

**Classical Magnet Parent Senate Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

- ❖ Athletic Directors Kate Bernoski (High School) and Hildie Heck (Middle School) addressed the parents on concerns they had in regard to the athletic teams and schedules as well as communication of those schedules to the parents.

Ms. Bernoski spoke first. She distributed a list of all the sports offered to High School students along with the eligibility requirements for participation. She stated that 39% of girls and 61% of boys in the High School currently participate in the athletic programs. She also explained that the athletic schedules are posted on the CIAC website along with directions to the venues. As far as the uniforms go, she explained that not all coaches allow students to take them home. Many collect them at the end of each game to ensure they have all the uniforms and they are complete for the next time they are needed. They wash them and have them ready for the next match up. This also helps eliminate the loss of uniform parts and eases the burden of needing replacements. Uniforms are not replaced as they are “lost”. They are replaced at periodic intervals. Sometimes this can result in a shortage.

Ms. Heck spoke next. She explained that the Middle School has the same sports offerings as the High School with the exception of football, tennis and golf. She stated their schedules are also posted on the CIAC website. Many times the accuracy is dependent on the school posting the information. Due to the experience of the other schools in the division we play in it can be a challenge. The uniforms are handled in a similar manner as those in the High School. It is really the coach’s decision on how to handle it.

Both directors stated they are available to assist with any issues that arise.

- ❖ Update from Librarian – Denise Kennedy:
Ms. Kennedy gave everyone an update on the Integrated Electives and the Library. Please see the attachment for those updates.
- ❖ Principal’s Update
Tim Sullivan introduced Gary Lotreck as the interim Middle School Vice Principal replacement for Elaine Papas. Mr. Lotreck has been serving as the eighth grade English teacher at Classical. He has had his Administrative Certificate for 12 years and has many experiences to bring to the position. He will hold this position until July 1, 2012. A long term substitute replacement for Mr. Lotreck will start on Monday. Her name is Tina Parzialli. She brings great enthusiasm to the position and we are looking forward to having her at Classical. Otherwise Mr. Lotreck is setup and looking to “perk up the positives” but it is business as usual.

Next Tim Sullivan introduced Jim Fagan as the interim Principal of Classical in his place. Mr. Fagan is a long time educator in Hartford and served as Principal of South Middle School for 37 years. He did a substantial amount of vetting for Classical and now has a grandson here in sixth grade. Mr. Fagan stated he is glad to be here and has been going to classes and getting a feel for the school. He stated he is quite impressed with our children. He will be here until the end of June.

Tim Sullivan will still oversee the running of Classical for the remainder of the year and possibly the Principal once they are found.

Tim Sullivan then went on to explain the sequence of events that took place. He stated he received a call Wednesday afternoon from Dr. Kishimoto saying she needed to move him to Burns School as of Monday and Elaine Papas would be going with him. They met with the staff on Friday, the students on Monday and the parents Wednesday.

Tim went on to say he agrees with the decision to move. Burns School ranks 526 out of 530 schools in CT. These students have no athletics, honor society, dances, etc... They primarily get CMT review and mediation for the CMTs. They have many good teachers that have been "beaten down" and they need someone to come in and give them direction. Every child needs to have the learning environment they deserve. Tim said he thinks this was meant to be and that it is his turn to step up and make a difference. He is excited to do so.

Tim Sullivan will be at Burns School until July 1, 2012. He will not be returning to Classical for both personal and professional reasons. He has tentatively been offered a position downtown and feels that would be the right move to further his career. He also feels it would be better for his son if he was not the Principal at Classical.

As parents, Tim urged us to get involved in the hiring process. We have been given a commitment from Dr. Kishimoto to conduct a national search. He stated how important it is to leave our children at Classical. It is critical that the mass of students stay to protect the integrity of the school's culture. The teachers are what drives the day to day operation of Classical and they are not going anywhere. He also requested that we not pit him against Dr. Kishimoto. That would not be good for anyone. He asked us to respect him enough to protect the power of the parents in this process.

