

Central HSA General Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020

Pres. McKenna report

- **General update:**
 - **Budget** – we are losing a teaching position due to cuts and because of projected enrollment 651 confirmed, but funded for 602; position will come from a retirement
 - **Facilities** – hoping to use the parking lot in next 2 months; 6 months ahead of schedule; tennis courts are being designed now
 - **Scheduling:** change for next year – Students will come to school 1 hour later, on Wednesday (9 am, and go right to first pd) to facilitate faculty planning
- **Special meeting topic:** link to slides
 - Reminded parents that school cannot share what discipline was handed out to the student in question
 - Followed up with students in school (leaders) about putting a plan in place refer to slides
 - Anti-Defamation League (ADL) – planning to participate in their fundraising walk with Cheltenham school
 - Social media presentation – parents are invited; see events listing on HSA website

Q&A

Ground rules – if you want to ask a question, wait to be called on; if you have a question that someone already asked, please don't ask it again

Guests from SDP, assisting answering questions included: Rachel Holzman, Deputy Chief of Office of Students Rights & Responsibilities and Dr. Debora Carrera, Asst. Superintendent, Learning Network One

- Suggestion – have a clear social media policy; have a code of ethics that kids must sign off on
- Q. What have teachers been instructed to do if they hear racist comments? A. They are to report everything to Dean of Students
- Q. Why was a student who had a relationship with the dean of students taken to the dean of students for discipline? A. School designates the representative for the student. Q. Is this a conflict? A. Principals follow SDP code of conduct. Pres. McKenna called the appropriate office and they walked him through the code per this incident.
- Q. Does the district have a social media policy? A. Board of Ed has a policy – safety; code of conduct – inappropriate use of technology; goes from in-school intervention to expulsion
- Q. We expect a place of safety and trust; with this incident both were violated. What is the school doing (response) to reiterate its values, what it will and won't tolerate with students and staff; specifically related to this incident? And has any direct action been taken with this student? A. Code of conduct was followed. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) must guide the process. Direct and appropriate action for this incident was taken.
- Q. How can students learn/prevent from happening again, if they don't know the punishment? A. We advise schools to talk with students, reviewing in detail the code of conduct, together and addressing issues and consequences.
- Suggestion – more frank discussions with kids about race are needed
- Q. Has the school investigated the dean of students and his record, and what is being done to change the perception that we and our kids have of him? Was he required to take any special training? A. We acknowledge that we missed the step to communicate that we acted. We are

looking at the entire situation; can't tell you things about an individual employee, but the entire event if being examined.

- Q. Are you looking at just this event or the larger Central culture? A. We're looking at the culture and the whole picture
- Q. What is the training for the dean of students and how does that role apply equity across the student population? A. Dean doesn't have the power to suspend a student. Dr Scott and Pres. McKenna are the only ones who can approve out of school suspension.
- Statement: Anecdotes about the dean are that he gives wrestlers special treatment. Reply: We're looking at everything.
- Statement: Tracy Scott processes all the serious incidents and paperwork; process was explained, including how the Office of Students Rights & Responsibilities office is involved.
- Q. Is there some direct line for students to be able to report issues anonymously? A. They are instructed to talk to Pres. McKenna and Ms. Scott; also, can call safe2 say – a state-run organization.
- Q. Did you announce to the kids that discipline has happened? A. We have followed the code; we may not have 100% said that (did speak to Juniors and Seniors); still need to reach the freshmen and sophomores.
- Q. Can you address all parents outside of this meeting, that this was shared? A. Yes, we'll send something.
- Statement: underlying issue is the conflict of interest or favoritism with dean of students; needs to be addressed.
- Q. AAU students were asked to talk about race and the trauma of this incident. Who is helping these students deal with this trauma in an equitable way? A. Ms. Scott will lead this support effort.
- Q. Are there school district employees who have DEI (diversity, equity & inclusion) roles? A. Benjamin Rush and Masterman do; this is driven by budget.
- Q. Is there a policy for what gets shared – traumatic events; what drives the decision for announcements. A. We try and share as much as we are able.
- Q. Were there plans to notify the entire Central community? A. Yes there were.

Coronavirus

- Q. What will you (Central) do? A. We're taking direction from the district; on Tuesday we spoke to the leadership team and requested they ask their students who has wifi and who doesn't and begin getting material (hardcopy) to them. I don't have the power to close schools. We sent a letter home and a tweet about visiting and following the information on the SDP website. Also, every school received an extra custodian.
- Q. What prep will teachers have (time)? Can you make a half a day for teachers so they can prep? A. Central Office is creating a learning guide that is being developed as we speak; plan now is focused on no wifi vs wifi and then determining what's needed,
- Q. What are you talking about with your school nurses? A. We're getting sick kids to the nurse as soon as we see them (we have 2.8 nurses). The nurses are sending sick kids home. Posters are being distributed; we can make an announcement tomorrow.
- Q. Where can we direct our ideas about what to do about the virus? A. Send an email to a specific email address on the SDP website.

Anxiety

- Q. Is the school thinking about children with anxiety in general and as it relates to these intense topics? A. We sent a resource list to the counselors today – specifically about anxiety, relaxation.

Inner strength/mindfulness matters presentation (Amy)

- Program provides students with tools to help them with stress, anxiety
- We'll do some work with all the grades on cultural change and shift, and racial literacy
- Trained 10,000 students in Phila schools
- Relationship building, compassion building, letting go, practicing kindness within one's thoughts
- Program provides a lot of room for students to find their way
- Program has been for the juniors (18 classes this year) for the last 6 years – because of the testing that happens in Junior year
- Still looking for a place to fit this in for other students, beyond junior year
- Q. Do students who had health freshman year, will they get it in Junior year? A. No and IB students also don't get it.
- Innerstrength.net website has programs and videos

HSA updates:

HSA elections

- All positions are open – president, 2 VPs, secretary and treasurer, send interest to centralhsa.nominations@gmail.com – nominate yourself or others
- Elections are next month; also looking for committee heads. Please express interest using the same nominating email address: centralhsa.nominations@gmail.com – communication, beautification, spirit wear.

Treasurer's report/Fundraising

- All money we raise, goes directly back to CHS
- Gala/Auction – May 16; Penn's landing caterers; looking for donors and sponsors first

Volunteering

- Looking for volunteers for spring clean-up; April 26 @noon; will send a sign-up genius
- Please send in your required security clearances to the office

Events/dates – new student welcome night 3/31; spring cleanup 4/26; AASU play speechless 3/25-27; spring break 4/6-10; April 16-17 report card conferences

Communication – moving to google groups on 4/1

Class updates

- 279 – sr prom 4/23 at Bellevue for \$90; sr trip to NYC, chaperones needed; sr picnic is 6/3; class dues must be paid; dues balances have been emailed
- 280 –Junior prom is 3/20; if cancelled it will be rescheduled
- 281 –soph hop is 3/13, Central at the Phillies in May
- 282 – marking pd ends at end of month

HSA meeting calendar of topics/speakers

- Title 1 / feedback – April
- Final meeting – May