

CENTRAL HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting Minutes

11/08/2017 at 6:30PM – Spain Conference Room

Meeting called to order by Laura Buonomo, President Central HSA, at 6:40PM

Welcome by Laura and overview of the Agenda for the meeting.

Big thank you to our 64 volunteers on Sunday, November 5, 2017 for the Central Fall Clean-up.

1. President McKenna - School Update:

a. Academic Updates:

- i. 2283 Students took the Sat and PSAT on October 11, 2017
- ii. PA School Performance Profile: Central HS scored a 98.7 on this matrix making our school the number #1 school in the city of Philadelphia. This includes all elementary, middle and high schools (Public and Charter)
- iii. 277 Honors Convocation: Scheduled for December 5th.
 1. Guest Speaker: Yvonne Dennis – 246th graduating class.

b. Leveling:

- i. Will occur next Tuesday, November 14, 2017 (first day of the second semester):
- ii. New teacher Marie Woodward – English and Social Studies.

c. Capital Campaign Update:

- i. Press Conference – Tentative Date: 11/29/17 for formal announcement. Slide presentation for parents.

d. Climate Update:

- i. The diversity of our school is a Precious Asset. Using appropriate language is important. We have partnered with the Office of School Climate and Safety and the Philadelphia Human Relations Commission to facilitate a series of panel discussions with our students around appropriate language. They will take place during the week of November 27th.

e. Performing Arts Update:

- i. Christmas Carol-
12/7: 10 AM and 3:30 PM
12/8: 7 PM (1/2 day PD)
12/9: 5 PM
- ii. Widener Show - 12/19 Performance @ 8 AM
- iii. Music Department Winter Concert - 12/21 @ 7 PM

f. Athletics Update:

- i. **Football:** Football had a rough start to season. Dealing with a great deal of adversity our team became a close-knit group. Just before playoffs we began to click on offense and defense. We won the 1/4 final vs. Kensington and the semi vs. Southern headed to the championship vs. Northeast – 11/11/17 @ 6:00 pm. SooSung Whang has been inspirational with his play in all phases of the game. We have an emerging prospect at quarterback - Aquil Moore Robinson.

- ii. **Boys Varsity Soccer:** Finished regular season undefeated, in third place with wins against first, second, and fourth place teams. The team won the quarterfinal 7-0, semis 2-0, lost 2-1 in double overtime in the public league championship. Goalie Dennis Eldridge and midfielder Jason Worrell were standouts.
- iii. **Girls' Varsity Volleyball:** The 2017 Girls' Varsity Volleyball season marked the 2nd time that Mr. Leong's team completed an undefeated regular season record. The 2015 team ended its campaign without a loss in the regular season as well. This year's team took it a few steps further, as they won the Public League title defeating Palumbo in straight sets and finishing the season with record or 17-0!

This year's team was led by tri-captains Marcela Dow, Catherine Lucey-Warner, and Serena Schwartz. (All members of 277). Other contributing seniors on the team were Jen Molla, Cassandra Carey, and Ching Chen. The team also had several members of 278 (Zionna Green, Miranda Debeary, Diana Tatska, and Jada Spady) whom all had significant contributions to our success. The depth of our team was strong enough to include Shiyang (Alexis) Lin and Sara Rivera (279 members) and 3 ladies from 280 (Anastasia Kandratsenka, Jen Nilson, & Lexi Lipscomb). Our team clearly reflects the Central HS population with its diversity and strong cultural backgrounds. It is an excellent representation of how student/athletes from different walks of life can work together towards a common goal. The future of this team is extremely bright and hopefully they'll bring more titles back to "Dear High".

- iv. **The Boys Cross Country Team and Girls Cross Country Team:** The teams wrapped up their season with strong several strong performances. Both teams recorded second place finishes at the Public League Championships as well as the highest finish for non-Catholic League schools at the District 12 Championships. The team was the largest it has been in about 10 years, with over 45 boys and girls finishing a 5k race during the season (more than half the team was brand new). The Boys team had lost most of its top runners from a year ago but was able to bounce back due to some Freshmen as well as some of the returners from last year who weren't a part of the Top-7 stepping up. The Girls' team also lost some runners to graduation as well as other endeavors and so relied on some members of 280 to step in and really help out.

Top individual performances came from our State Qualifiers Chris Carson and Emma Helstrom. Emma medaled at two invitationals, was the Area Champion, Public League Champion, broke the school record at Belmont Plateau (a notoriously hard course), and became only the second 4-time State Qualifier in Cross Country from CHS. Chris Carson was the Area Champion, 3rd place finisher at the Public League Champs, highest non-Catholic League runner at Districts, and became the first Central male to go to the State Meet more than twice, having qualified for a 3rd time. Other strong performers included Senior and first year runner Charles "Nick" Henry, and Junior Abby Leedy.

