

CSC Minutes for August 18, 2011

Introductions

Since we have some new members on the CSC and this was the first meeting for the year, we went around the table and introduced ourselves.

Mike Johnson, a high school parent representative, went first. He is the parent of three DSA students, one graduated last year and two are still attending. Sue Gonzales, PTSO president, was next. She has one son, Nico who is graduating this year. Bill Kohut was next – he said we all know who he is so he deferred to the next person in line, Chip Galaty, who was elected as a middle school parent representative at the end of last year. He has one daughter here, who is a 7th grader. Sue Borgos was next. She is a continuing middle school parent representative and has a son who is in 8th grade. Nichole Williams came next. She is a new CSC high school student representative and is a vocal major. Brandon Becker is a new teacher representative to CSC. He is in the theater department. David Posner, who is a high school parent representative, was re-elected at the end of last year. He has a child that is currently in 10th grade and 2 children who graduated from DSA a while ago. Patsy Hunt, our Interim Director of Development, has a daughter who is in the dance program here about to start 7th grade. Patsy is not part of CSC but is here to give a report. Amanda Brockbank, a Senior year high school student representative, is in her third year on CSC. Jennifer Castillo teaches AP US History and AP Human Geography and is a new teacher representative to CSC. Lynn Davies is also a new teacher representative. She teaches math.

Community Input

There was none

Nominations and Elections

At the end of last year we had elections to fill slots on the CSC. This was our first meeting with all new representatives present, so it was time to elect a Chairperson and Secretary. Mike Johnson nominated Dave Posner for Chair. Dave agreed contingent on Mike running as Co-Chair. Mike agreed. Sue Borgos seconded both nominations. A vote was taken and Mike and Dave were unanimously elected Co-Chairs.

Bill Kohut nominated Sue Borgos to be Secretary. Mike seconded the nomination. Sue was elected unanimously as well.

Principal's Report

We are 12 students above the population we projected last year. 1053 students was the target we needed to hit and we're at 1065 students right now.

We received some additional funds from the district which allowed us to have some improvements to the school. The paint booth in the Schomp Theater was removed creating a better use of space. We also received some assistance in getting some new pianos. The pianos we had were originally at Cole when DSA was at Cole. Then they were moved to Byers when DSA was at Byers and some additional older pianos were added to that group. When we moved to the current building all of the old pianos were moved here as well and no budget had been awarded for new pianos. When Bill came to the school he made an arrangement with Baker Music to obtain pianos on loan. Baker informed us this year that they were going out of business. Through a combination of DPS loan and DPS funding, we have received 18 pianos, including a Steinway. DPS has kicked in 50% via the bond for capital improvements, and the remainder needs to be paid over the next five years. The cost will be approximately \$12,000 per year during that period.

We are fully staffed. No changes in budget have occurred since the end of last year.

Bill says he is ready for a great school year!

Old Business

- a. Letter to Superintendent re: testing
District has changed the testing – not doing acuity but doing District Benchmarks. 45 minute tests, with a writing component twice a year that will take a little longer. All will be done during classroom time.
- b. Lunchroom
There is a new district Director of Culinary Services, so we might want to revisit this issue. Bill will contact the kitchen folks to come to the next meeting so we can get on top of this from the beginning.
- c. Bus service
Originally there appeared to be problems with getting some high school students on the buses, but then it seems that there is now room. There were no real issues for the first day. We will see what happens in the next week or two.

d. Preparing and posting minutes

One of the biggest complaints we had was that minutes were not being posted in a timely fashion. All present agreed that we need to get them posted ASAP. The new procedure will be that within a few days after the meeting, Sue will send the draft out by e-mail. Everyone will be given a week to respond. Anything non-controversial will be posted without discussion. Anything controversial will be discussed quickly between Sue, Mike and David and the minutes will be posted as soon thereafter as possible.

e. Innovation Status

The way this was left last year was that rather than look specifically at Innovation Status, we should look at what things we would want to change and then work backwards from those things to see if we need Innovation Status. Mike proposes that we leave this for the retreat.

f. Summer Camp

Summer Camp did not happen this summer because we didn't have the funding. Brandon Becker put together a pilot program for a summer theater program at the last minute. Brandon and Bill have been discussing what happened. 7th through 9th graders weren't really geared for this. However, they thought this might be a good program for 3rd through 5th graders. Bill says the arts teachers are ready to sit down and discuss this once the school year gets rolling. We are looking to make the camp an affordable program. The program would be tuition-based, with scholarships being awarded to students who cannot afford all or part of the tuition. Chip brought up the possibility of partnering with organizations that already have a program that need space like Cleo Parker Robinson and other similar programs throughout the city. All of this will be fleshed out by Bill and the arts faculty as the school year progresses.

g. Fundraising

Patsy reported on the status and focus of all-school fundraising. First and foremost, we want to make sure what we do works with the vision of folks that we would like to have as donors. That is why, after the Millie fundraiser, we waited until this year to implement anything further. Everyone Patsy has spoken with, the Anschutz Foundation and other foundations – really like the idea of creating the summer camp here.

Patsy will be providing a report about last year's fundraising and the positives and negatives involved with our effort last year. She isn't going into it at this meeting because we can review it on our own.

