

# **Central Parent Council Minutes: November 18, 2021**

## **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

## **2. Call to Order — CPC Chair, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn**

Meeting called to order at 9:08am

## **3. Chair Report — CPC Chair, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn**

## **4. Approval of Minutes from the 10/21/2021 CPC Meeting**

— CPC Secretary, Joann Kuncewitch

Lisa Smith moved to approve the October 2021 minutes, and Bernadette Flynn seconded.

## **5. Status & Resolution Report — CPC Vice Chair, Michele Gulitti**

## **6. Treasury Report— CPC Treasurer, Bernadette Flynn**

## **7. 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

## **8. Guest Speaker — Joseph Monastero, Executive Director of Instructional and Administrative Technology**

We welcomed Mr. Monastero to speak about digital citizenship and responsible use of technology. Mr. Monastero described age-level appropriate technology use, emphasizing

that digital experiences of children should be supervised, especially for ages 9 and under. For older children, parents should be involved and provide oversight with digital usage. Mr. Monastero explained that "Digital Footprint" is taught beginning in fourth grade to make students aware that what they post can affect their future for the long-term.

Mr. Monastero described the difference between responsible technology use and too much "poor quality screentime", which can affect one's emotional and physical health in a negative manner. Mr. Monastero emphasized the importance of having conversations with children regarding social media applications and to have children understand that much of what is posted is edited to portray unrealistic ideals.

Mr. Monastero explained that while digital devices are extremely useful educational tools, media-free time is extremely important and valuable. He pointed out that the greatest engineers learn and solve problems best by using their hands.

**Presentation Link:** [Digital Wellness Presentation – CPC 11/18/2021](#)

## **9. Parent Questions/New Business**

A parent of West Side School students expressed concerns about politics and social issues being brought into the classrooms in the form of book choices as well as in required textbooks. This parent expressed she would like to see a stronger focus on academic subjects at school. Additionally, she suggested to give the students a broad choice of books. Ms. Jill Gierasch, Superintendent of Schools, responded that parents are invited to attend curriculum presentations, particularly Math Night which is an upcoming event. Regarding book choices, Ms. Gierasch explained that each teacher chooses books based on the unit of study at the time. Ms. Gierasch agreed there should be balance in the content and topics of the books. Regarding Summer reading lists, Ms. Gierasch explained that book lists in the near future will be created by the teachers, which administration will then approve. Regarding learning-loss due to the pandemic in grades 7-12, a study skills course will be formed to re-build study skills that may have been weakened during the pandemic. Ms. Genevieve LaGattuta, Assistant Superintendent for

Curriculum and Instruction, added that administration has been working with teachers to inform parents of what their children will be learning in the next unit of study as they come up.

A parent of students in both the Jr. And Sr. high schools expressed that her child was not prepared academically before entering junior high. She stated that the junior high students received vocabulary books in 7th grade that they were unprepared to use. This parent feels that the vocabulary curriculum from the elementary schools were inadequate. Ms. Lagattuta described that our schools are using Teachers College literacy program. This program allows students to learn vocabulary in an authentic manner. She explained that reading workshop and writing workshop is when vocabulary is taught addressed during the school day, and that new vocabulary is introduced through a more organic process rather than straight from a book. Ms. Gierasch added that research shows that students learn words more effectively through an organic process. Vocabulary words are displayed throughout the classroom.

A parent expressed interest in extending the study skills course for 7th- 12th graders to be offered to 5th and 6th graders as well to help prepare students for junior high school.

A parent requested that a list of books which are being used during the academic year be provided to the parents at the start of the year to help parents understand what the students will be learning. The parent also added that students' submitted and graded school work has not been returned back to the students so that they can review corrections for themselves.

A parent expressed concern that her child's spelling ability is several grade levels behind their current grade level. She has spoken to her child's teachers but has seen no improvement. The parent stated she's concerned that her child will not be ready for Jr. high school. Ms. Gierasch responded that it is important to speak with the department head if her child has not received the support that they need. She explained that the

services she is requesting are available and she should contact the department head if the services have not been initiated.

A parent asked about why school was in session the day before Thanksgiving this year. Ms. Gierasch described the way this school calendar was created. Ms. Gierasch added that a survey will be sent to parents within the next few weeks regarding next year's school calendar.

### **10. Important Dates to Remember:**

Board of Education meetings —Tuesday, 12/14 and Tuesday, 1/11, 8 PM

Next CPC meeting — Thursday, 1/20, 9 AM

### **11. Meeting Adjournment — CPC Chair, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn**

Liz Halpern motioned to end the meeting, and Joann Kuncewitch seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 11:21AM