Minutes of the Classical High School Community Association

Meeting on March 4, 2020

Prepared by John Landry on March 30

Chair Marybel Martinez ran the meeting. Secretary John Landry also attended, along with eight other parents. We had no guest speaker.

**Fundraising**

Chsca is now set to volunteer to sell concessions at Gillette Stadium events, especially the Revolution soccer games. The first one will be for training. After that, each person who volunteers will yield Chsca $100 per event. Marybel is leading the crew. [Gillette Stadium and all school-related events were cancelled soon after this meeting.] Marybel also said the online store for school apparel was now up, at [need URL].

**Parent Advisory Council**

Marybel and other parents have been attending meetings of the district-wide Parent Advisory Council. The district wants to limit attendance to only two parents per school, but it’s a large, informal meeting and anyone can show up. The meetings are on the third Monday of the month at varying locations.

The February meeting had various news about the state’s takeover of the district. The state is working to adjust the teachers’ contracts to gain flexibility on hiring, after-school, and other areas. For the high schools, the commissioner seems to be focused on elevating the schools other than Classical. The biggest concern at Classical seems to be making it more welcoming to Spanish-speaking students.

**Shortages of STEM Teachers**

A parent talked at length about the extreme difficulty in scheduling a meeting with one of her child’s teachers, and other parents reported some difficulty too. All teachers are obligated to meet with parents individually as needed. John said he would follow up with vice-principal Baldizar to see if this difficulty was due to a structural problem at the school. What can parents do to make teachers more responsive?

This particular teacher was in the sciences, and it led us to resume discussion from an earlier meeting about the school’s difficulties in providing enough qualified STEM teachers. Classical requires physics for all students, but maybe it should drop the requirement if it can’t provide enough physics teachers. We raised the possibility of online learning, but pointed out that it’s hard to get academic credit for online work. How can parents help to bring about improvement here?

[The last two meetings of the year, April 1st and May 6th, will likely be cancelled due to the pandemic.]