

Central Parent Council Minutes

Thursday, 04/20/2023

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Call to Order, Chair Report** — CPC Chair, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn
-Meeting called to order at 9:08am
3. **Approval of Minutes from 03/16/23 CPC Meeting**
CPC Secretary, Joann Kuncewitch – Erin Rechler motioned to approve the March 2023 minutes, and Lisa Smith 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. **Presentation: Curricular and Extracurricular Opportunities in Music K-12** - Brent Chiarello, District Music Chairperson, and Assistant to the Principal at Lloyd Harbor School

Mr. Brent Chiarello began his presentation proudly announcing that CSH has been awarded by the NAMM Foundation, for the 2nd year in a row, the “Best Communities for Music Education” designation.

Mr. Chiarello described an overview of our music department and the general focuses within our music education (i.e. classroom music, performance ensembles, small group instruction, NYSSMA Solo/ Ensemble Festival,

extra-curricular performing ensembles, and honors ensembles at the county/ state/ and national levels).

Classroom music is given in grades K-8, however, classroom music in grades 7-8 is more of a music studio introduction. For 7th-12th grades, music is a required course vs. art, though students are able to take both if there's room.

In the HS, AP Music Theory is available. A parent asked if the course will ever be closed due to low interest. Mr. Chiarello responded that it is unlikely for the course to close because there is such a high interest in our community, but also added that we have to re-evaluating times of lower interest as the district has to be fiscally responsible for spending the community's money.

Regarding the third grade music curriculum, Mr. Chiarello described that our district has instruments available for every student to try. This gives the students a chance to choose an instrument that they enjoy and will succeed in. (During this class time, half the students in the class work in small academic groups in the classroom, while the other half of the class is learning about musical instruments.)

In choosing an instrument, 3rd graders enter their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice instruments. Mr. Chiarello explained that approximately 75%-80% of students get their first choice. In 4th grade, if students are not happy with their instrument, they are able to switch. In this instance, the music teachers will assist the student in "catching up" to learn their new instrument.

A parent asked a question regarding instruments for students with special motor function needs. Mr. Chiarello responded that our schools provide occupational therapists and physical therapists to work with our music teachers and students.

A parent asked about when in the schedule the students have lessons. Mr. Chiarello responded that the large ensemble (full band/ orchestra) rehearses before school, while small group lessons occur during the school day.

A parent stated that students have left the large ensembles due to having too many morning activities scheduled throughout the week, such as *peer mentors*, which also occurs in the mornings. Mr. Chiarello responded that they are open to figuring out when ensemble rehearsals can be scheduled

during the day, and he added that they try hard not to schedule with conflicts.

Chamber orchestra is an honors class in which students are admitted with NYSSMA score requirements.

A parent asked about the lack of small group music lessons in high school. Mr. Chiarello responded that it created conflict with students missing important academic instruction, but they are continuing to brainstorm ideas to make it work.

Mr. Chiarello mentioned the recent Jazz Night where the Jr. High Jazz band, Sr. High Jazz band, and HS Chamber singers performed pop music, jazz style. At this time, parents in the meeting audience expressed that they weren't aware Jazz Night happened.

A few parents suggested that the music department emails out important dates for district music performances. Mr. Chiarello added that the music department has an Instagram page, "@csh_music". He added that the department is currently working on a newsletter.

Mr. Chiarello stated that there are new bonds in the works to update the performing arts center (PAC).

A parent expressed that many of the students entering Jr. High are passionate about theater and asked the administration to consider that in their budget.

A parent stated that the space behind the PAC had been used to store sports equipment when it should be utilized for the art programs. Mr. Chiarello responded that the plan is already in the works to move out all the sports equipment.

A parent asked about how the theater director is chosen for each theater production. Mr. Chiarello explained that they have to work with the teachers' availability and added that the Jr./ Sr. HS clubs are offered to the teachers. A parent responded that the theater productions require more work than a club can handle and suggested that our district hire a designated professional as the theater director.

A parent added that as we are coming out of the pandemic, parents are looking for ways to promote the arts and to gain more community interest.

8. Parent Questions/New Business

No further questions were asked during this time.

9. Important Dates to Remember:

Next BOE work session (health and safety presentation)—Tuesday, 4/25, 7:30 PM

Meet the Candidates Night — Monday, 5/1, 7 PM

Next Board of Ed general meeting (budget hearing) — Tuesday, 5/8, 8 PM

Annual budget vote and BOE election — Tuesday, 5/16, 6:30 AM-9 PM

Next CPC meeting— Thursday, 5/18, 9 AM

June Board of Ed meeting — Tuesday, 6/13, 8 PM

10. Meeting Adjournment — CPC Chair, Jennifer Kornreich Cahn

Bernadette Flynn motioned to adjourn, and Lisa Smith seconded at 11:03am.