

**Cumberland Regional School District  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes for February 22, 2010**

Attendance – Mr. Stonis, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Aiello, Trooper Townsend, Sgt. Miller, Stephanie Hayes, Dawn Johnson, Kelli Manski, Laurie McMahon, Kim Murphy, Andrea Kuhar, Melissa Kiessling

The meeting consisted of two main presentations: new regulations for provisional drivers by the state police and career exploration through the guidance department by Mr. Aiello.

Mr. Prianciani introduced Trooper Townsend and Sgt. Miller. He said the driving changes become effective May 1. The school is presently working with Centerton Country Club to change the prom timeline to stay within new curfew guidelines (11:00 pm – 5:00 am).

Trooper Townsend gave an excellent Power Point presentation. There were several major changes to the current laws including curfew, number of passengers, displaying a vehicle identifier decal, fines and penalties for violations, use of electronic devices, and much more. Key components of the Graduated Driving Laws included the following:

- All information is available via a link on the school district's website
- Parents are encouraged to visit the state site [njteendriving.com](http://njteendriving.com) or contact Pam Fischer at the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety (e-mail link available at the state web site)
- State realizes concerns about young drivers becoming "targets" because of mandatory decal (vehicle identifier) but considers the overall benefits to outweigh the drawbacks
- Parents and drivers encouraged to check out website for information/details about the Safe Haven Act
- Provisional license will be known as *probationary* license
- There is no grandfathering

In reference to why there are police at the school, Mr. Mitchell stated that their presence has been a deterrent and led to a reduction in problems such as fights. Being in the building also helps police gain familiarity with the facility in case of an emergency. The district has also created a good working relationship with other local law enforcement agencies and the county prosecutor's office.

Mr. Aiello presented information on the guidance department's new Naviance system. This will allow input on multiple levels for the student, counselors, and parents, although some information can be designated confidential and, therefore, protected. Access is available via the district's website. Overall, the system will provide better communication, ability to track various information topics, link outside resources such as college sites, and allow for electronic storage of student files and paperwork. It is hoped that Naviance can also be used to track CRHS graduates to provide feedback and statistical data to help future graduates. Because this is an independently contracted server, all changes will be updated by Naviance to provide up-

to-date information and access. Anyone currently on the school's Genesis system is transferred to the new system. Mr. Aiello said that classes will be offered in the spring to educate parents about Naviance.

Mr. Aiello also stated that next year's class schedules were being sent home with students. Parents are expected to review these, sign and return to the school. There is an opportunity to meet with counselors if necessary. With the new system, no scheduling changes will be allowed after May 30, unless deemed necessary due to NJASK 8 or HSPA scores. (This does not include drop/add options later.)

HSPA testing dates are March 2, 3, and 4. The full week will operate on half-day schedule. This round of testing offers a third opportunity to seniors. Other calendar updates included the board approved shortening of spring break in April. Any additional weather days will be added to year's end in June.

Mr. Stonis reported the Budget Advisory Committee has met. Tom Davis leads this committee. The main issue is creating a budget for the next academic year that includes a substantial shortage. The committee agreed that a second question to the budget ballot is impractical and is looking for alternatives to bridge the financial gap. A budget link is available on the school's website; Mr. Stonis is diligent about keeping constituents informed.

Feedback on other business:

- GED programs not necessary at this time
- Family academic nights of high interest

CAC members are encouraged to speak with people and listen to their ideas and comments.

Mr. Mitchell reported the Mr. CRHS program is scheduled for Saturday, February 27 in the PAC. Parents are encouraged watch the website for updates, especially given the uncertain weather. There has been concern about transportation, bus stops, and the student parking lot because of the inclement weather. All concerns are investigated and addressed. Wednesday, February 25, is another delayed start; students are to report 2 ½ hours later.

Mr. Stonis noted that three seats are vacant on the school board. The deadline to petition to run is Tuesday, February 23.

The next meeting date is Monday, March 29 or Tuesday, March 30. Members are asked to check which date is better and contact the superintendent's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Kiessling