

CPO Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2016

Attendees: Ellen Cook, Michele Whyte, Julie Gibowicz, Angela Crocker, Christine Kennedy, Jun Miao, Kunjan Jhaveri, Valerie Maillet, Mari Weldon, Julie Klinger, Kristine Mitchell, Sandy Maloney, Renee Bordner, Lori Orr, Karen Renhowe, Robin Cavanaugh, Robin Wolk

LSRHS Presentation – Bella Wong, Aida Ramos, Leslie Patterson, Seth Joachim and Rebecca Cohn

- 1600 students at LS – enrollment projected to go down – 20 fewer students next year than current 9th grade class
- Aida Ramos, Director of Student Services – 2 new positions next year; an autism specialist and an interventionist to work with struggling 9th graders.
- 4 Houses – North, South, East and West. Students stay in same house all 4 years; 1 House Administrator; 2 House Counselors and 1 House Assistant - makes the school feel smaller for families. Houses don't dictate teachers or classes.
- Culture of LS – very positive energy from students and faculty
- Seth Joachim – Senior at LS – very positive environment; big school with smaller groups; best thing he did was join groups/clubs – makes you feel connected with students from all grades.
- Becca Cohn – Freshman at LS – joined 2 clubs & 3 teams – upperclassmen were so welcoming and helpful with transition. 9th grade adventure day – upperclassmen give tours. First few weeks, you get lost, but after a month, you get used to it. Not as hard of a transition as she thought it would be.
- Communication – emails with general updates. Guidance Counselors meet with them and housemasters early in the year; online communication; 9th grade seminar – 9th graders meet with guidance counselor with a few other kids to discuss the transition and college preparation. Students communicate with teachers directly – not a lot of parent involvement.
- Teachers are friendly – want to give extra help.
- 9th grade parents night during 1st 2 weeks of school
- Free blocks – use to get homework done – bring laptop for this.
- As a freshman, you can't leave campus; a lot more freedom; library packed during free blocks. Upper classmen – parents need to sign off on off campus passes. Alumni state that they felt more prepared for college because of the freedom & time management skills they learned at LS
- 6 free blocks in a two week schedule
- 10 day cycle – blue weeks/white weeks; Wellness classes and electives don't meet as frequently as core classes
- Every Wed. is a ½ day – Last class ends at 12:31; Activity block (ACA) ends at 1:20 – use ACA to meet with teachers or attend club meetings.
- Clubs are really fun accdg. To both students
- Parents suggested volunteering at school store to get involved.

- Activity/Club fair during lunch – all clubs listed in Program of Studies
- Big transition for parents is the transparency of grades – no Schoology – kids need to share their grades/passwords. Philosophy behind this is to encourage students to be responsible for themselves. Both students say that parents not being able to look at grades all the time helped their stress level. Sports help with stress – older teammates can give good advice. Kids that stress out the most are those that isolate themselves – helpful to study with friends.
- Once a week House meetings are conducted to discuss any student on their radar. Warning letters are sent if grades suffer.
- Later start time – will be discussed at 5/17 School committee meeting, but there's a lot to consider – ripple down effects. Also discussing 8th – 9th grade transition.
- Peer tutor / TA opportunities for students.
- Students shared that quiet kids in middle school came out of their shells in High School because of the freedom to express themselves & join clubs.

Principal's Report – Mr. Lambert

- Request to use CPO funds to purchase cases for 6th grade Chromebooks – email will be sent.
- 8th grade career day today; 7th grade career day was last week – both successful

Treasurer's Report – Lori Orr

- Curtis Madness raised \$25,000 net. Online auction was piloted – mixed reviews – a lot of items were already at the max bid or higher, so disappointing for people who showed up at the auction. Suggestion to split items so some are available only on line and others at the party.
- Need 2 volunteers to co-chair auction next year and recruit committee members
- Curtis Gear – spring sale open now
- \$1,000 gift received from Paul Lamoureux – Ballroom Dancing
- Last Creative Enrichment event will take place in May – 7th & 8th grade will have an improv. Group performance on tolerance; 6th grade something similar.
- Teacher wishlist requests have been received and will be reviewed by board
- Amazon – suggestion made by parent that this should be promoted more. Look at Wayfair too
- Last day of school – Monday, 6/20.