

CP Academy Parent Council Meeting
January 18, 2007
Minutes

Rich Hemphill chaired the fourth meeting of the year.

American Literature (Junior English)

Jackie Jenkins gave an update on the American Literature class. There has been some progress but about half of the students still aren't turning in work, even when given time to do the work in class. Jackie said that parents are invited to visit the class at any time and that parent volunteers are effective and would be useful. Anyone able to help should contact Jackie. It was also pointed out that parents have a big part to play in holding students accountable. Other suggestions were the possibility of writer coaches and inviting Miss Price and/or other motivational speakers speak to the juniors about the importance of college and the realities of college acceptance.

Adding a Third Science Course

The UC a-g requirements call for two years of science but three are recommended. CPA doesn't have a third science. There was a discussion of which would be the best science to add. Environmental Science has advantages but many colleges are not familiar with it. Physics is probably the best science in terms of college admission. Anatomy/physiology is the best fit with the internship program since about 30% of internships are in health-related professions.

It's possible we could had three sciences: Environmental provided through the large school, a Physics course developed with the help of Rich Hemphill, and an Anatomy/Physiology course given through CPA.

Leadership Council and Whole School Outcomes

Students in the Leadership Council are discussing the possibility of making the Leadership Council a class for credit.

The Leadership Council proposed a mission statement for whole school outcomes and asked the Parent Council for feedback. They will also ask teachers and students to add to and clarify their list of goals for habits of minds and their outcomes. Although some people thought the goals were too abstract, it was agreed that it is important to have goals and that CPA teachers are doing a good job of conveying these goals to students. It was suggested that a statement

be added about academic goals (for example, “students should achieve at the highest level of their ability.”)

There was overlap between this discussion and Jackie Jenkins’ report about students not turning in work with people expressing concern that students are not aware of the importance of working toward college acceptance. Flora Russ pointed out that sophomores are doing a transcript evaluation so that they know what they need to do to be prepared for college application and also said the CPA students are being well-prepared for college.

Announcement

Irma Parker announced a two-week free summer journalism course at Princeton University. Anyone interested should contact her.

Accomplishments So Far and Deciding What’s Next

We reviewed our accomplishments—website, newsletter, donation drive, dedicated parents to call other parents, internship search, and winter holiday mixer. All have been successful and we gave a special thanks to Karen Davis for the holiday mixer.

We have three things left on our to-do list: a college info session, a dance for students, and end-of-year student presentations. We still want to do the college info session and the student presentations but decided against organizing dances although Karen Davis said that students were promised a karaoke event/talent show because there was no PA system at the holiday mixer.

How to Spend Our Large Donation

CPA has had the very good luck to receive a \$10,000 donation from an extremely generous parent who contributed a year of private school tuition. Flora Russ and Annie Johnston said that what is needed is writing coaches and/or science tutors. Several parents have been trained as writing coaches by Writer’s Coach Connection, a program that was previously paid for by BSEP at BHS and is still used at Berkeley middle schools. We discussed the possibility of implementing the program next semester. We didn’t have enough information to make a decision. Karen Davis will do further research.

Wrap Up

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. It was well attended with much discussion and lively involvement from all present.

