

Community Partnership Academy
Parent Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2006

Rich Hemphill chaired the parent meeting after introductions were made all around the table. The meeting agenda outlined several issues, but granted the most time for addressing student difficulty in science classes, especially Advanced Biology. Of particular note are the trials and tribulations of completing and handing in science packets on time.

Communications & Recruitment: Rich, Mary and Chanel reported on their CPA presentation to the Longfellow Middle School PTSA meeting, Feb. 14. Longfellow parents were very receptive especially since many had never heard of BHS's small schools. Rich reported that CPA website hits increased from the average 120 hits per night to over 280 hits after the presentation. Visits scheduled to other Berkeley middle schools are on hold until questions about equal small school representation are resolved.

March 1, 2006 is the BHS Information Night for prospective students.

Newsletter: Ms. Bell is interested in adding student work to the newsletter format.

College Admissions Workshop: Irma Parker reported on the final details for the February 18th workshop. BHS College Counselor Ilene Abrams and Vista College's Mario Rivas, VP Student Services, will help families navigate through the puzzling college process. Flora Russ will have student transcripts available.

Scheduled for March 11th, Barbara Austin will conduct a financial seminar that will help families prepare for increasing costs of higher education.

Advanced Biology: The general discussion sought suggestions to raise student grades. Advanced Biology email surveys and conversations with families resulted in the following proposals:

- *Families to be notified by phone when their student is missing a packet. Phone calls conducted by parent volunteers. (Possible privacy issue)
- *Science teachers to send home an information sheet requiring a family signature.
- *Outbound calls to be made by the Homework Center to alert families about their student's lack of progress.

Action: Discuss with Eric Chen about outbound calls.

Unanswered questions included:

- *What is the magnitude of the packet problem?
- *Which kids are affected, which parents?
- *How can families make a difference?

The Commitments of Parents in CPA

There have been 16 parent *commitments* designed to keep families engaged and informed with CPA activities and policy making. Rich recited the 16 gaining the approving nods of all in attendance.

Exit Exams: Flora Russ reported on exit exams. Sample tests were made available to anyone interested in obtaining a copy.

The next CPA Parent Meeting is schedule for March 16, 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM