

Central Parents Council Minutes: February 4, 2021

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Welcome, Call to Order — CPC Chair, Cristina Monterroso

Meeting called to order at 9:06 AM.

3. Approval of Minutes for January 7, 2021 Meeting — CPC Secretary, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn

Lisa Smith motioned to approve the November minutes; Michele Gulitti seconded.

4. CPC Chair Report — CPC Chair, Cristina Monterroso

5. CPC Status and Resolution Report — CPC Vice-Chair, Heather

Morante Young In addition to giving the S&R report, Heather Young introduced the CPC's new treasurer, Randa Reford.

6. CPC Treasurer Report — CPC Treasurer, Randa Reford

7. School and Club Organizational Reports:

Goosehill Parent Teacher Group (GHPTG), Junior/Senior High School Parent Teacher Group (CHSPTG), Lloyd Harbor School Parent Teacher Group (LHSPTG), West Side School Parent Teacher Group (WSSPTG), Junior/Senior High School Parent Teacher Group (CHSPTG), Cultural Arts Committee (CAC), Families of the Community United with Schools (FOCUS), Arts Booster Club (ABC), Special Education Parent Teacher Organization (SEPTO), Seahawks Booster Club (SBC), Cold Spring Harbor Education Foundation

In addition to the submitted reports, Beth Packert gave an update regarding the ongoing community outreach classes that have been coordinated by FOCUS. She noted that there have already been two spin classes with Lindsey Vine, and there will be upcoming yoga, cooking, baking, and flower-arranging classes. This initiative is a way for connecting community members with one another during the pandemic.

8. Presentation (9:31 AM-9:52 AM)

Joseph Monastero, our Executive Director of Instructional and Administrative Technology, gave a talk on fostering digital citizenship in our students. He emphasized educating children and

teens about the need for empathy and strategic decision-making online as well as in real life. He noted that as early as kindergarten and first grade, our schools are teaching media balance and well-being. At the elementary school level, our children are introduced to the concepts of privacy and security on our devices; awareness of their digital footprints and identities; online relationships and communications; cyberbullying, digital drama, and hate speech; and news/media literacy. These concepts are introduced in an age-appropriate way, and revisited through every grade. In the lower grades, these lessons are taught or discussed in tech and/or health classes, and sometimes they organically come up in the children's main classroom.

Someone asked Mr. Monastero whether they could watch *The Social Dilemma* with their child. Mr. Monastero and Ms. Campbell felt that the Netflix documentary would be appropriate for children in fifth grade or older.

Another parent asked whether there are tools to filter content on YouTube. Mr. Monastero said that all CSH district-controlled devices have filters already. For home, he recommended Circle with Disney to help filter content, as well as monitor and restrict time on your children's screen usage. He will make an in-depth presentation on parental monitoring and internet safety at the Lloyd Harbor PTG meeting on Thursday, 2/11 and at West Side School PTG TBA.

9. Parent Questions (9:53 AM - end of meeting)

—When a parent inquired about updates in district COVID-19 safety protocols, Ms. Campbell noted that as of now, there have been no new developments regarding potential random-sampling testing in the schools, but our district still has lower infectivity rates than much of Suffolk. High-risk contact sports, including wrestling and basketball, have resumed in the CSH district. As per the Suffolk County DOH guidelines, student athletes do have to undergo weekly mandatory testing. (Even though the district straddles both Suffolk and Nassau counties, and the Nassau County DOH does not require mandatory weekly testing of athletes, the CSH district follows Suffolk County DOH guidelines.)

—A few parents asked whether, now that the pandemic threatens new variants of the virus, the district can request that parents provide proof of PCR negative tests rather than rapid tests, as many medical professionals have posited that the rapid tests may give inaccurate results — especially when the person being tested is asymptomatic. One parent, who is a medical doctor, said that there have been at least a handful of cases in school in which the rapid test came back negative before the PCR test came back showing COVID infection. The concern is that if parents rely on only rapid results, someone with an active infection could attend school and continue being a potential source of contagion. Conversely, the parent pointed out, rapid tests for student athletes may lead to false positives and potentially more quarantines than genuinely warranted. Ms. Campbell and Mr. Fenter explained that we have to abide by Department of Health guidelines, which says to accept rapid-test results as legitimate; they did not feel

comfortable taking the position of implementing and dispensing independent medical guidance. Onsite testing that the district makes available to the community is rapid testing, not PCR testing. (However, they also noted that DOH dictates that a rapid test positive result followed by a PCR test negative result nonetheless triggers a quarantine—even though PCR results are generally regarded as more definitive in the medical community.)

—After Ms. Campbell noted that children who get PCR tests should stay home from school while waiting for test results to come back, the question arose as to whether students awaiting COVID test results could attend school remotely while waiting for their results. Ms. Campbell said that yes, they can, because awaiting test results is a form of quarantine.

—A parent asked whether, since we may reasonably anticipate more quarantined cohorts in school due to new virus variants and the resumption of sports, the district could find more ways to provide greater physical distancing (from three to six feet between students) by expanding the schools’ footprints. Mr. Fenter indicated that for various logistical reasons and risk-benefit tradeoffs, there are no plans to increase the school campus footprints at this time.

—A parent pointed out that when cohorts are quarantined, she is aware of some parents releasing themselves early because of a negative COVID test. Ms. Campbell reiterated that negative results do not remove the necessity of a full quarantine course and indicated that the administration would reiterate this in ongoing school communications.

—Someone wanted to know if the mandatory weekly testing for student athletes could occur on Mondays instead of Saturdays in order to preclude the 48-hour look back. Ms. Campbell said that this wasn’t possible; the district does not want to disrupt the academic day on Mondays, and moreover a new day would not prevent a 48-hour look back.

—One parent asked whether there has been any research about oxygen intake and mask-wearing during high-intensity sports. Mr. Fenter indicated that he is not aware of any research that masks compromise breathing during sports, but reminded her that the guidelines say that masks are required “as tolerated” during sports activity, and that a student having difficulty breathing could make that clear to the adults on-hand.

9. Important Dates

Next BOE meetings (virtual): Tuesday, February 9 at 8 PM

Next CPC meeting (virtual): Thursday, March 4 at 9 AM

10. Meeting Adjournment — Cristina Monterroso

Jennifer Kornreich Cahn motioned to end the meeting, and Michele Gulitti seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM.