

Community Council Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2008

In Attendance:

- Principal: John Welburn
- Vice-Principal: Stephen Perschon
- School Employees: Warren Child, Jerry Schaffer , Craig Sudbury
- Parents/Guardians: Trish Hull, Sandy Lancaster, Liz Huber

Absent:

- Vice-Principal: Stephen Perschon
- School Employees: Ember Storrs
- Parents/Guardians: Leah Wright, Greg Henson, Kim Thompson

- i) No meeting will be held in January due to Human Rights Day.
- ii) Agenda Items
 - (1) Cornell Notes: A survey was conducted at Parent/Teacher conferences; the results were presented by Luanne Coon as follows:
 - (a) Parent Responses: Approximately 150 parents responded. Only 9% said they were familiar with Cornell notes, but 70% indicated they would ask their student about this tool after being made aware of it.
 - (b) Teacher Responses: Approximately 48 teachers responded. Most are using Cornell notes in their classes. Some rated the notes as “very helpful”; others rated them “useless”. The majority fell somewhere in between. When asked what they like most about the notes, responses included: “Students are more engaged/attentive”, “Comprehension has improved”, “Notes are better”. When asked what they dislike most, a common response was “The students complain about them.”
 - (c) Student Responses: 80 students completed the survey. The majority of these students indicated they use Cornell notes in 5 to 6 classes. 20% felt the notes as a whole are “useless”, 10% rated them “very helpful”, and the majority rated them “ok”. The majority felt the left-side is “ok”; 80% felt the summary section is “useless”. When asked what they like, responses included “better organization” and “increased understanding”. Dislikes include: “not sure how to use the left side and summary”; “they take too much time”. And although a high number of students responded that the notes don’t improve understanding, they indicated in another section of the survey that the notes help in math, science, and English.
 - (d) This survey was taken early in the school year and the council is anxious to see the results of a similar survey to be administered near the end of the school year. The survey will ask students if they took notes prior to this year and if Cornell notes improved their grade.
 - (e) Jerry Schaffer (math) reported that he has used Cornell notes for four years and has seen improvement each year. The math department uses the summary section as a warm-up for the next class.
 - (f) Teacher’s “non-favorable” responses could have been due to the program’s newness at the beginning of the year. More training has been provided since. It was suggested that the math department share with other departments the technique of using the summary section as a warm-up.
 - (2) School Student Achievement Plan (SSAP) Progress
 - (a) Cvrus HS SSAP has been approved by the District. has been submitted to the state and is