- v. **Field Hockey:** Central's field hockey team went 9-0 in their regular season in the public league. They won their first school title in the sport's history. We allowed less than 1 goal a game and scored over 50 goals, by over 10 field players. A few of our players, Nicole Umeweni, Myra Granato, Kate-lynn Rice, and Elena Cruz-Adames won honors from a regional website, www.philafielddhockey.com Six players have earned First Team All Public

Honors and had a small feature article in the Philadelphia Inquirer this past weekend. Third year coach Gina Donnelly was recognized throughout the league for creating a competitive team, both in and out of the league, and some college coaches have recently reached out to her about some of our senior players.

- vi. **Girl's Soccer:** The Girls' soccer team had another successful season. We repeated as the Public League Champions. We were undefeated in Public League Play, finishing with a record of 15-0 and 15-1 overall. Ola Owodunni (278) led the team in scoring with 17 goals. Lauren Irvine (278) was a force scoring 14 goals. Captains, Grace DelVecchio, Emily Lorenc, and Azure Lintulahti were strong leaders all year.
- vii. **Girls Tennis:** The 2017 Central Lancers won an unprecedented fourth consecutive PIAA District 12 Class AAA girls' tennis title this season. This was a culmination of the high school careers of a dedicated senior class, led by Gabrielle Garrett and Tiffany Atmadja. Garrett, the first four-time Public League individual champion in over a decade, was recently named MVP of the 2017 Public League finals. Atmadja, the team's captain, broke the school record for career wins in September. Together, they occupied the top two singles positions for a team that went 18-3 overall this season. The two will graduate not knowing what it is like to lose to a District 12 opponent; the team has gone 53-0 in league and district dual matches over the past four years.

Central's two starting seniors could not have accomplished this alone. Alternate captain and third singles player Maddie Mast, a junior, started the season with 13 consecutive singles wins. Sophomore Kate Hamilton and junior Samantha Tom seamlessly moved up to first doubles and registered another season with double-digit victories. Second doubles players Shari Zeng, a freshman, and Annie Yang, a junior, have provided a boost of energy to a veteran-laden team. Winnie Dong, Hayley Hansell, Fanny Lin, Kexin Jiang, Claudia Augustin, Sophia Clampet-Lundquist, and Lucy Chen each chipped in with multiple doubles wins.

This season's highlights include Central's first-ever win over crosstown rival Germantown Friends. A win over Washington September 26th lifted the team's record to 11-0. The Public League championship was won October 17th with a 5-0 win over Masterman

- viii. **Golf:** Great year under first year coach Avi Snyder. Team finished 2nd in the public league.

g. Admissions:

- i. Shadowing Program Led by Chuck Steinberg (221) ended on November 6th. Almost 100 students visited Central HS for a full day. Incredible effort was given by Chuck and Harvey Steinberg (209) to lead this work. On November 20, 2017, President McKenna will begin the admissions process formally for the 281st class.

h. 224 STEAM Grants:

- i. The 224th class is offering grants to students and teachers. Your child can apply if they are interested. Class sponsors and assistant principals have all information.
- ii. *Class 224 – Trying to raise \$224,000*
- iii. *Looking to give grants to students; class sponsors have the information*

- i. Central Performing Arts Center:
 - i. President McKenna shared designs for the new performing arts center.
 - ii. Announcement ceremony is scheduled for November 29th. Mayor Kenney, Dr. Hite and others will take part in the ceremony.

2. HSA Plans

- a. Accomplishments in 2016-2017 School Year
 - i. PowerPoints visuals prepared for all meetings
 - ii. Created online HSA membership form
 - iii. Tripled listserv and HSA membership
 - iv. Most successful auction: fun and \$\$\$
 - v. Formed and institutionalized Environment Team with high parent and student volunteer turnout rates and full community service hours
 - vi. Clear understanding of Development Director role
 - vii. Well-organized, role-defined Frosh Night, Frosh Orientation, and B-to-S Night via online sign ups – lead by Lynne Hopper
 - viii. Started dialogue re: homework and testing
 - ix. Established presence (voice) on Listserv
 - x. Established consistent teacher liaison – Tom Quinn and Laura Jacklin
- b. Key Goals: 2017-2018 School Year
 - i. Establish HSA site as one-stop-shop for key and current info (launched @ 10/11/17 Home & School Meeting)
 - ii. Establish annual financial plan and monthly statements based on school year calendar (August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018) – *completed*
 - iii. Monitoring listserv and assist with school communications
 - 1. Tyra Duhan has taken the lead with these efforts
 - iv. Proper preparation, distribution, and archiving of essential Central HSA and Philadelphia Home & School Council information
 - v. Further grow communications: parent/guardian list serve
 - vi. Create key-volunteer/Alum/Board emeritus email listserv – maintaining a connection to Central
 - vii. Grow volunteerism via committees
 - viii. Deploy \$13K from Central Live to bathrooms – Committee to be formed
 - ix. Further fund: Bathrooms, smartboards, AC and campus beautification
 - x. Increase coordination with Alum Association - established an Alum Liaison: Marisa Block
 - xi. Contribute ideas re: practices to promote mental health and celebrate diversity

