

Welcome to this special nighttime edition of the Central Parent Council! For those of you who are not familiar with the CPC, we're a liaison group that facilitates discussion and dissemination of information between the district administration and parents throughout the district. CPC meetings provide opportunities for both our district leaders and community members to meet a bit more informally and share ideas about the district as a whole. Typically we meet monthly on Thursday mornings at 9 AM, but we rescheduled our March meeting for an evening because we wanted to give parents whose work schedules don't afford them time off in the morning to have a chance to see us in action. Accordingly, I want to thank the administration, my fellow board members, and the representatives of the various PTGs and district-wide organizations for arranging their nighttime schedules and taking time away from their families to be here.

Here at the CPC we are always on the lookout for great ideas from members of the community. Tonight's presentation is in some ways an outgrowth of a suggestion from a mom at one of the LHS PTG meetings who asked about the possibility of having our students hear about internet safety and civility in greater depth. While our own Executive Director of Instructional and Administrative Technology, Joe Monastero, annually provides an amazing and comprehensive presentation on digital safety and citizenship that serves as a vital introduction for parents, we are hoping to deepen these discussions further with law-enforcement perspectives about the kinds of obstacles and in some cases dangers that may befall our kids. These of course include internet predators but also potential social and legal repercussions of certain kinds of online behavior. Tonight we welcome our school resource officer Robert Jinks and Officer Jesse Levy, both of the SCPD, to expand upon that crucial subject matter.

For the past five years, the Cold Spring Harbor school district has been fortunate to have James Stuchio, our current Deputy Superintendent, in his current role as well as his previous one as Assistant Superintendent for Business. That means that 40 percent of his tenure here was spent navigating the multiple challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Among his many contributions here, aside from his usual jurisdiction over district financial and infrastructure matters, was his absolutely integral role in overseeing the overhaul of the school buildings' ventilation and filtration systems so that our students, faculty and staff could breathe cleaner, safer air. Unfortunately, CSH only gets to benefit from his leadership for another two months, because he will be starting a new role as associate superintendent for management services with Eastern Suffolk BOCES. On a personal note, the rest of the CPC board and I have thoroughly enjoyed his calm and sense of humor at pre-CPC meetings; we know that even though it's a loss for Cold Spring Harbor, BOCES will be so lucky to benefit from his intelligent guidance.

At the Board of Education last week, we heard about various academic and creative initiatives in the district, from both student council representatives and from the administration. There was a lot of good news. Our district has been awarded a sizable state and municipalities facilities grant from the office of New York State Senator James Gaughran, which will be used to install a walking track at Lloyd Harbor School. The next regular BOE meeting is on Tuesday, April 12th, and a work session will be held on Tuesday, April 26th. The two final CPC meetings of this academic year will be at 9 AM on Thursday, April 28th and Thursday, May 19th.

Anyone who is interested in running for a spot on the Board of Ed needs to get their petitions in by 5 PM on April 18, which is a Monday over the spring recess. Forms are available at the District office in the Goosehill building. A Meet-the-Candidates night will take place on the evening of Monday, May 2nd, and the election itself will happen on Tuesday, May 17th. For those who are interested in volunteering for the district in other roles, there are positions opening up here on the CPC board, on the PTG boards, and on the SIT teams. Please check with us or your PTG representatives if you are interested in serving.

Jennifer Kornreich Cahn

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