

Community Partnership Academy (CPA)
Monthly Parent Council Meeting
October 20, 2005

About 13 people attended the CPA Parent Council meeting which was held in the Berkeley High School Library. After a short time allowed for greeting one another and catching up, Sandy Calvo opened the meeting. Rich Hemphill chaired the agenda.

Chris Byrne motioned that the council skip the evening's Community Building exercise and eliminate it from future meetings in an effort to save time. Several other attendees seconded, so Sandy Calvo agreed to permanently remove that topic from future Parent Council agendas.

Representatives from each committee reported their updates and progress since the last meeting.

Community Building: Ofra Elder explained that their last meeting was cancelled because emails were not returned. Thus, a proposed CPA Back-to-School night was shelved due to lack of support.

Action Plan: Develop the idea for a family pot luck/culture night, to be held in December. A December 2nd date was proposed. Also, efforts will be made to confirm and correct committee emails.

Grants and Fund-Raising: Chris Byrne reported that their monthly meeting was conducted with four in attendance. They reviewed research grant possibilities and decided their efforts were best utilized by investigating smaller grants designed to address more direct and locally based needs.

Action Plan: Pursue a proposed direct request letter to be mailed to CPA families outlining our students' needs and activities. Anne Johnston to contact the Berkeley Development Group to determine the best method for directing donations back to CPA.

Communications Committee: Janet Voorhees spoke about the new and evolving newsletter and solicited ideas for future editions.

Action Plan: Anne suggested that a column be written to introduce the CPA Leadership Council Committee. Other ideas included: listing teacher names with their contact information and their availability for academic support, include a column about Ms. Chen, and announce the Dec. 2nd, pot-luck.

Anne Johnston and Sandy Calvo:

*Anne continued to define the CPA Leadership Council as follows:

They are 12 members who assist in major CPA decisions including who gets hired. They analyze data and help set the school's direction and policy. There are to be 4 representatives elected from each of the 3 school groups, i.e., staff, parents and students. In an effort to recruit 2 additional parents, Anne asked for volunteers. Chanelle Fields offered her services although they're limited due to work constraints.

Resolution: Karen Davis joined the council.

*Anne and Sandy Calvo also introduced the Small School Council, formally called the Transition Team. Required by every school, the CPA needs at least one parent and one student representative on the council.

Resolution: Rich nominated Kathy Dervin who volunteered via proxy.

*Progress Report results were reviewed. Students are experiencing their greatest challenges in biology and chemistry. Flora Russ added that missing homework was identified as the principal, overwhelming reason for student poor performance. She reported that teacher discussions reiterated the need for parents to monitor their child's homework via the website or other direct teacher contact. Teachers believe that parents should also help their students get organized with planners and assignment sheets. Zetta Chen confirmed her and most teachers' willingness to speak to parents from home.

Action Plan: At Mary McDonald's suggestion, Sandy will format the teacher resource sheet for CPA family distribution.

Flora Russ & the Digital Divide: Flora reported that CPA has emails for only 50% of our families.

Because computers are not utilized by all parents, other means must be developed to stay in touch. Olfa suggested phone contact using phone-trees and parent buddy systems.

Action Plan: Olfa will investigate "phone home" messaging as a solution to disseminate information as well as creating and utilizing "classroom parents."

After a short break-out session for the committees, Rich adjourned the meeting at 9:05, pm.

