

CP Academy Parent Council Meeting
November 16, 2006
Minutes

Rich Hemphill chaired the third meeting of the year.

Mr. Diab came to discuss student achievement in Advanced Biology. He reported that there has been progress in overall grades this year and suggested the following ways that parents can help their students:

- Make sure your student has a binder and that it is up-to-date. The binder is important because tests are open book and if the binder is not complete, answers will not be there during tests.
- Monitor student grades by looking at the grade sheet in the binder.
- Make sure your student is getting to class on time, especially fourth period students.
- Check work packets.

Mr. Diab asked for feedback as to whether he should require parent signatures on grade sheets. After discussion both pro and con, he decided against requiring parent signatures for now.

From Advanced Biology, we proceeded to a discussion of Junior English. The teacher, Jackie Jenkins, was at a conference and couldn't attend the meeting, but several parents had spoken with her in advance. Problems in this class seem to stem from the fact that the students have had three different English teachers in three years. One-third of the students did not turn in a major assignment. Ms. Jenkins suggested that parents could volunteer in the classroom to keep students on task and also suggested a weekend study group so that students can help each other. Several parents volunteered to help in the classroom. Other suggestions were:

- Have Mr. Rivas or Miss Price speak to the students about the importance of grades in the junior year to college acceptance. Irma Parker will arrange it.
- Do a student survey to find out why they are failing and how parents can help.
- Make sure every student has a dictionary.

We will relay these suggestions to Ms. Jenkins and continue our discussion.

Committee Updates:

- Suggestions for the next newsletter included a list of student field trips, a profile of Karen Hemphill, the CPA parent who was recently elected to the school board, an article on how seniors are using Career Locker, the college and career planning web site, and highlights and photos of our December 1st holiday party.
- Members of the Leadership Council are getting to know each other and doing a poll to find out what parents want.
- The CP Academy web site is very successful with 200 hits a night. Teachers want to continue to use it for homework rather than move to the PTSA homework site because our site is more flexible and can incorporate notes as well as assignments.
- The Internship Committee still needs volunteers to recruit internships for next year. Anyone interested should send an email to Rich Hemphill at (admin@bhscpa.org).
- The Communications Committee would like to have someone available for Spanish translation at the Parent Council meetings. Anyone interested should send an email to Rich Hemphill at (admin@bhscpa.org).
- Irma Parker and her volunteers reported on their phone calls to parents of students who are getting Ds and Fs. Overall the response has been positive with parents grateful for the phone calls and support.
- The Fundraising committee will move into gear soon. The fundraising letter however will not go out until late winter/early spring.
- We have a representative at the Berkeley High School Development Group (BHSDG). They collect money and distribute it to different programs at Berkeley High. You can earmark your contribution for CPA. Parents who did not receive the recent BHSDG request for donations can make a contribution through the CP Academy web site using the Give to CPA button.

Karen Davis has made much progress planning the Holiday Get-Together on December 1st. Contact her at 510-407-1327 or kdavis@placertitle.com if you can help with:

- Prize donations
- Decorations
- Music
- Activities
- Talent show

We decided not to have a meeting in December. The next meeting will be the third Thursday in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. It was well attended with lively participation from all who attended.