Notes on the Special Seniors-Oriented CHSCA Meeting, April 14, 2021

Chsca secretary John Landry led the meeting on Zoom, standing in for president Marybel Martinez, with Julie Gearan facilitating. Principal Scott Barr and assistant principal Brian Baldizar spoke with the 27-plus parents attending. John Landry also prepared these notes.

 Overall, graduation and other end-of-year festivities will be much better than in 2020, though not as full as in 2019.

 Graduation will be Monday, June 7, 6pm, in-person in a stadium, not virtual or drive-through. Probably the same space for all the city’s public high schools, on different days. We have about 280 seniors graduating, with two guests each sitting in the stands, socially distanced. There will be a rehearsal at 9am, with seniors walking through the entire process, and receiving their yearbooks and final transcripts at the end. The ceremony will follow the traditional order and last an hour and a half.

 No need for seniors to order a yearbook; the alumni association paid for every senior to receive one free. Caps and gowns will be distributed in mid-May, after AP exams. Students will have to fill out an exit survey to receive their regalia. The alumni association covered the cost of forty-plus regalia this year.

 The yearbook process didn’t run so smoothly this year, but it almost didn’t happen at all. Scott Macbeth is the teacher overseeing yearbooks, and he’s worked with VLA this year. Contact him at scott.macbeth@ppsd.org with any questions.

 Still to be determined: whether we’ll allow more than two guests per senior, whether the ceremony will be live on zoom (and videocast on the scoreboard), whether there will be a dedicated photographer up close taking pictures of every graduate, and whether we’ll have a rain date. The day should be bright enough at that hour to avoid needing the stadium lights.

 Back to the present: Twenty-plus seniors will be coming to school for at least part of vacation week to complete assignments and catch up in time to graduate. Everyone returns the week of the 26th, which is Spirit Week including Toga Day for A&B. Then AP exams for some seniors from April 30th to June 17. AP classes will not have a final exam; instead they’ll have their usual project to complete by the last week, June 2-5. No heavy-lifting, just a small presentation; hope most of them show up for it. Non-AP classes will also have projects at the end. Students will drop off their books the final week; no lockers to empty. No school for seniors after the 7th, though some sports teams could be playing into late June.

 Yard signs will be back this year, with school staff driving around the city and placing signs in yards or, as appropriate, leaving on doorsteps. Should be up by late May.

 The state is tentatively allowing proms to go forward, but unclear if Classical will have one. Any prom would likely have to be outside, and limited to seniors, without a dinner. Maybe a barbeque instead, at the Temple of Music in Roger Wms Park? Julie Gearan will look into this.

 The school will follow National College Signing Day, date TBA, by asking seniors to sign a large banner in the cafeteria with where they’re going to college. There will also be a public Instagram account, open for comments.

Some of this information is still tentative, so check the school’s website for updated and new information.