

**Cumberland Regional High School District  
Citizen Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes for November 22, 2010**

Minutes from the previous meetings (May and October) were reviewed and approved.

**CAPA Visitation**

Mr. Stonis greeted the members and thanked them for their service to the CAC. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Mitchell, who gave an overview of the recent CAPA visit on November 8. This review process was required by the state because CRHS had been classified as a school in need of improvement. Due to the district's implementation of various improvements across the board, including instruction, cooperative learning, and increased rigor, the CAPA review team was pleased. In addition to such areas as effective teaching strategies, differentiated instruction, extra help for students at risk, and improved test scores, the district was also able to show progress on some long term goals. Mr. Stonis acknowledged the staff and Mr. McGraw for all of their hard work in implementing the curriculum changes. Another CAPA review is scheduled for the spring, and if AYP has been met, the "needs improvement" status will be lifted. As a note, Mr. Stonis stated that expected benchmarks for the 2010-2011 academic year have been raised, which means a higher AYP.

**Budget**

The BOE budget committee has a meeting with the county superintendent. Any CAC member interested in serving on the Budget Advisory Committee is asked to contact Mr. Stonis. Budget meetings for next year begin in January, 2011. Overall, the financial scenario is what the BOE expected: the district's deficit is between one and two million dollars with the possibility of an additional \$400,000 gap depending on federal funding, additional state cuts, and cost increases. The BOE worked diligently to keep the impact on students to a minimum for the current academic year and is hopeful for next year.

**QSAC**

QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Consortium) data was gathered and presented to the state. Five major areas were evaluated: instruction/programs, governance, staff (**should be Personnel**), fiscal management, and operations. A point system was used for each area with the data affecting the district's overall AYP standing. Each area was evaluated in-house during October; the data has been sent to the state for their assessment.

**Roof Update**

Work continues. Impact on staff and students has been minimal to date, but the next areas slated for repair will have more contact with the school population. Air quality checks are conducted periodically.

**Follow-up Active Intruder Drill**

The state police created a training video based on last year's Active Shooter Exercise. The school staff will view this video on December 6, and Mr. Stonis is arranging a presentation for CAC in January. Members are encouraged to invite other parents and interested parties to that meeting. A presentation for the general public is being planned as well.

### **November Lockdown**

The school was put into lockdown earlier in November due to an unauthorized person in the building. This was treated as an armed intruder incident. Mr. Mitchell explained that a CRHS student admitted a Vineland student into the building. This male student tried to make contact with a CRHS female student. The classroom teacher did not recognize this person as a CRHS student and notified administration. All school personnel and police reacted appropriately, and the unauthorized individual was apprehended. Charges will be pressed against this individual and the student who admitted him to the school. Due to the time of the incident, dismissal was delayed causing some problems for the bus routes, especially those that service other schools. The district's Global Connect system was used to inform parents, and Mr. Stonis sent an e-mail to all CAC members. It was reported that some families had an incomplete message as it was too long for their answering systems; Mr. Stonis will check the length of the message and try to avoid future problems. Parents and guardians are reminded to make sure contact information is current. Also, rumors about the unauthorized person being armed were incorrect to the best of the administration's knowledge.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Web-link**

A special link on the CRHS website has been created for 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and prospective students. Mr. Stonis said visits to the sending districts are being scheduled for February as well as the regular orientation programs for incoming students.

### **Drama Advisory Committee**

A Dramatic Arts Advisory Council has been formed. It is making recommendations for a Perkins Grant that will help fund the school's drama program. CRHS students, teachers, and administrators, along with representatives from area college drama departments and parents offered testimonials about the importance of drama in the curriculum and how drama impacts many areas of life. Interest in the program at CRHS is growing. There are also many cross-curricular and out-reach opportunities.

### **Math Vertical Articulation**

Math VAT/K – 12 is currently being developed. The purpose of the articulation is to prepare all sending district students for high school math by designing a common curriculum based on state core content standards. Math teachers from the sending districts met to share ideas and resources toward developing this curriculum. Constituent superintendents will be meeting on December 7 to discuss the Math VAT expectations. Eventually, the goal is to expand this standardized curriculum to literacy and then all content areas.

### **DI Institute**

Part of the improvements under CAPA was the creation of the DI (Differentiated Instruction) Institute. The purpose of DI is to create a learning strategy for individual students through self-assessment, teacher-guided pre-assessment, readiness, and learning style. Workshops are held weekly to keep teachers on task so they are better prepared to meet student deficiencies and help them succeed. The differentiated instruction model is cross-disciplinary in nature as learning strategies are identified and applied. The goal is to introduce DI to all teaching staff at the high school and the sending districts.

### **Guidance Assessment**

The CRHS Guidance Department is conducting a self-assessment. Parents/guardians are asked to complete a survey available through the school's website and Naviance to provide feedback to the guidance personnel.

**Freshmen Transition**

The new Freshmen Transition Program is going well. At-risk students have senior mentors. Students receive help with such things as note taking, study skills, organization, oral presentation, working together, and taking responsibility. Follow-up sessions are scheduled during the second semester. The program has been a positive experience for the seniors, who said it's different but better than they'd expected.

Mr. Stonis added that students who receive free or reduced lunch may obtain free tutoring from a certified teacher at home. Tutors are provided through an outside vendor. Interested, qualifying students are to contact Mr. McGraw or the Curriculum Office for more information.

**Other business**

- CRHS will offer an information session on Cyber-bullying and Internet Safety after the holidays.
- Mr. Stephan said the fall play will be presented December 2, 3, and 4, at 7:00 PM in the PAC.
- The junior parent/student meeting was well done but poorly attended, according to Mr. Jorgensen.

No meeting in December.

**Next meeting: Monday, January 24, 2011, 7:00 PM in M-101.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Kiessling