

CLEVELAND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 94004

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Minutes for CHSAA Annual Meeting of January 23, 2016

Cleveland High School

Board Members in attendance:

John Barton, Bernie Moskowitz, JoAnn Smith, Allen Storaasli, Sachi Yari-Doty

Board Members excused: Phally Mom-Kelly, Kersti Muul, Helen Nicdao

Guest Speakers:

George Breland (CHS Principal), Bryan Gordon (CHS Activities Coordinator), Rebecca Bear (NW Outward Bound)

The meeting was called to order by Bernie Moskowitz at 10:09 AM.

George Breland, CHS Principal, spoke first and explained how this has been the best year yet. The teachers have stronger relationships amongst each other after the school year strike. This has been a strong come-back for Cleveland after it was almost closed down 7 years ago (to be merged with Rainier Beach). The STEM program was born out of this crisis and the goal is to become the best STEM school in the state (there are 10 K-12 STEM programs in the state), producing a diverse population of scientists, engineers, technicians, and computer scientists. This was the 3rd year that Cleveland was awarded the School Distinction Award for demonstrating top 5% growth in reading and math. Also improved from 67% graduation rate to 86% (the highest growth of any Seattle high school). Mr. Breland spoke of the diverse make-up of the school and hopes of boosting up the enrollment. There are currently 840 students at CHS with a wait list of about 100 students/year hoping to join the STEM program. Mr. Breland also noted that his son is a sophomore at CHS and he wouldn't think of having him at CHS if he didn't believe in the program. Mr. Breland fielded some questions from the group. This included whether there is any ethnic conflict amongst the students (he denied that there was as students are all choosing to come to the school). Also addressed the ethnic staff are working to build up their cultural competence. The student body is 45% Asian, 39% African make-up of the faculty (currently approx.. 90% Caucasian, 5% African-American, 2% Asian, 2% Latino) and how 50% of the CHS graduates have gone on to college but this number is difficult to track. CHS has a new music American, 10% Latino and 5% white. The average classroom size is approaching 30 students per teachexr. Appro.teacher that is building on the program and helping it to move forward. Mr. Breland spoke on his potential wish list for ways that the CHSAA can support the school. This included helping to build up the public and private relationships to increase internship opportunities for students. He is hoping to build up a Foundation to provide seed money for this project. Also looking at ways to build up the UW in high schools program where students have the opportunity to earn college credit in UW classes taught at CHS. Cost is prohibitive for most students as the course credit costs about \$350 (CHS has 70% free/reduced lunch but this number is going down). UW classes are offered in Biology, Chemistry and Computer Science. There are about 20 students doing this now and CHS did pay for half of the fees for the students that needed that assistance. There are

about 100 students that are potentially eligible to participate but most cannot afford the course fees. This is an area that CHSAA may be able to help. It was suggested by a meeting participant that a type of sponsorship program could be set up where a CHS alumni gets matched to an individual student to sponsor them for their course fees. Mr. Breland would be the contact person to discuss these opportunities further.

Took a break for refreshments at 10:40 AM.

Bryan Gordon, the new CHS Activities Coordinator, gave us an update on other things happening at CHS. There is now a separate Athletic Director (Tim Bursey – not present at meeting). Mr. Gordon also teaches a video production class at CHS. School engagement and spirit are going up. There is a new female self-defense class being offered to students and an extra school dance was added. On days that the school district has the 2 hour early dismissal on Wednesdays, CHS is doing a What's Up Wednesday program where regular classes are cancelled and in their place, the school is focusing on activities to foster the themes of Spirit, Unity and Progress. The most recent program was for MLK Jr. Celebration (Spirit), study hall (Progress), and writing messages to students and staff (Unity). Mr. Gordon also brought up how next year CHS is turning 90 so there will be celebrations planned. Looking at ways of beautifying the school and the senior classes giving gifts to the school. Suggestion was made by a meeting participant that there could be a drive to have alumni donate \$90 and then receive a commemorative 90 year gift in return. Mr. Gordon will be in contact with CHSAA to discuss ways that the association can be involved in the 90 year festivities. He also mentioned that all of the home football games will now be at Rainier Beach so ticket sales should go up and the band can be at all of the games. Lastly, Mr. Gordon also put in a plug for the 9th annual Red & White Night auction put on by the CHS PTSA. This year it will be held at South Seattle Community College on April 23rd. Their goal is to raise \$75,000 (they raised \$56,000 last year). You can buy tickets for the auction (that includes dinner and drinks) for \$45/single, \$80/couple, or \$400/table. The PTSA is in the process of procuring items for the auction (deadline is April 15, 2016). Mr. Gordon provided his contact information. 206-252-7832 and email: bagordon@seattleschools.org.

Rebecca Bear with NW Outward Bound came to speak about potential partnership with CHSAA in developing an Outward Bound program that would take place at the Cleveland High School Memorial Forest. Ms. Bear described the history of Outward Bound that was developed in England to help train new recruits that were working on the tall ships. They built a program to develop character by facing challenges through adversity, fostering leadership skills and participating in the service component. NW Outward Bound is currently based out of Portland, OR. They would like to utilize the Memorial Forest to create an overnight experience for students. This would include navigation skills, camping skills and have some type of service component. Ms. Bear is no longer employed by NW Outward Bound but is the Chair of their Advisory Board and is Director of Outdoor Programs at REI. NW Outward Bound is working with Lois Brewer as contact for Cleveland.

