

Community Partnership Academy (CPA)  
Monthly Parent Council Meeting  
November 17, 2005

7.05 p.m. -

Rich Hemphill opened and chaired the CPA Parent Council meeting held at the Berkeley High College Career Center. There were 16 in attendance.

Flora Russ announced that she will soon e-mail to families the days and times CPA teachers are available to students for extra help.

Small School Council Rep. Kathy Devlin reported that BHS Development Group donations can now fund the CPA directly when the CPA box is checked on the donation form. Kathy also expressed the need for an alternate CPA representative for the Berkeley High Development Group.

Various aspects of the CPA Newsletter were discussed whereupon it was decided that the monthly, one page format is sufficient. Rich Hemphill also remarked that the "Stay-in-Touch" forms, previously mailed to families, are being returned. Of the approximately 210 households, about 129 forms have been returned providing the CPA with family contact information, such as, e-mails and phone numbers.

Mary McDonald, of the Leadership Council, talked about student scores and the special circumstances affecting those scores. A representational graph is being created from the database which will visually illustrate problem areas and help the council to better focus available resources.

Teodo Linda Ayala discussed the Family Night Potluck, scheduled December 2nd, and distributed flyers detailing the event. DeBorah Young requested that families bring their own drinks because beverages will not be provided. She also noted a need for donated door prizes. Finally, Irma Parker volunteered to be the evening's M.C. and collected donations for decorations.

Next, Rich Hemphill remarked on the "Digital Divide" and how the CPA can connect more effectively with families. Methods to bridge the gap included phone trees and Broadcast Calling. Irma Parker suggested that meeting attendees might call other parents as a CPA recruiting tool. It was also suggested that teachers compile a list of families still not contacted. Zetta Chen and Kathy Davis subsequently volunteered to make the phone calls. Lastly, Flora Russ volunteered to research further "Broadcast Calling," which is a method for mass calling.

Final brainstorm activities embraced the CPA's need to get students college ready. Rich Hemphill suggested that we obtain a college advisor to speak to students about the college application process. Irma Parker suggested that students attend the BHS "College Theme Nights" for information on the various aspects of college admittance and tuition, essay writing being a critical component. Rich Hemphill added that Ilene Abrams, BHS College Councilor, could be an excellent resource also. Discussions closed with plans for a Saturday college presentation in January or February.

8.50 p.m. - Meeting adjourned.