She has not worked on grants yet, but she has a plan for where she would like to pursue grants.

A new brochure has been created for visitation and other marketing purposes. The brochure sits in a folder with a calendar, a two sided history piece and each department will have their own slip sheet to add. Patsy showed us a sample and it looks very polished.

We are planning one big one-day fundraising event that will feature the talents of students and teachers throughout the school, with limited raffles. The intention of the all-school fundraising is to take away the need for the departments to have to do endless repetitive fundraising events. It is believed that it is better to have one major ask for the year and one or two fundraising events that involve everyone. All of this is a work in progress and many details need to be worked out so that the departments feel comfortable with this.

Community outreach, including alumni outreach is an important part of getting bigger donors to be a part of DSA. We are looking into possibly having an Alumni Guest Artist Program as part of the outreach to alumni. They are a great untapped resource for our students to learn from. It would be nice to have an alumni association as well. Patsy would like to work with our student CSC representatives and the student government to see what we can implement and to start the idea of continued alumni affiliation with this year's graduating class.

Mike asked if anyone keeps track of the fundraising by department. Bill says only the District keeps track.

There is a transition happening and a change in the Board structure of the Friends of DSA. They have agreed to allow a transition team composed of their Board members and some volunteers to move them from a small donor organization into a bigger fundraising arm. Sue Gonzales described what is happening. Part of the transition involves expanding on what already exists and implementing more business processes to achieve goals. The goal of the Transition team is twofold. First, they need to work on developing the infrastructure to support DSA's on-going and planned fundraising. Second, they need to figure out how to structure and develop the permanent Board.

All of the members of the Transition Team will have the option to transition onto the new Board, but everyone on the current Board has agreed that no one on the transition team will serve as an officer on the new Board.

Friends board members that are not serving on the Transition Team have the option to remain on this "interim" Board until a new Board is seated and they also have the option to submit their names for consideration for a seat on the new Board. A few of these members have elected to stay on through the transition. Some members have indicated they would be interested in being considered for a seat on the new Board.

Mike asked questions about the makeup of the Board and the need to better connect it to what is going on in the building. That discussion hasn't occurred yet, but these things are being considered by the Transition Team.

Mike asked about whether we can use departmental donations to show potential donors what kind of money we have been raising. Patsy says that we need to funnel funds through the Friends in order for it to count as donations for the purpose of getting other funds. Getting the money to funnel is part of what the Transition Team is working on.

Student Topics

Nichole brought up the Attendance Challenge. The student board would like to offer a limousine ride to a student who has had perfect attendance for 30 days. They would put the names of all qualifying students in a hat and do a drawing.

David brought up that he'd like to see the students find issues that they'd like to raise. Amanda said that part of what they are trying to do this year is legitimize the Student Council and have elections. Nichole would like to see coordination between Student Council and the Student Board (which is an organization created by the District) so that they don't step on each other and so they can help each other achieve their goals.

The Student Board is also focusing on post-secondary education issues.

PTSO

The PTSO is trying to build on what it started last year. There is a change in the volunteer base. Bill and Sue Gonzales will meet to pick a topic for each meeting. Sonja Wooden will continue to manage hospitality for teachers. The Newsletter will continue. Mini grants will continue. The amount available for mini grants will depend on what was collected for PTSO at registration. There is an operating reserve so we can operate for a full year without obtaining additional funds. The mini grants are for school based initiatives. They help individual teachers. Student initiatives are also eligible for mini grants. There is an on-line application process. The web site is under construction.

The other thing that started last year was work on a pathway to graduation, a program to help parents understand how to help their students prepare for college. We have new capacity for student counseling and the parents need a different orientation than the students. College counseling of students will be further expanded this year as well.

All school volunteering will be happening again. The costume inventory project will happen again as well. There will also be an empty nest parent alum group forming. PTSO will be teaming with National Honor Society this year to give students community service opportunities. The Scrip Project/Family Funds Program will continue. We don't yet have a school store this year – but there is an initiative under way by several groups to potentially run it. At the moment, we are lacking a coordinator for the store. Through PTSO, we also have a car pool group that is growing.

Schedule regular meetings for rest of the year

As we did last year, we agreed on the 2nd Tuesday of every month except for December. But we have an extra budget meeting so it evens out. Meetings will be from 4:00PM-5:30PM.

Retreat – logistics and topics

We agreed to hold our retreat on Thursday Sept 22, 2011 from 9:00AM -3:00PM

Last year we made a list of topics we potentially wanted to handle and then prioritized and narrowed it down to create a final list that associated the key topics with a specific CSC meeting. We agreed that this was a good method to continue and Bill proposed that we create our list in the morning and spend the afternoon looking at the Unified School Improvement Plan to see if we need to do anything with it.

Other Items

Bill would like to discuss a policy on student travel; both domestic and international. We agreed that most likely, we should leave this topic for discussion during our meeting in October.

We also need to see about getting in on the new capital improvement bond because we need to expand the building. We have inadequate use of space that we need to address and we need some more classrooms. Ideally, we'd also like to discuss creating a real kitchen.

Sue Borgos mentioned that Sue Gonzales had appointed Deronn Turner as the PTSO representative to CSC and that she needs to be added to our mailing list.

The meeting was adjourned at 6PM.