**March 7, 2014**

**CCHS Governance Council Meeting**

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

**Voting**

Maggie Anderson – GC Deputy Chair

Delicia Grimmesey – GC Secretary

Dr. Rochelle Lowery – Principal

Ms. Candace Steadman – Asst. Principal

Lori Beard-Daily – Parent

David Tench – Parent - Construction

Nancy Kelly – Parent – STEM/STEAM

Belinda Wedgwood – Past GC Chair

Kathryn Zuehlke - Faculty

Jean Coleman – Faculty

**Voting**

Lanice Jones - Faculty

Anitha Mathews – Cox Enterprises

Matt Dickinson – Parent - Finance

**Non-Voting**

Nancy Farrey – Blue & Gold

Christine Holland – Media Specialist

Lisa Thule – PTSA Representative

Shundra Wooten - parent

Sidni Wooten – spotlight student

Meeting opened at 7:05 by Maggie Anderson, in Beverly Moon’s absence.

February 7, 2014 GC minutes were approved with minor corrections and seconded. Corrected minutes to be distributed by Delicia.

**Charter Rewrite Committee** – Maggie Anderson, Delicia Grimmesey

A meeting is planned this week with Elisa Falco of Georgia Charter Schools Association. The plan is to define how the assoc. can help with our charter petition. After this, we will need a large meeting, especially with faculty (probably after school) to determine next steps.

Delicia provided additional information about the request for an additional year extention of our existing charter. She learned that the request, submitted by DCSD on behalf of all the renewing schools, was denied by the state. The charter petition is due August 15, 2014.

Delicia also summarized the meeting with Dr. Boza - Director of Leadership Development & Charter Schools, and Marcee Campbell – Coordinator of Charter Schools (both DCSD). Dr. Lowery, Beverly Moon and Delicia attended 2/20/14 along with other existing charter school and others considering opening a charter school. There was a presenter from the Museum School, a DCSD Start-up Charter School who offered advice/tips. Above all, must stand out from other DSCD like schools. They received copies of the new2014-2015 Charter School Petition Guidelines for DCSD (changed from prior year,) including the addition of an Executive Summary section, and learned that State’s guidelines have differences, which also must be met.

**Spotlight Student**- Nancy Farrey: **Sidni Wooten**

Sidni is a Junior in the magnet program. Science & Language Arts are her favorite subjects. She appreciates all teachers, but gives special mention to Coach Smith, Ms. Porter Davis, Ms. Tinnell and Ms. Barnes. She is a skilled member of the marching band, playing flute. She is an active Christians in Action. Away from school, she is a regular volunteer at the Chamblee library and is on the DeKalb County Libraries Teen Advisory Board. She enjoys music and reading. She wants to major in Animal Sciences, with top college choices being Georgia State and University of Arkansas. She is in the Celebration Orchestra at her church.

Sidni thanks Dr. Lowery and Ms. Steadman for this opportunity. What she likes about Chamblee is the student body and being on stage during pep rallies and seeing students come together. She is a Chamblee library volunteer with 10 other kids and tries to get youth to the library more. Likes the new building better than trailers because she can wear her good shoes. Compared to other schools, she finds good things to say about Chamblee and friends from other schools do not. Dr, Lowery told us Sidni reads braille and is the only one in the building that does that she knows of.

**Principal’s Report** - Dr. Lowery

Current Enrollment 1297

Growth and Achievement model – this is an extension of the bridge initiative, the Superintendent is putting emphasis on this model. All schools are charged with going above and beyond what we are currently doing to improve scores and student achievement – don’t forget students in the middle. Overall average may miss this group. Be sure to move everybody. Parent information sessions on two dates: Saturday March 22 (9am-noon) and Tuesday March 25 (5pm-7pm). Location: AIC Auditorium on Mountain Industrial. See flyer and eblast (coming later) for more detailed info.

Chamblee Cluster Parent University – poor attendance but positive feed back from attendees. Will review later this month to determine future, but hopeful it will be held again next year.

Staffing – 2 custodial filled but not yet reported. Counselor recommendation – man was scheduled to report 2/14, but passed away prior to reporting. Next recommendation had some application glitches. March 17 is new date for new counselor.

Title II funds received. Some to be used for 10 staff to attend technology conference, STEAM summer collaboration sessions, and other conferences/staff training.