3. HSA Election 280 Class Representative:

- a. Nominees present introduced themselves to the group and shared why they were interested in being the Class Rep for the 280. Tyra Duhan provided ballots with nominee statements and shared that results would be posted on the listserve by 5PM on 11/09/2017. Nominees:
 - i. Andrea Layden
 - ii. Vanessa McCloskey – *not present*

- iii. Dr. Angela S. McNeil
- iv. Rashida Merazi – *has withdrawn her nominations. She looks forward to volunteering at various events throughout the year.*
- v. Lisa Ripper

4. Environment Team Updates:

- a. The VP of Environment position on the board was vacated in June. The board voted to appoint an interim person for this position, Mimi Harvey, until the Spring elections. Mimi has already assisted with the Fall Clean-up efforts.
- b. With the growing Environmental Team – 35 students this year and expanding efforts, the board has opted to add a Member-At-Large position to help coordinate events. Jeremiah Hall has assisted and help to lead the Fall Clean-up and will assume the MaL role.

5. HSA Fundraising Update:

- a. Currently three efforts underway: all information available at www.centralhsa.org
 - i. Caring for Central Campaign – please consider making a donation today
 - ii. Central Restaurant Week Events:
 - 1. Fare Restaurant – Sunday, 11/12 – Saturday, 11/18 (please make a reservation and mention CENTRAL) – 20% donated to Central
 - 2. Trolley Car Diner and Trolley Car Café – Monday, 12/4 – Sunday, 12/10

6. Class Rep Updates

- a. Class 277 Update: Debra Holland
 - i. Claire Gourmet Fundraiser
 - 1. Money & Forms due 11/16/2017
 - 2. Defrays costs of class dues and prom for those who participate
 - ii. Class Dues Collection
 - 1. Starts next week in homeroom (cash, check or money order)
 - 2. With student's name; ID#; Book # & 277 class dues
 - iii. Super Pan Photo: 11/15 with rain date 11/16
 - iv. Flag football game 277 vs 278:11/16 after school
 - v. Central Thon Activities:
 - 1. Book Drive ends 11/16 new or gently used books
 - 2. Toy Drive begins end of November
 - 3. Both efforts benefit CHOP
 - 4. Donate in room 302
 - vi. Community Service Hour and Essay
 - 1. Due April 16,2018: *essay topic has not been chosen yet*
 - 2. Submit community service paper with your homeroom number on it to Dr. Drago in room 320 (*not to room 211 or to him in class or in the hallway*).
SUBMIT TO ROOM 320!
 - vii. Cardigans
 - 1. final call deadline is Dec.1, 2017 for money and form
 - 2. Can pay online or to Dr. Drago or Mr. Innamarato in room 204
 - 3. Google form must be completed available on student's 277 google class page

- 4. Will receive cardigan by Winter Break
- 5. Cardigans ordered earlier will be in by Thanksgiving
- viii. HOMECOMING CHAPERONES NEEDED FOR FRIDAY NOV.17,2017 DANCE AT THE INN AT PENN
 - 1. if interested email Dr. Drago at edrago@philasd.org
- ix. 277 Parents wish to congratulate the Public League and District Champions – GO LANCERS!!!!

b. Class 278 Update: Jenny Yu

- i. Jenny will send class updates via the listserv once she receives the information from Mr. Horowitz

c. Class 279 Update: Keir Grey

- i. **Entertainment Book** fundraiser has ended; another dues fundraiser opportunity will be available in December
- ii. **Ice Skating** trip on December 8 (half-day for students), tickets are \$15 each, sales will likely start November 20
- iii. **Barnes and Noble Book Fair**: December 15-17, percentage of sales benefit Central High School, buy holiday gifts! Also a community service opportunity for 279, more info to come.
- iv. **279 hats** (\$20) and **t-shirts** (\$15 short-sleeve, \$20 long-sleeve) are available from Ms. Zeserman during homeroom

7. Upcoming School

- a. Report Card Conferences
 - i. 11/21/17 – 12:30 – 3:00PM and 5:00 – 7:00PM
 - ii. 11/22/17 – 12:30 – 3:00PM
- b. Next Home & School Association Meeting
 - i. Wednesday, 12/13/17 – 6:30 – 8:00
 - 1. IB Program Presentation
 - 2. Potluck – bring a dish to share (does not need to be homemade)

8. New Business

- a. Cynthia Olds (Parent 275 and 279) shared an idea for the school to host an International Showcase. Many of the cultural clubs at Central do performances at International Day. Few students and parents get to see the performance. This would be an evening event. Cynthia has spoken with President McKenna to get initial approval for the event. If interested in assisting with this event, please contact Cynthia at bgreeley@msn.com

Meeting adjourned by Laura Buonomo at 8PM.

Minutes submitted by Carmen Hayman on 11/08/2017.