

Central Parent Council Agenda

Thursday, 09/22/2022

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Call to Order, Chair Report** — CPC Chair, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn
Meeting called to order at 9:12am
- 3. Approval of Minutes from 05/26/22 CPC Meeting**
— CPC Secretary, Joann Kuncewitch
Jenny Willenbacher motioned to approve the May 2022 minutes, and Jennifer Kornreich Cahn seconded.
- 4. Treasury Report** — CPC Treasurer, Bernadette Flynn
- 5. School and Organization Reports:**
 - Goosehill Primary School (GHPTG)
 - Lloyd Harbor School (LHSPTG)
 - West Side School (WSSPTG)
 - CSH Junior/Senior High School (CSHPTG)
 - Arts Booster Club (ABC)
 - Cultural Arts Committee (CAC)
 - Families of the Community United with Schools (FOCUS)
 - Special Education Parent Teacher Organization (SEPTO)
 - CSH Educational Foundation
- 6. Presentation: Updates Regarding Curricula, Infrastructure, Policies, Achievements** — Superintendent Jill Gierasch; Assistant Superintendents Christine Costa, Mona Hecht, and Genevieve LaGattuta

Ms. Gierasch began by stating that the new school year has begun with lots of positive energy coming into this new school year. Goosehill Primary and West Side School both hosted wonderful back to school family events and it was great to see everyone back together again.

Regarding the Secondary School, Ms. Gierasch noted that Mr. Danbusky has put an end to cell phone use in school. The feedback has been very positive and the improvement in social interactions is already evident.

Ms. Gierasch proudly announced that Lloyd Harbor School has received The National Blue Ribbon Award. This prestigious award is the highest honor an American school can achieve and recognizes schools based on their overall academic excellence.

Ms. Gierasch encouraged everyone to attend this year's Homecoming event. This will be a community-wide event for all ages. The PTGs have all become involved in organizing activities that are enjoyable for our younger students with activities such as face painting, games, a petting zoo, and more. In addition to the football game, families are also welcome to root for the girls tennis team and the boys varsity soccer team.

Regarding administrative goals, security is currently a main focus. The district is re-evaluating areas in which our building security can improve. At this time, a parent asked if there are supposed to be security guards present after sports during student pick-up time. Ms. Gierasch responded that the coaches are supposed to stay with their students until every child is picked up and that there is supposed to be a security guard in the parking lot loop. Ms. Gierasch advised the parent to reach out to the coach regarding this matter.

In addition to security of the buildings, the district is also looking into ways to improve the district cyber security. At this time, a parent asked if there are any plans to have the community police provide a presentation for our students. Ms. Gierasch responded that the community police will provide a presentation for the Jr./Sr. high students in the upcoming months.

Ms. Gierasch added that the administration wants to make sure that the school staff is well trained to handle major crises that would involve stop-the-bleed training.

Regarding bus transportation, there were some difficulties in the beginning weeks due to conflict in scheduling with another school district. Those issues have been resolved. The district is in the process of creating an automated change-in-transportation form and is looking to move away from the paper forms and emails. A parent asked if morning bus pick-up times can be pushed back, especially for the Goosehill students who board the bus at 7:35am. Ms. Gierasch replied that data is being collected and that if there is any room to adjust pick-up time, it will be pushed to a later time. She advised the parent to reach out to the transportation coordinator, Jean Luna.

Ms. Gierasch thanked Ms. Lagattuta for our new printed curriculum guides for K-8. These guides are available now, many of which have been distributed at the back to school nights. Ms. Gierasch added that parents of High School students will be able to see what their child is learning on a monthly basis. Ms. Gierasch also thanked Ms. Hecht for our monthly guidance newsletters.

7. Parent Questions/New Business

A parent expressed concern that the school district's use of Twitter can seem contradictory to their views on social media. Ms. Gierasch responded that balance can be created. This platform is used as a "window" into the classroom to help parents understand how the lessons are being

taught. Ms. Gierasch added that the PTGs and Administration is aware to not take posed photographs, but rather to have photos of students engaging in the lessons as they occur.

A few parents expressed that their children need to have review courses. A parent added that it would be helpful to provide review courses early in the student's learning process rather than only offering review courses shortly before a scheduled exam. Ms. Gierasch that teachers do provide extra help regularly and that parents should reach out to teachers.

A parent asked a question about the approach of preparing their younger child for AP and college courses for the future. Ms. Gierasch stated that guidance nights will be provided for high school parents. She added that the counselors are paying attention to each student as an individual and making sure that the appropriate course load is selected.

A parent asked if students will learn general test taking strategies. Ms. Gierasch stated that study skills courses were provided last May and administration is looking to offer those courses again spread throughout the year.

A parent asked about the district's action to decrease the staff turnover rate. Ms. Gierasch stated that Mr. Huntsman was hired to ensure that the staff received the support they need for continued success.

A parent asked if extra help is being provided for learning loss of young elementary school students due to the pandemic. Ms. Gierasch responded that there is indeed learning-loss, but the district does not want to overwhelm young elementary students to "catch up". Ms. Gierasch stated that the lessons to support young elementary students with learning-loss are embedded within the class lessons.

8. Important Dates to Remember:

Homecoming— Friday, 10/7, 6:30 PM

Next Board of Education meeting —Tuesday, 10/18, 8 PM

Next CPC meeting — Thursday, 10/20, 9 AM

9. Meeting Adjournment — CPC Chair, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn

11:08am. Bernadette Flynn motioned to adjourn, and Michele Gulitti seconded.