The Classical community will be involved in the Principal selection process. The Board of Education will make the final recommendation based on Dr. Kishimoto's recommendation. Hopefully her recommendation will be based on ours.

As of now, Elaine Papas is planning to return to Classical as the Middle School Vice Principal. This is the plan unless she gets offered a Principal position somewhere.

Before Tim left the meeting he urged parents to stand together, united and strong. He reminded everyone that Dr. Kishimoto was well within her rights to move him and she will be meeting with the Governance Committee on Monday.

After Tim left there was some confusion among parents as to who should attend the meeting on Monday. Some suggestions were made to put out a message stating who should be there. It was suggested that Tim send a follow-up message so those that were not able to attend the meeting would understand his position. One of the biggest concerns among parents is that we maintain our autonomy and the integrity of the process that will take place.

❖ Senior Capstone Projects

Jim Pezzulo gave Marissa an update on this to deliver to the parents. There are 82 seniors whose projects will need to be reviewed by parents and staff. He is looking for 40 parent volunteers to help with this process. You will be needed Thursday, May 24, 2012 at noon. The seniors will be staying that day to present their projects. It should take about an hour or so. You will be asked to recommend if they pass or fail the project. Please contact Mr. Pezzulo at the school if you are interested in volunteering.

❖ Proposals:

- Read Proposal #3: Boys Volleyball Team
- Read Proposal #4 – To Kill a Mocking Bird
 - Both proposals will be voted on at the March meeting.

❖ Old Business

- Hog River Festival
 - May 19
 - Mark has a meeting with a new caterer from Lincoln Culinary Institute. The menu will incorporate a vegetarian item for those that would like it. Interested volunteers should contact Mark at ctclockrepair@aol.com.
- All-Night Grad Party
 - 10 pm – 5 am on graduation night, 6/9. Volunteers will be needed.
 - Working on another Casino Trip and a restaurant night.
- Teacher Move Assignments
 - Many teachers in the school have been moved to different positions for the 2012-2013 school year. This was done before Tim knew he was leaving. Marissa will try to get a list of the changes to send to parents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

PARENT SENATE February 8, 2012

Prepared by Denise S. Kennedy, LMS

MUSIC

- Flute Choir (student lead, student taught group by Haley Troy) is performing at Empty Bowls
- Haley Troy and Jordan Kunzika are participating in UCONN's first Invitational Honors Band
- Zach Sayah was accepted (via audition) into the CMEA Youth Honor Band

THEATRE

- Poetry out Loud Feb 15
- Poetry out Loud finalists to SCSU for workshop Feb 16
- Hartford area finalist workshop and luncheon Feb 24
- Shakespeare Recitation: Feb 1: two Classical Students will go to finals
- Shakespeare Recitation finalists to states Feb 29
- Auditions for Classical Originals and tour to Nebraska Feb 21-23
- Classical Originals next month!!

HEALTH AND PE

- Indoor Track Team won the conference championship and Magnet Cup for track....going on to the state championship on Friday!

ART

- Empty Bowls: tonight! Please stop by. All proceeds benefit Loaves and Fishes on Woodland Street.
- Scholastic Art Winners Sean Hunt (photography), Ana Filigrana (drawing) and Dyanella Linares (ceramics)

READING

- Bean bag chairs are now available for independent reading.
- Students who are English Language Learners are using Kindles to assist in reading,
- Reading Department and the peer mediation program will be sponsoring a car wash and bake sale to earn money for Classical Magnet shirts with our department logo on it. Please come by from 9 am until 1 pm for this fundraiser. . Saturday March 10, 9-1 at Classical Magnet School. They are looking for donations of baked goods.

LIBRARY

We are rolling out our eBook shelf

Go to www.classicalmagnet.com; library; Follett eBooks.

You will need a username and password [please do not publish username and password yet]

Book Fair will be the week of April 16th during the school day

Hunger Games: the Movie field trip March 23

Hunger Games: the book: Winner of the Connecticut Children's Book Award: Teen Division

Summer reading update: grade-level titles almost finalized. Deborah Ellis plans are moving forward.