Bernie Moskowitz called for another break at 11:28 AM.

CHS Memorial Forest (Bernie Moskowitz and John Barton)

Before discussing the 2015 Accomplishments, Bernie, with the input of meeting participants, recounted the history of the Cleveland High School Memorial Forest. During WWII, high schools around the country worked to raise money for the war efforts. Because metals were needed for the war, creating a **bronze** plaque for the school was not feasible. The NW history teacher at CHS and environmentalist, Mr. Hazard, knew of some land that was being auctioned off. The classes of '43 and '44 were able to raise \$150 each for a combined total of \$300 for the auction. This money was raised through things such as cookie sales, the senior play and paper drives. Meeting participants, Pat and Don Clifford of '44, explained what happened at the auction. The land

being auctioned off was adjacent to Boeing land and Mrs. Boeing had originally wanted to buy it to expand their property. However, when she found out about the efforts of the CHS students, she decided she would not even bid. In fact, no one bid against the CHS students after they heard the story of how students wanted to purchase the land to recognize the contributions to the war effort by CHS students. Further discussion was had about efforts to regain control of the Forest after it was transferred to the Seattle School District but the law suit was lost to the District. The Forest remains under the ownership of the Seattle School District but efforts are being made to insure that the Forest is never sold (it's current worth is estimated at \$16-19 million) and **that it will** remain in perpetuity as the Cleveland High School Memorial Forest. Meeting participant made suggestion that the Memorial Forest could be opened up to include memorializing past students from other Seattle high schools (to broaden the support base for the Forest).

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of 2015 were approved.

2015 Accomplishments:

Scholarships (JoAnn Smith)

JoAnn explained how all applications are now being scanned electronically for review and award selection by the scholarship committee. The Ed Landon portion of the scholarship fund is directed for students majoring in education and hope is that this can be awarded out to someone this year. JoAnn noted that there were fewer applicants last year (only 5-8 applicants) and she will be working with the CHS counselor to advertise this scholarship fund better.

CHS Athletics

No representative available to speak on this. There is a new Athletics Director at CHS (was told it is Tim Bursey).

CHS Memorial Forest and Lyceum Rebuilding Project (John Barton)

John reported that there is approval to move ahead on the Lyceum construction but nothing is happening until end of January at the earliest. Ben Wakefield, former CHSAA President, will still be involved in the Lyceum project. 2/3 of the fundraising is complete for the project with CHSAA committing to approximately \$30,000. It was mentioned that there is potentially an alumni family who have offered to pitch in the remaining amount needed. John Barton is also working on a monument to replace the stolen bronze plaques.

2016 Objectives (as taken from Annual Meeting Agenda)

Some of these objectives were addressed during prior parts of the meeting (see notes above) but others were not directly discussed. They are included here for record purposes.

Continuation of:

Scholarship Program

CHS Athletic Program support

CHS Memorial Forest enhancement and utilization

Existing fund raising efforts, with particularly emphasis on the Annual Golf Tournament

Effort to complete CHS Memorial Forest Lyceum rebuild

CHSAA Newsletter publication

New initiatives:

Outfit CHS band and drum line with new uniforms with assistance from the band and ASB

Attempt to recruit more recent CHS graduates into volunteering

Treasurer’s Report (Allen Storaasli)

Allen presented color graphs detailing the financial status of CHSAA. Total usable funds approximately at \$100,000 (checking + E Jones account). Endowment funds at approximately \$60,000 (interest funds of approx. \$5000 were transferred from endowment to checking). Allen did note that donations went down slightly last year.

2015 Expenses (detailed by category)

Newsletter publications	\$6,308	
Mailing costs	\$4,779	
Annual Scholarship	\$18,000	
Insurance	\$1,872	
Athletics/other		\$14,738 (\$4000 to athletics, \$10,000 to CHS shadowing/internship program)
Website		\$241
Memorial Forest out to Forest)		\$1423 (to support CHS field trip

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was passed.

CHSAA Board Member Elections

All positions are for two year terms. Helen Nicdao and Phally Mom-Kelly were not present at the Annual Meeting and had previously communicated their intention not to run for re-election.

- Position 1: John Barton ‘54 was re-elected, term ending 2018
- Position 2: JoAnn Smith ‘56 was re-elected, term ending 2018
- Position 3: Steve Brady ‘86 was nominated and elected to board, term ending 2018
- Position 4: VACANT
- Position 5: Kersti Muul ‘91, term ending 2017
- Position 6: VACANT
- Position 7: Bernie Moskowitz ‘57, term ending 2017
- Position 8: VACANT
- Position 9: VACANT
- Position 10: Allen Storaasli ‘62 was re-elected, term ending 2018
- Position 11: Arlene Hubbell ‘55 was nominated and elected to board, term ending 2018
- Position 12: Sachi Yari-Doty ‘89, term ending 2017

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sachi Yari-Doty – rotating secretary