

CP Academy Parents Meeting
Parents Meeting, September 21, 2006
Minutes

Rich Hemphill chaired the first meeting of the year.

Updates on what we've done so far:

- Freshman orientation on August 25th was successful. Parents who attended appreciated the warm welcome and the opportunity to meet and talk with CP Academy teachers and parents.
- The first newsletter was sent out on September 20th.
- SAT online practice is up and running on the CP Academy website as of September 18th. Parents and students can look at it by clicking the College Counseling button and then clicking the SAT practice link on the bottom of the screen. Thanks to parents who donated time, money, and resources to this effort. More donations would be appreciated.
- Homework is still available on the CP Academy website. At some point, we will transition to the BHS homework website.

Volunteers for this year:

- Two parents, Toby and Brad, volunteered for the two open positions on the Leadership Council.
- One parent, Afsaneh, volunteered to represent the CP Academy on the Berkeley High School Development Group
- Rich Hemphill will continue as chair of the Communications committee.
- The chair position for the Fundraising committee was filled by Marty.
- The chair position for the Community Building committee remains unfilled. We will continue to ask for a volunteer and advertise the position in the next newsletter.
- Irma Parker asked for volunteers to call parents of students who are getting Ds and Fs and help them make use of CP Academy support. She asked for and got a volunteer and back up person for each grade.

What we want to do this year:

- Parents agreed that last year's Winter Holiday get-together for CP Academy families was great and that we should do it again this year. It was also agreed that the Student Presentations family event at the end of last year should be repeated.

- Additionally, parents would like to have social activities, such as dances, for students. Hopefully a Community Building chair will come forward to build a committee to organize these events.
- We agreed that we want to continue the website and newsletter as methods for keeping parents informed. Flora Russ will look into using automatic calling as a way to keep parents informed about CP Academy events.
 - We also agreed to continue the highly successful college information sessions for parents. Irma Parker will expand these sessions by providing On Track for Graduation workshops, probably on Saturdays to make it easier for families to attend. She will also look into having professionals attend the workshops to review sample applications filled out by parents and tell them how to improve their students' chances for college acceptance.
 - Parents also want to help find internship positions this year. Flora Russ has more information for people who want to search out internships. There were a lot of questions about internships and it was decided to write an article for an upcoming newsletter to address these questions.
 - Ways to help with homework were discussed and a committee was formed to look into the amount of homework and if it seems to be too much, consider talking with teachers about staggering homework so that there's a steady, manageable flow, instead of a feast or famine situation. The homework center is up and running, but still very lightly attended. A microwave and popcorn were donated during the meeting and it was pointed out that parents are always welcome at the homework center.
 - Discipline problems in class were discussed and Irma Parker volunteered to meet with any students who are disruptive in class and their parents.
 - Fundraising will continue this year in the form of a parent letter and grant solicitation. People can also donate money to the CP Academy through the BHS Development Group when they send out the solicitation letters and by way of the Donation button on the CP Academy website.

The meeting was adjourned shortly before 9:00. The process observer noted that it was a well-run, on-track meeting, with good participation from all who attended.