

COMMUNITY HOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL



'GROWING MINDS IN A GROWING COMMUNITY'

School Leadership Team (SLT) - Meeting Minutes

November 19th, 2012 and January 28th, 2013

The meeting began at 5:00pm in the Media Center

In attendance

Jamie Brooks
Rhonda Rivers
Beth Wood
Sara Bryan
Jennifer Manning
Amy McNelis
Whitney Held

Jessica Burlamachi
Erin McCullen
Smitesh Shah
Fran McDermott
Trish Mack
Erv Nuemann

Leadership Report – Jamie Brooks

November 19th, 2012

- The Area Superintendent spent time at CHMS observing classrooms and procedures – and gave CHMS a wonderful review. Additionally, Doctor Morrison will be providing an update (100 days) to all community members on 11/26 at the Belk Theatre in uptown. SLT members are encouraged to attend, if possible.
- Classroom Resource Update - Springboard continues to be a successful resource for our Language Arts classes – and, because of its success at CHMS, other schools want to start using it as well. Techbook for 6th grade Social Studies (Discovery Education) is now available as a pilot program for CHMS. District continues to research the best reference materials for all Science and Social Studies classes.
- CHMS Musical – “Guys & Dolls” was a huge success and definitely ‘wow-d’ a sold out crowd! Congratulations to the cast, crew, teachers & community members who helped make the performance a big success.
- CHMS hosted the largest ‘4.0 Ceremony’ ever – with 299 students being recognized for receiving straight A’s during 1Q 2012. Opportunities exist to improve the overall event. Some students do not come because it is not ‘cool’ to be smart. Activity during the ceremony (i.e. one class leaving while another class was trying to make student announcements) was disruptive.
- Many thanks to the PTO for providing \$20,000 to be used for technology within the school. Money was used to fund document cameras needed.
- Throughout February, Registration nights will be held for rising 5th, 6th and 7th graders. 2013/14 Registration process is moving toward an ‘Open Enrollment’ format – which allows parents to have the final say in whether their children are enrolled in Honors or Standard classes. Parents are highly encouraged to look at multiple data-points when determining whether your child will succeed in an honors class. Datapoints include: prior assessment scores and/or EOG scores; feedback & recommendations from teachers

January 28th, 2013

- So far this year, 2 teachers (Journalism & Math) have resigned. The new journalism teacher is Ms. Williams. Interviews continue for a replacement Math teacher. In the interim, classes will be covered by the EC teacher as well as substitutes.

- School Safety – Local news article provided statistics on the safety of schools throughout CMS and included CHMS information. Ms. Brooks sent home a letter to all parents clarifying the information that was published and reassuring the community that CHMS is a safe school.
- Congratulations to CHMS chess team who won their match on 1/26! Way to Go! Also, congratulations to Ms. Strickland on her marriage (2/1) and to Mr. Tyson & Ms. Bryan who are newly engaged.
- Don't forget about Registration nights for upcoming 6th, 7th & 8th grade students!

New Business – Jamie Brooks

November 19th, 2012

- CHMS administration has received calls from concerned parents about the amount of homework that is given to students each evening. While CHMS does have high expectations for a student's achievements, the CMS board policy is that homework should take no more than 90 – 120 minutes each evening (or ~30 minutes per subject). Homework should be an extension of what students have learned in class and projects assigned should include detailed rubrics outlining expectations. Parents who have concerns are encouraged to discuss specifics with their child's teacher.

January 28th, 2013

- As part of the CMS initiative Bring your Own Technology (BYOT) wireless internet was 'turned on' throughout the school. SLT team members reviewed/updated existing technology policy as well as a proposed parent/student agreement. Parent/Student agreement will include a refresher of technology rules & responsibilities.
- 2014 Master schedule – While Enrichment Period is currently the last class of the day for all students, this will likely not be the case in 2014. In 2014, Enrichment time periods will vary based on a student's specific schedule – which will allow for more homework & 'teen time' each week. Ms. Brooks continues to discuss options with teachers/staff and will provide an update at a future SLT meeting.

Next Meetings

February 25th @ 5pm.