

**Community Partnership Academy (CPA)  
Parent Council Meeting  
Sept 15, 2005**

About 25 people attended the first CPA Parent Council meeting of the new year. We spent some time introducing one another and getting to know our community of parents, new and old.

Structure of the parent council and last year's accomplishments:

All CPA parents and guardians are invited to participate as little or as much as they can in the Parent Council. Last year two subcommittees were set up:

- **Community building:** held a very successful parent potluck and mixer and sponsored a night of student presentations about the community internship/service learning experiences of older students in CPA
- **Communications:** set up a website and started a newsletter to keep people informed about the goings on and developments in CPA. Also created some email lists for about 85 of CPAs parents.
- **With more involvement the CPA parent council can do even more work to support our students and teachers!**

**CPA Website:** The website is an important resource and one of the most successful developments last year. CPA teachers post their class syllabus, curriculum and on-going homework assignments. Parents can check the website to find their student's homework assignments, which most parents agreed was a GREAT! resource. It is still getting set up for this fall semester and teachers will be adding their assignments in the next few weeks. To check the website go to: <http://www.bhscpa.org>. There you will find emails for each CPA teacher and their biographies. There are also links there for other parts of Berkeley High.

**CPA Parent council priorities:**

Grant writing for more support: Last year parents decided that it was important to get more tutoring support for students, especially in math and science. Parents found a federal Dept of Education grant to improve achievement of students in inner city schools. They are working on the request for proposal and hope to turn in a grant proposal this fall (see after school tutoring and support grant committee).

Peer tutoring: Another avenue of support is a peer tutoring program where older CPA students (juniors and seniors) help tutor younger students after school from 3:20 to 4:30. Ask you students teachers or CPA co-coordinators for more information. Flora will get a list of various BHS tutoring activities so that CPA students can plug into one or more of these opportunities. For example, last year the Berkeley Athletic Fund helped pay a tutor for student athletes.

Writing: some parents voiced a concern that all students must know how to write and write properly. Several parents work with the writers coach program. 9<sup>th</sup> graders have a structured writing program with their English and freshman seminar teachers. Writing is key for getting a job, college admissions and just surviving. What can parents do to help the writing program?

- Get trained as a writers room coach and help out on CPA classes
- Sponsor a CPA writing contest and acknowledge students excellence in writing
- If you have other ideas, let CPA know!!!

CPA parent committees for this year: We then broke up into 4 committees and discussed next steps. All CPA parents are invited to join one (or more?) of these committees:

- Community building (Deborah Young\* - wot2001@netscape.com)
- Grant committee-working on Dept of Education grant for after school tutoring until Nov. (Mary McDonald\* - marylucasmcdonald@sbcglobal.net)
- Communication cmt: want to get more parent emails, send out newsletter, promote more communication and keep website up to date (Rich Hemphill\* - rhemp@uclink.berkeley.edu)
- On-site-volunteer committee: plug in parents at school to helping in classrooms, with field trips and doing work CPA teachers and coordinators need help with (Irma Parker\* - iparker@bekeley.k12.ca.us)

\* indicates contact parent for this committee

All of these committees are open to you to help out. Bring your talents and ideas and join other CPA parents.

Important upcoming events:

**September 29<sup>th</sup>** : BHS Back to School night—walk in your student’s shoes through their fall courses and meet their teachers. Please come. CPA wants to get 100% parent participation.

**October 20<sup>th</sup>**: Next CPA Parent Council meeting, 7-9pm, College and Career center, BHS. Irma wants to see more parents at the next meeting—so make sure you come.