

Parent Forum Committee Meeting Minutes:

September 16, 2009

Members in attendance: Chris & Joel Temprow, Joy Wiltshire, Cassandra Strohl, Lisa Adams, Sally Scott, Susan Peter, Dan Spiegel & Xiaoqin Yu, Julie Dectis, Deb Bren, Jean Rooney.

Open Meeting 7:01 pm

1. New Business:

- A. Introduction of new principal Mr. Howard Lessel. Brief review of his education and credentials. Discussion of his goal to “get parents involved in parent forum”. His philosophical outlook is the academic push and commitment to get students priorities in order. Academics’ first, “it will always be an uphill fight” (with parents of sports active students). Addressing the perception that certain students treated differently because of certain involvements.
- B. Discussion on details to Fall Work shop planned for October 21, 2009. Plans are in motion to have Eric, Kim and Connie chair the events next month. Watch for Parkland newsletter for details.
- C. Addresses “college visits” for this year. Mr. Lessel informs all persons present that there are 240 colleges planning visits to the HS this school year.
- D. Replacement of new assistant principal, due to arrive in 5 weeks.
- E. Mr. Lessel’s goal: “how to get parents involve” in parent forum meeting. Talk it up, and try to bring a friend or two to the next meeting. This is not a PTA.
- F. High School transcripts start in eighth grade. Number of students enrolled this year is 3237 as of today.
- G. A Parent asked about “splitting the district?” No, although this school (high school) was planned with expansion plans if needed at a later date. District goal is to pay off this school first. Also the completion of the building of the elementary school is a priority now.
- H. Is LCTI at capacity? No, we have 28 + 13 to 17 full time students, and 400 part time students attending. Math is a subject that is taught at the H.S. to help us keep a

better handle on the districts goals and required test scores. Social Studies classes taught @ LCTI, a teacher is sent up to them.

- I. Student Lunches: As per Mr. Lessel, four lunch periods are necessary to service the students. Respectively there are two lunch periods with 800 students, one with 500 students and one with 900 students.
- J. Responding to e-mails? One parent (Dan Spiegle) expressed disappointment with his child receiving “no response” from a teacher. “Its there a policy?” As per Mr. Lessel “probably not” although he agreed some kind of acknowledgement should have be sent. Two other parents agreed and related how e-mail coursity is handled at their places of employment. Lisa Adams asks to bring this up at the District meeting, Mr. Lessel was in agreement.
- K. Guidance Counselors Staff. Mr. Lessel addressed how this staff is or isn’t available during the summer break. How the usually work 20 hour week which comes out to be 3 times per week. The counselors rotate schedules so the office has sufficient coverage until regular school schedule begins.
- L. Sponsor Student Senate: A survey was taken from the AP & Honors students this past summer on how to improve the summer program and projects. Results gave some suggestions for the teachers to improve this program for next year. Parents were informed that these course assignments were developed by teachers who have taught these types of programs previously.
- M. Tutoring for students? Yes, Math flex, study labs at the library, and Honor students will be available to tutor. Have students contact Guidance Counselors, Math teachers. Students may attend the math labs during their study halls, usually these are scheduled last period of the day. Students must request help & get a pass.
- N. Home Access Center. This service was described how students and parents may have access to a student’s grades, homework assignments and was their progress.
- O. Parents Open House. Suggestion made to arrive early tomorrow, Thursday, September 17, 2009. Meet the teachers and visit the classrooms.
- P. Christmas City Studio new photographer for student pictures. Lite Touch was not providing adequate service. After 3 months of phone calls, district made the decision to switch studios.

2. Old Business: Nothing old discussed.

Adjournment: 8:00 pm (Another group was in need of the room)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2009 Fall Open House Workshops

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Marie Rooney