed Christine Baker Klein, #1 NYT bestselling author, who's book "The Exiles" is due to be published in September. Next year's luncheon will take place on April 14<sup>th</sup> at HCC. Huge thank you to Monica and Claire for their enthusiastic work to date and for their involvement next year as they graciously offered to help the new chairs.

Lynette also thanked Melinda Mannino for chairing Beautification. Looking for someone to do it next year.

Thank you Monica Stingi for heading up the senior lawn sign project. Any money made went back into making sure all seniors received a sign. Some community signs were also sold.

## **Genevieve Cimino, PTG Treasurer**

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Since the Literary Luncheon was cancelled, there's been a negative impact on the PTG financials. We began with \$31,100 in the beginning of the 2020 school year, and will have \$22,000 to begin 2021, giving us a \$10,000 deficit. This shortfall will force the board to be fiscally conservative in the next school year. We're unable to contribute to Cultural Arts due to the Literary Luncheon cancellation of 2020. Sandra Reilly has been notified. The PTG received back its deposit. The school district also provides funding and will do so again this year, no amount yet advised. If every family purchases a PTG membership, no fundraiser will be needed, and the shortfall would be erased. Membership is very important to us at this financial stage.

Senior scholarships went ahead for four seniors for \$250 each.

The PTG made some money from the signs, not much.

## **Dianne Breitstone, PTG Membership Chair**

Membership is more important than ever. There are approximately 600 families in the school. We received about 300 PTG membership families this past year. Fee is now \$40 for membership beginning in 2020 - 2021. This money will help us with all our programs, beautification, etc. Membership entitles you to weekly emails, PDF directory, and the PTG's support of all the programs, which enhance a student's experience. Dianne is happy to answer any emailed questions.

## **Dr. Bolen, School Principal**

Eight e-mailed questions received, two and three are similar:

1. Will the 8<sup>th</sup> grade DC trip move forward? Fall looks not possible; it will most likely be combined with 2021 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the spring of 2021. Not yet definite, but looking at this strongly.
2. How will learning be different next year? There is a district wide task force to study opening plans. Traditional model w/ social distancing regulations, one-way hallways, reduced use of lockers, alternating days, online learning when home vs. days in school, less students per classroom, all not yet determined. Depends upon if

we're in phase 4 when schools open. If school can't open due to state regulations, online distance learning will occur, but will be different than this past spring, during which the "emergency distance learning" plan was implemented. As the school year of 2019 - 2020 began with classroom instruction through early March, policies and procedures in classrooms were already in place, teachers knew their students, and AP teachers were readying kids for their AP exams. In the fall, the teachers won't know their students who also won't know each other, so things need to be different. May break day into two parts: periods 1 to 4, then 5 to 9 alternating days, so more time with teachers. This will be used for both a second wave and a non-opening in Sept. This is something new. Members of the administration, board, and parents are on the task member board. They plan on sending out surveys to families and teachers, then spending the summer outlining their plan.

3. How will school look next year? Many unknowns. Not sure how it's going to go due to virus spikes from social gatherings and protest marches. They're early in the planning stages but want a safe school environment, with an appropriate level of instruction. Dr. Bolen thinks this time next year everyone will be back in the building.

Emotional affects of social distance learning include no camaraderie, decreased emotional well being, etc. Pupil personnel district wide is looking at this. Some students enjoy distance learning, others not. Fourteen weeks out of school so far. Getting students back into a routine both at home and at school when full time in person instruction begins needs to be addressed. Large transition.

4. Why let teachers go when more need to be hired to social distance next year? Teachers have been excessed. 3 years ago over 950 students, next year about 800. Loss of 150 students. Staffing is based upon number of students in the schools and number of courses and sections that are being run. If we need to social distance they will try to bring back extra staff as they can if necessary.

5. Plans for lunchroom/cafeteria - how will food be handled? They're waiting for state guidance on this. Move lunch to new gym, students sit six feet apart, kids just bring lunch, order day before from limited menu -- all of these things are being considered and are awaiting guidance from the state.

6. Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders -- no in person orientation. Last week Miss Waters, Dr. B and 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers zoomed with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in math classes. Reintroduced themselves and took questions. Also put together a presentation, which include video links, which included the building and some

teachers. They plan on having an orientation date before school opens for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders the day before opening, no matter when opening is.

7. Change.org petition school response – any implementations being discussed?

Mr. Fenter sent a district-wide letter. Dr. Bolen sent via YouTube a message to students yesterday talking about this as well as via canvas. Wonderful time to reflect upon actions and inactions. As building principal, Dr. Bolen wants every student to feel safe, secure and comfortable in school, both in classrooms and hallways.

Petition is a wonderful thing to have to spark a conversation. Always open to this kind of conversation, always striving to be better. Mr. Fenter, board members and other members of the administration will be meeting with the students who brought the petition this week to discuss further.

Open to questions:

Lynette asked about athletic options. Determined by the section. Mr. Buongino is keeping Dr. Bolen apprised, but no fall decision yet made. Some sports may occur and others not. The state athletic division makes the determination. He thinks the decision will be made in early August, but not sure.

Tara asked about seniors. Anything else happening for seniors aside from delivery of awards and signs? Athletic and academic awards were delivered, yearbooks coming Monday, perhaps another parade, modified senior day where seniors come in to pick up yearbooks and cap and gowns. Possibly June 24, then graduation ceremony two weeks later. Wants to make the two events different. Drive in type ceremony seniors with their parents stay in cars. There were be two large LED screens on either side of the stage, so everyone can see what's happening, and will have FM radio broadcasting into the cars. Graduates can get out of the cars, line up and cross the stage, have their photo taken, and then return to their cars. 163 graduates, 180 max for the gathering. Tassel turning cap toss can be done at the end of the ceremony of July 8. This will be the last senior event, as some seniors leaving in July for college.

Gen Cimino asked a question: fourth quarter grading – pass/fail by class, or all the classes? By individual class.

Lynette thanked Mr. Monastero for helping us hold a district wide Zoom meeting.

Ended at 9:40