

Attendance: Randy Johnson, Principal; Kelly Gooding, SAC Co-chair; Colleen Murphy, SAC Co-Chair; Amy Cocchiola, Secretary; Thomas Mc Nerney, Math Rep; Linda Carnall, Guidance Rep; Miriam Provisero, Art Rep; David Hudson, Physical Education Rep; James Gordon, Social Studies; Amy Kennair, Guidance; Summer Anderson, Testing Coordinator; Marna Fox, District Liason; Debra Daniels, PTSO Rep; Parent Reps Deanne Young, Andi Piscatella; Student Reps Makenna Young, Cameron Schaublin

Creekside High School

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 8, 2016

7:30 a.m. – Professional Library

- Welcome – Kelly Gooding, SAC Co-Chair
- Principal Update – Mr. Johnson
  - Graduation
    - CHS has the largest graduation in the District; this year 470 seniors will graduate
    - The history of our graduation comes from Bartram Trail
    - Early on, our first graduating class, CHS graduated by alphabetical order. Following, this rolled into GPA order
    - As of last year CHS graduates Val, Sal, Class Officers, Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude, non-honors graduates
    - Perception is the “smart” kids go all the way to row 25, then the GPA’s drop
      - Takes the appearance that kids in the back haven’t worked as hard
    - Prompted by comments from a parent and at the request of the Principal a Senior Survey was conducted regarding graduation order
      - 60% of the Seniors said to adjust graduation order by Alphabet
      - Some of the comments: Triplets who are graduating, 2 are high GPA, 1 is low. Each asked if they could walk across the stage together rather than be separated.
    - Recognition for Honors graduates is in place and will be as follows:
      - STAR Banquet, Senior Awards Night, Program at the ceremony designating Honors, Cords, etc., and there is a consideration being given to recognizing Honors graduates and their parents at the ceremony
- Sydney Duffey (student response)

- Graduation is a topic of discussion among the seniors prompting a meeting with Mr. Johnson
  - She understands the feelings of low students, however students who have worked hard deserve recognition
  - A compromise proposed to Mr. Johnson is to allow the top 50 students to graduate first
  - It is important to honor the students who have worked hard
- Amy Cocchiola (Senior Sponsor)
  - The Survey was given as a result of prompting from students and parents.
  - This issue has come up in the past, but last year become obvious with 55% of the Seniors graduating with Honors
    - It is important to understand that Honors graduates will be recognized and that we value the hard work of all of our students, not just a particular group
- Deanne Young (parent)
  - Propose graduating top 10% (which would equal the top 50)
- Question: How do other schools graduate?
  - Mr. Johnson – 7 high schools in St. John’s County, only CHS and BT graduate by Honors
- Mr. Johnson – this is being explored in an effort to do the right thing. Comments have been made that students in the back are made to feel like “second-class citizens”
- Debra Daniels (parent)
  - Every parent is there for their student, if by alphabet everyone is happy for everyone
  - Everyone should feel valued
- Andi Piscatella (parent)
  - It is important to remember there will be other graduations for the majority of the Honors graduates, but for some of the lower GPA students this may be their only graduation and therefore should be celebrated.
- Sydney Duffey
  - Everyone has not participated equally
- Cameron Schaublin (student)
  - CHS has the highest GPA’s and by graduating this way we are not celebrating the one’s in the front, but singling out the one’s in the back. College is the incentive to get a high GPA, everyone gets the same diploma.

- Summer Anderson (Testing Coordinator)
  - Last year was my first graduation and the separation was obvious
  - I work with the kids needing to pass tests, 23 seniors are currently at risk of not graduating because of state mandated testing. This is just one more time these students are being told they aren't good enough.
- Jim Gordon (Teacher)
  - I've been at CHS for 4 years. CHS sets the tone for academic achievement in this county. I view this issue as academic Darwinism. I know I would not want to be the last to graduate and this would be incentive. Sydney is a good kid who works hard and deserves to be recognized. I suggest we keep it this way and change things over the summer.
- Miriam Provisero (Teacher)
  - I was a student in high school who needed help and tutoring every day. Every single day I worked hard to improve my grades and worked to graduate. We need to recognize the achievements of all of our students.
- Testing Update (S. Anderson)
  - State testing has begun and so far things are running smoothly.
  - May will be the busiest and we will need a large number of parent volunteers to proctor. Please contact Clark or Nievinski to volunteer your time.
- Needs Assessment Survey (K. Gooding)
  - Surveys have begun. All students should have taken the survey in their Social Studies class.
  - Mr. Johnson – all comments are anonymous and are used to lead a Community Café discussion. Comments in the past have led to improvements in Technology, Testing, and Communication
- Open Forum
  - Running of the Knights May 13, all student athletes are expected to participate

- Vote for Graduation recommendation: Keep as is – 1; Graduate by Alphabet – 9;  
Graduate top 50 first – 5
- A decision will be made by Mr. Johnson upon our return from Spring Break.
- Questions from Debra Daniels regarding the SAC budget.
  - There is approximately \$8500 in the budget. The faculty and staff did vote to allot 5% of any school recognition funds received to SAC
- No questions posed to the Committee
- Next meeting: April 12, 7:30 a.m. – Professional Library