

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR CCHS GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

As the 2011/2012 school year moves into the final phases of testing and selection of classes for next year become finalized, we come to the realization this school year drawing to a close. The CCHS governance council hopes the community is beginning to sense some of the great works the GC and its very active committees have begun this year.

The Governance Council is charged with ensuring CCHS is in compliance with the school's Charter. It is worth mentioning the committees that make up the underlying foundation of the governance council. There are seven committees as mandated under the Charter:

Academic – Chairperson Mr. Steve Rubino

Community Service, Outreach – Chairperson Belinda Wedgwood

Discipline & Safety – Chairperson Leslie Marwitz

Financial Planning – Chairperson Pradeep Agrwal

Technology - open

Character Development/Honor Bound – Chairperson Sarah Pannill

Long Range Planning - open

This year the GC has formed 3 additional ad hoc committees:

CPAC (construction project advisory committee) - Chairperson David Tench

STEM/STEAM feasibility committee - Chairs Nancy Kelly & Deann Peterson

Charter Rewrite committee – Chairperson Denise Warner (current Charter runs 2009-2014)

With the exception of the Long Range Planning committee all the committees are actively engaged in works. The some of the works this year include - presenting a grant request for Race to the Top (RT3); engaging our community members by inviting *Chamblee Mayor Eric Clarkson* to join our council as the Community member seat on the council. (He said yes.); and, reaching out into our community building up new relationships with businesses like Brookhaven Costco and Suthers Center for Christian Outreach on Broad Street in Chamblee.

The Character development committee has engaged in three separate surveys to try to capture the pulse of our teachers and staff, students and now parents. The parent survey is currently live and expected to close on Sunday May 6, 2012. The information from the three surveys (teachers/staff, students & parents) will be used extensively over the summer months to target trends, needs and improvements. The survey will also provide essential information for short term fixes while the school in under construction.

The CPAC committee and Safety & Discipline committee worked diligently when we had the *break ins* in the instructional village to ensure the campus was safe -- making recommendations and following up on the implementation of same; and, to make the teachers and classrooms “whole” by getting equipment and instructional space back in order.

The CPAC committee stays in communication with the construction project team by attending weekly planning meetings. We have begun posting this year information to pages on the school website under the link to Governance Council. This work will continue throughout the construction process. The goal is to improve

communications to the community over the coming months. We hope to partner this work with DCSD for efficient and more up to date information. David Tench is the main contact for all construction related questions.

This year the governance council was able to engage several students as our Charter mandates. We are hopeful to build on this effort by getting the student GC member slots for school year 2012/2013 filled and to get feedback from the current students as to how they believe we can best engage student input on all our committees. A special thanks to Yiwei Gao, Arfan Siddique and Abhi Bathini for their efforts this year. (Thanks too to Mollie Simon for her GC reporting this year.)

Looking ahead the council will transition leadership to Pradeep Agrawal, the incoming chairperson. Over the summer months the council will work in committee making a plan for improvements to the physical campus for the upcoming 2012/2013 school year, reviewing and working with the results of the surveys conducted and engaging in gathering input and information as we develop strategies and a plan for the “new” charter.

Many thanks from the GC to Dr. Lowery for her hard work and efforts on behalf of CCHS, our students, staff and stakeholders. Many thanks too, to our outgoing members Kathie Battillo, council secretary and Ruth Primm who brought insights as a liaison having positions on the Dekalb Council of PTA's & the CCHS PTSA as PTA Advocacy chairperson. We are excited to have council members Sarah Pannill (incoming Secretary) Beverly Moon (incoming deputy Chair) Denise Warner, Mark Kelly, Leslie Marwitz, Jan Levie and Nancy Kelly returning. We have a few council members identified for the upcoming year but the vote has not happened yetstay tuned. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of the CCHS Governance Council, please contact Belinda Wedgwood. bwedgwood@gmail.com

Our school community will encounter much change over the coming months. By the time the students return in August 2012, we will be in the full throws of construction. We will be challenged by these changes, but keep in mind these changes are positive. Working together we can all endure these temporary challenges. A strong school offers so much to our students. Parents are an essential part of student successes. Make a commitment to yourself for your student. Volunteer. CCHS has opportunities for ALL our parents and stakeholders to help make our students and school the best we can be.

Thank you for the opportunity this past year to serve our school as your Governance Council chairperson.
Belinda Wedgwood