

# **Central Parent Council Minutes: January 20, 2022**

*\*This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Video Conferencing due to a recent surge in Covid cases.*

## **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

## **2. Call to Order, Chair Report —**

CPC Chair, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn

Meeting called to order at 9:02am

## **3. Approval of Minutes from the 1/20/2022 CPC Meeting**

— CPC Secretary, Joann Kuncewitch

Michele Gulitti moved to approve the November 2022 minutes, and Jennifer Kornreich Cahn seconded.

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

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

## **6. 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

## **7. Guest Speaker — Brent Chiarello, Music Department Chair**

We welcomed Mr. Chiarello to speak. We were pleased he could join us on short notice to present an overview of the NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) spring festival as many students in our district are preparing to participate.

Mr. Chiarello explained that last year's festival was virtual. This year, the NYSSMA festival will be held in-person.

Further information regarding NYSSMA may be found here:

[Cold Spring Harbor Music / NYSSMA / LISFA \(csh.k12.ny.us\)](https://www.csh.k12.ny.us/cold-spring-harbor-music-nyssma-lisfa)

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

9:34am

*Questions for this meeting were submitted in advance to the following email address and were read during the meeting:  
centralparentcouncil.csh@gmail.com*

A parent asked about our safety measures for transgender and cisgender children in the setting of multi-stall bathrooms and locker rooms. A NYSED Guidance document provided by the parent was forwarded to administration prior to this meeting. Ms. Jill Gierasch stated that this topic was addressed at the November 2021 CPC Meeting and was also discussed at the December 2021 BOE Meeting.

A parent asked about how the district is addressing the decrease in both New York State and AP test scores. Ms. Genevieve LaGattuta stated that there has, indeed, been a dip in test scores for grades 5 and 7 (current grades 6 and 8). Ms. LaGattuta explained that at the elementary level, STAR Reading and STAR Math is being used to screen for progress and to identify students in need. Additionally, IXL diagnostic assessments are being administered (with a goal of 4 times per year) to identify skills for students to work on. Ms. LaGattuta stated that at the secondary level, students who need extra support in math attend math class twice per day (core math class *plus* math lab). Ms. LaGattuta added that a study skills program will be held outside of school hours likely within the next two months. Ms. Libertini, director of STEM, added that teachers are receiving continued training on establishing fluency and identifying skills that need to be worked on.

A parent reiterated the concern that children are being taught the following topics at the elementary level and expressed her opinion that these topics should be avoided: activism, social political topics of climate change & global warming, and literature articles that promote social justice. The parent added that American civics should be emphasized in elementary education.

Ms. Gierasch reiterated that specific questions about topics being taught should first be discussed with the teachers. Ms. Gierasch added that the principal should be contacted for issues that are not resolved. Ms. Libertini stated that students first learn about the weather in kindergarten. She added that lessons about weather and the environment progress with each grade level. Ms. Libertini explained that an AP environmental course is available and discusses solutions to minimize human impact on the environment.

Regarding curriculum, both Ms. Gierasch and Ms. LaGattuta mentioned that parent curriculum guides will be available for reference for the next school year.

A parent asked for the difference between DEI and CRT. Ms. Gierasch stated that the definition of DEI has been posted on our district website. Ms. Gierasch added that CRT is not taught in our schools, therefore it will not be discussed in our meetings.

A question was asked about the solution regarding use of masks while teaching speech delayed students. Ms. Tina Smith explained that clear masks for both teachers and students to use during their speech lessons have been utilized. If these masks fog during the lessons, masks can be removed for a brief amount of time.

A parent asked about SEL questions for students, specifically, what is done with this information, and does it become part of the student's permanent record? Ms. Gierasch answered that the information provided does not become part of their permanent record and that parents are entitled to view their child's responses.

A parent expressed concern that the grade books in the high school are not being updated as the grades come in, rather, the grades are being updated just before the end of the marking period. The parent requested that grades be updated in a timelier process as it causes stress for students and parents. Ms. Gierasch stated that this concern has been discussed with Mr. Danbusky after being raised at a previous meeting. Mg. Gierasch added that teachers should be contacted directly if papers are not being graded and returned on time.

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

Next Board of Education meetings —Tuesday, 2/8, 8 PM

Next CPC meeting — Thursday, 2/17, 9 AM

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

Michele Gulitti motioned to end the meeting, and Joann Kuncewitch seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25am