

Central Parents Council Minutes: April 8, 2021

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Welcome, Call to Order — CPC Vice-Chair, Heather Morante Young

Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM.

3. Approval of Minutes for March 4, 2021 Meeting — CPC Secretary, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn

Lisa Smith moved to approve the March minutes, and Lynette Simmons seconded.

4. CPC Chair Report — read by CPC Vice-Chair, Heather Morante Young

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

6. CPC Treasurer Report — read by CPC Vice-Chair, Heather Morante Young

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 Educational Foundation

The following was announced in addition to the written organizational reports:

In reviewing recent FOCUS events, Stephanie DiNozzi described a successful Living Centerpiece event on Zoom in March, led by district parent Mandy Dalal. The photos of the results are available for viewing on social media. The jewelry event has to be rescheduled. On April 15th at 7 PM, FOCUS will partner with SEPTO to present a Zoom talk by Lauren Gallagher, Ph.D, a school psychologist from the Harborfields Central School District who was given the 2020 School Psychologist of the Year award by the New York Association of School Psychologists. Dr. Gallagher will talk about helping kids build resilience and confidence.

Another upcoming FOCUS event will be led by former Lloyd Harbor resident Donna Gryboski, of NEAT, who will lead a Zoom presentation on luxury home organization, spring cleaning, and downsizing.

In her SEPTO report, Suzanne Adelhardt announced that Lloyd Harbor School psychologist Wendy Moss, Ph.D. has published *The Friendship Book*, which helps kids make and keep good friends. The SEPTO staff appreciation lunch will be held on Friday, May 7th. SEPTO will also be sponsoring five wellness events with the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Chloe Henning announced that there are still tickets for foursomes available for the CSH Educational Foundation Golf & Tennis Outing on May 24th. Participants will not need a COVID test to participate in the sports, but they will need either a negative test or a vaccination card in order to attend the barbecue. In the coming months, Youth Ambassadors from the Ed Foundation will offer homework help to younger students in the district as part of a fundraiser that will support grants that the Youth Ambassadors choose.

8. Presentation and Parent Questions (9:42 AM-end of meeting)

Our Superintendent Robert Fenter spoke about academic testing in the district. He said that Dr. Bolen, the HS principal, will update the administration on the status of Regents exams. As of now, students will be exempt from taking a Regents exam in any subject in which they can demonstrate proficiency, with the exception of the algebra, ELA, and earth science/living environment exams. Mr. Fenter said that NY state tests in ELA and math are coming up for district students in grades 3 through 8—and in science for grade 4— and that the teachers have been preparing the kids for these tests. While these state tests are optional, Mr. Fenter emphasized the important role of these tests in preparing students for standardized testing in the upper grades.

Additionally, Mr. Fenter noted that our sports program is continuing with pandemic-related adjustments. There are limited numbers of spectators allowed for outdoor sports, and none for indoor sports. All varsity and junior varsity games are live-streamed.

Mr. Fenter recognized West Side School principal Alison Hazut for co-authoring a chapter in a recently-published book, *Descriptive Inquiry in Teacher Practice: Cultivating Practical Wisdom to Create Democratic Schools*.

He was also extremely proud of our recent district-wide food drive, which was recognized in *Newsday*.

Chloe Henning announced that CSH PAL lacrosse players in grades 2-8 will run in the second annual LAX-A-Thon at the high school on May 22nd. This is a team marathon which raises money and collects non-perishable goods for Helping Hands Rescue Mission in Huntington. Last year the CSH PAL third-grade boys in third grade raised roughly \$14,000 for Helping Hands. To donate this year, you can go

to <https://pledgeit.org/2nd-annual-lax-a-thon/donate> The goal for this year is \$20,000, and the players are already a quarter of the way there. Please support the kids as they try to make a difference in helping others!

A parent asked how the district planned to use the additional funding that the government has granted the district. Mr. Fenter and Mr. Stucchio explained that in December and March, the federal stimulus gave the district a \$1.1 million grant in federal money that is separate from the state budget. The money, but it can be spent over several years. There are no specific plans yet, but the district will spend it in accordance with the rules and parameters set by the government.

While acknowledging the spike in COVID cases in March at the high school, Ms. Campbell reported that some high-schoolers have received the vaccine. She said that while the mandatory quarantine following domestic travel has been lifted, it still applies to international travel. Moreover, the recent guideline change that recommends only three feet of distance between students in the classroom instead of six has *not,* at this time, resulted in an alteration of state and county distance guidelines for quarantine. Students who are within six feet (not just three feet) of a COVID-positive person are still required to quarantine.

Ingrid Wright pointed out that students who are fully vaccinated (i.e. 2 weeks past their final dose of the vaccine), as well as those who have tested positive within the last three months who are past their initial quarantine following diagnosis, are exempt from quarantining when exposed to a positive COVID case. Ms. Campbell verified that this is the case. Students should have documentation of their vaccination (a picture of their vaccination card) or their positive COVID test to provide to the school. There is no requirement as of yet for students to be vaccinated to attend school in-person in the fall.

A parent inquired what will happen if a student needs to take a Regents exam but is quarantined. Mr. Fenter noted that the Regents exams are not being offered remotely, and they are being used this year by New York state to fulfill the federal government's testing requirement (diagnostically rather than for grades), so a quarantined student would not be able to take it. There is no other state guidance at this time.

9. Important Dates

Next BOE meetings (virtual): Tuesday, April 13 at 8 PM

Next CPC meeting (virtual): Thursday, May 6 at 9 AM

Annual budget vote and Board election (at the high school): Tuesday, May 18 6 AM-10 PM

10. Meeting Adjournment — Heather Morante Young

Jennifer Kornreich Cahn motioned to end the meeting, and Michele Gulitti seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:09 AM.