

CP Academy Parent Council Meeting

January 2008

Minutes

Tory Jenner chaired the meeting.

We discussed attendance:

- Attendance was low, starting with about 6 or 7 people at the start and increasing to 11 or 12 by the end.
- We decided to serve pizza at the next meeting and tell parents in the next newsletter that our goal is to get 100 parents to attend and point out that they are missing important information if they do not.

Fundraising:

- We discussed some of the fundraising ideas brought up in our last meeting, including a photo booth and/or digital camera and computer (Ken and Bo will investigate further), customized tee shirts that could be sold through our web site (Bo will investigate further), and a pancake breakfast (Tory will investigate further).
- Wyn Skeels said that Jim Slempe is fairly certain that Berkeley High will get a huge (about 5 million dollars) state grant.
- Jim Slempe has the CPA math department's money for a projector but someone needs to order the equipment.
- Our fundraising letter sent out in December earned over \$1500 and contributions are still coming in.

Community Building:

- We discussed a date for the end-of-year BBQ and thought that it should be at the end of May before June graduation events. We will decide on a date at the next meeting.

Leadership Council:

- The Leadership Council meetings have had a good turnout and participation, especially from parents and students.
- A discussion of achievement goals is still in progress and the goals will be firmed up at the next Council meeting. So far, the discussion has centered on ways of measuring achievement and the problem that the STAR test is not reliable and the GPA is hard to use. Berkeley City College might assess students in math and English at the beginning and end of each year which would give an assessment of yearly student progress. CP Academy and Berkeley City College have a great working relationship that continues to get better. Several parents suggested that the GPA is an important measure of achievement since it is the main one that colleges use. It was also suggested that we use the AP English and AP Calculus test results as a way of tracking achievement.
- As an aside, several people asked if AP English could be after school instead of during 0 period. Ken Hamik will take their request to the next Leadership Council meeting.

Communications:

- Rich Hemphill will turn over responsibility for the web site to Bo Orloff by next month.
- Rich reported that, if teachers are willing, Edline can now have real-time grading which means that teachers could put the grades for homework,

- quizzes, papers, etc. on the web site as soon as they are available. At the next meeting, we will ask parents if this is something they want teachers to do. We will also announce this question in the next newsletter.
- It was mentioned that one-third of CP Academy families do not have internet access. In the next newsletter, we will repeat our announcement about free email accounts through the Berkeley Public Library and also tell parents that they can get email on their cell phones. We will also ask them to bring their updated email info to the next Parent Council meeting.
 - Rich also reported that we and other small schools will keep their own web sites even as Edline adds more functionality.

Advisory Periods and Block Scheduling:

- Wyn Skeels announced that the planned implementation of advisory periods and modified block scheduling have been dropped for now.

WriterCoach Connection:

- Wyn Skeels announced that teachers are very happy with the work of WriterCoach Connection (WCC) and are convinced that students have turned in work they wouldn't have turned in otherwise and that it is better work than it would have been without WCC.
- CAS and possibly Academic Choice are interested in using WCC next year and asking for a joint grant from BSEP. We will have to come up with some matching money and Annie Johnston said that WCC is a top priority for parent fundraising.
- We no longer have too many writing coaches. The ones who were not used stopped coming and maybe went to other schools which raised the question of whether CP Academy paid to train coaches for other schools. It was also mentioned that we are the only Berkeley school paying the full cost of the program and that WCC has not been flexible about using the extra coaches and expanding the program to other grades. We decided that the Parent Council is willing to work to fund WCC but we need to know that we are getting our money's worth. Rich will invite the director of WCC to the March Parent Council meeting to discuss these issues with us.

College Information Session:

- Rich will ask Ilene Abrams if she can do a college information session for us like she did last year on Saturday, March 15th. Rich will also ask Flora if she will come and provide copies of student's transcripts as she did last year.
- This year, our flyer for the event will emphasize that students are invited and should attend with their parents and that families of all grade levels should attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. The process observer noted that participation was good but that we went over our allotted time periods and that at our next meeting which we hope will be attended by 100 parents, we should be firmer about making people stick to the agenda.