Cox Chamblee naming committee met earlier this week and made lots of progress. Name decided, but needs to be approved. (CEO of COX,) as he may not want recognition. Mr. john Coleman will create proposal for board approval

EOC state testing date to be announced soon. Students with B average that test prior to class attendance can receive credit for the course, if they score exceeds. Allows for more advanced courses and early graduation. Prerequisite courses will have to be completed. Example: Can opt out of Economics if exceeds on the test and World History completed with a B average. Limit to 3 career exemptions. Core classes only. Can not receive honor or AP credit.

Nathan’s Driving School is coming to CCHS – sessions Tues. and Thurs. beginning March 18. Includes classroom and driving. Meets Joshua law requirements. Make-up times possible, possibly at Nathan’s driving school location. Driving arrangements with individual students. Unsure of cost, but payment directly to Nathan’s. Bonus is free road test at Nathan’s.

Nancy Farrey – Blue & Gold

Next meeting March 29 at 9 am, Feb. meeting was cancelled, but did have Hall of Fame selection. Date set for Thursday Nov 6 at 7pm.

Senior legacy gift letters went out last week. 2012-14 joint class project. Memorial recognition project (bricks and permanent display – possibly vertical on a wall ) Working with Turner and architects, may include original bulldog sculpture also. Probably outside cafeteria somewhere. Ms. Tinnell helped with letters.

Teddy Roosevelt presented to history classes

**PTSA Update** - Lisa Thule

The College fair is next Sat. March 15, 10am -5pm. Invite neighboring high schools with flyer, location may be gym – will announce. Fundraiser, as colleges pay to present $25, PTSA awards $1000 scholarship to a graduating senior.

Pine straw sale is coming up. Same people buy each year, 600 emails raise $5000. Needed signs, donation to blue & gold by Michael Rigley. He made a donation of signs a few years back at the Blue & Gold auction, so he was contacted. Lisa said he was so enthusiastic, wants to help students, gave them to us, 30 in all ($250 donation). Spoke so highly of Chamblee High.

PTSA has formed a nominating committee also – new EIN for new tax exempt organization as PTO could move under governance umbrella. March 28 executive council meeting, would like to meet to discuss.

STEM/STEAM –Ms. Peterson, Nancy Kelly

5 students doing interns. Participated in Chamblee Cluster Parent University. Determine whether summer bridge possible for incoming students. Not funded at this time. Pursuing funding to go forward.

Also, Nancy Kelly provided information regarding unique qualities of STEAM for inclusion in the Charter Rewrite information:

1.            STEAM is an organic program designed by Chamblee for Chamblee.

2.            It’s STEAM, not STEM.  Even as we plan to meet STEM Program requirements set by the Georgia Department of Education, the Arts is an integral part of our program.  We are “exceeding the bar” set by the Georgia DoE in order to meet the needs and expectations of our students.

3.            Our program is being “marketed” to all students at CCHS.

4.            In addition to STEAM internships conducted during the school year, the STEAM program will recognize student internships in STEAM disciplines that are conducted during the summer, provided that they meet STEM Program criteria.

**Nominating Committee** – Belinda Wedgwood

Lori Beard-Daily, Belinda Wedgwood, Maggie Anderson, and Nancy Farrey. Nancy Farrey has agreed to chair. Ask Mr. Rubino if he will serve. Add Delicia to email list as it is the CCHS GC Secretary duty to communicate nominees to GC. By-Laws state due by March 15.

**Committee Updates:**

**Construction – David Tench**

Ongoing discussions, has update he will send for minutes update, meeting yesterday he is trying to get updates from. Marquee question – looks like done, digital panel installed, has to mount antennae for wireless communication to it. Should be up and running soon. Message responsibility to be determined. Dr. Lowery will determine and add important information.

**Communications –** Maggie Anderson

## Chamblee Charter High School Governance Council Communications Report 3.7.14

**Communications Committee Planning Meeting**

The Committee had its second face-to-face meeting February 15, 2-3:30 pm  at Newk’s Present:  Monique Newsome, Belinda Wedgwood, Suzanne Folger, Rowana Allen, Nancy Kelly, Maggie Anderson

**1.  Update on Senior Day of Service (April 3rd) and Plans for Media Coverage**

Plans are underway for this second annual day when Seniors go off-campus to give community service.  Last year there were 137 participants and about 10 sites, including Chamblee High School.  This year we have 24 sites with 260 volunteer slots available for students to choose from.

