Notes on the CHSCA Meeting, March 11, 2021

Chsca secretary John Landry led the meeting on Zoom, standing in for president Marybel Martinez, with Julie Gearan facilitating. Sarah Larson, the school nurse, was our main speaker for the 30-plus parents attending. John Landry also prepared these notes.

**Various Announcements**

Assistant principal Brian Baldizar said that seniors would graduate on June 7, but the venue is still being worked out. He also urged parents to fill out the Survey Works survey from the school district; here is the url:

The third quarter is ending in early April, and Advanced Placement tests will run the first two weeks in May. Next Generation science assessment will be in late May, along with senior assessments.

The administration still hopes to have some of the Spirit Week events, such as the toga parade. They just held the usual welcome for students entering this fall. No prom this spring.

**Student Health**

Ms. Larson praised the students for taking Covid screening seriously. So far there have been no positive cases detected at school, with more than four hundred rapid tests taken since January.

Ms. Larson has been going to the school building every day since the reopening. The two social workers, Sabrina Mazzilli and Nikki Best, have likewise continued to work through this pandemic year, though it’s been harder to reach students who are learning remotely or who are in quarantine. They’ve been offering lots of remote assistance. Some students have been falling through the cracks, and Mr. Merino leaving mid-year has stretched the staff thin. Fortunately New Urban Arts and other groups in the community have stepped up with special programs and other support.

She said fewer students have been coming to see her than usual, even with the reduced numbers in the building, probably because of Covid caution, but they know her door is open.

We had two students on the call, and they, along with Mr. Baldizar, praised Ms. Larson for her diligence and care in the pandemic. She helps students with everything from knee scrapes to panic attacks.

About Mr. Merino leaving, Mr. Baldizar said a retired administrator has been helping out this year to fill the gap. With looming deficits in the school budget, he couldn’t promise that the position would be filled in the fall. There’s pressure on staffing everywhere.

Student absenteeism is definitely up this year, for many reasons. Some students are in quarantine, others are not always comfortable going to school even though they declined the virtual learning academy.

**Other Issues**

Mr. Baldizar encouraged parents (and anyone) to use the “Let’s Talk feature” on the right-hand edge of the school’s website. It’s good for sending messages to the school district’s central offices, and they’ll follow up with Classical as needed.

The yearbook will be going out as usual. Seniors will get a free copy automatically; everyone else has to order one.

One parent has expressed interest in serving on Chsca, but we need more volunteers and leaders for next year. All the leaders/organizers this year are parents of seniors. Please let us know – all commitment levels are welcome.

Classical High School Community Association (CHSCA)