SDS should be a good opportunity for positive media coverage.  If you have any contacts with media you can connect us with, please let Maggie know.

Facebook page - Belinda will send 160 students in group, 5 student leadership team, asking senior advisors to meet with students to get admin approval.

**2.  Press Releases**

Finalist information came out this month, and between Posse Scholars, National Achievement and National Merit Finalists we distributed three press releases with photos of 16 high achieving Chamblee seniors.

Rowana Allen was successful in getting Neighbor Newspapers to publish two stories.

In the coming weeks we will be working on getting the media to cover Student Day of Service.

Suzanne Folger and Nancy Kelly are working on a story about our unique and exceptional German Program at CCHS.

**3.  Social Media/Blog?**

There was some discussion about using social media to distribute information about CCHS. Dunwoody uses Twitter and Facebook and one individual publishes the Dunwoody School Daze Blog which covers achievements and also topics of interest to the cluster.  We discussed whether to develop a similar blog format for publicizing achievements at Chamblee along with posts on various topics of interest.

This could be a way to keep the business community, our partners in education, potential donors and other stakeholders informed about all the good things happening at CCHS.

These will be topics for future discussion with the Governance Council to consider for implementing next year.

Thanks to Dr. Lowery for her “Premier Chamblee” information and to everyone who has helped us build awareness about the achievements of our students and teachers at CCHS.

**Finance** – Joe Ani, Matt Dickinson, Belinda Wedgwood

**Minutes: finance committee impromptu meeting**

Friday, February 7, 2014

Friday after the GC meeting adjourned, the finance committee (Dr Lowery, Joe, Matt and myself) sat down and reviewed a few points that are time sensitive.  Dr. Lowery's main focus for the committee at this time is to try to procure funding for the GACSA membership.  My understanding is Dr. Lowery is willing to contribute $1000 from her available funds toward membership in GACSA.

We all agreed it would be helpful to know how much the membership would cost and if we could make payments incrementally over the term of a membership.  We do not really know how much the GACSA would cost.  Beverly, can you assist us with answers to these questions?  Other questions we have would encompass the training that would be available under the term of membership and any support we would receive as we continue our charter rewrite.

In the meantime, I have prepared a grant request from the GC to the PTSA for $500 to help pay for the GACSA membership.  I plan to submit the grant request today in hopes the PTSA board can address awarding & approval with the necessary vote as early as tonight at their monthly meeting.  Cross fingers.

We did discuss briefly any other needs from the finance committee at this time from the view of Dr. Lowery.  Her focus would be on grants to continue to augment the new school building and resources for faculty and students.  My comment on this is it is difficult to target grant opportunities because there are so many.  If teachers can provide a few leads to us, there is a better likelihood that grants could be pursued.

I brought up the subject of looking ahead to the charter rewrite and the future duties that could be developed for the finance committee.  The parent members of the finance committee agree that we need to do some thorough reading and review of the financial statements for CCHS specifically.  Without an understanding of the actual costs reported in the financials we would unable to really determine future responsibilities and a transition to a more autonomous structure financially under the next charter.  Dr. Lowery was very guarded here and sort of asked us to focus on the funding for GACSA

We did decide in addition to requesting a grant from the PTSA that we would seek a grant from the Blue & Gold Foundation as well.  However, no steps have been taken to request monies from the B&G at this time.

I do not have Matt's email address.  Would someone please provide it to me and send this email on to Matt as well.

Belinda is determining how to get funds to pay for GA charter assoc involvement in rewrite. Finance comm decided to submit grant request to ptsa for $500 and plan to approach blue and gold possibly after meeting this week with GACa Maggie – probably $7500, $3000 membership and consulting services $4500. Will work with us, so don’t need funds up front. Hoping school will fund, used to be $1500, maybe 2015 school year will allow for contributions to charter. 19th of march target meeting date with elisa falco.

Ambassador Andrew young march 18th  7pm – incent students to attend, might want to discuss charter civil rights – Lisa will get communications to feeder schools, Chamblee Methodist and OLA – cultural arts and black history (PTSA) gave away flat screen tv, Hershey bars, etc. Career Fair successful, new ideas passport to stamp – 30-40% really interested. Allison Uzi. Yearbook and Newspaper present.

**DCPC** – March Meeting Cancelled in lieu of Parent University

**New Business** - None

**Other discussion**: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05. **Next Meeting Friday April 4, 2014**

Minutes taken by Delicia Grimmesey – CCHS GC Secretary