

PCN Meeting Summary
January 9, 2019
8:30am

Happy 2019 CFCI families! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays, and are rested, refreshed and ready to tackle 2019! I wanted to send out the update from the PCN, which will be made available soon on our web page. It is still under construction, so stay tuned for our page. We had a really good meeting this past week, and I am excited to share with you what we discussed!

Guest, Amy Pierce, started the meeting by discussing some concerns regarding Chromebooks. She is concerned that technology could have a negative impact on student learning and shared concerns about internet safety for students. She also wondered about the how/when/why of teacher training and educating our community on tech addiction. E. Stanfield also expressed concerns about how much students can access online. Kim McCormick mentioned the CLASS project search engine that NHC library offers which the staff is being trained on. It can limit exposure to inappropriate search findings. The group discussed the importance of ongoing discussions with parents and teachers regarding the use of technology as a tool in the classroom.

Amy also shared concerns about WIFI EMFs (electro-magnetic frequencies which are emitted by wireless routers) and the possible harmful effects on children. Other examples of EMFs are: x-rays, microwaves, and cell phones. Amy also mentioned that some other countries are expressing concerns over youth being exposed to EMFs and our children are the first generation that will have long-term exposure to them. She shared several points of data. The group discussed methods to read the amount of EMFs in the school and will look into options to have them read.

Amy also mentioned the possibility of a reverse osmosis filter being installed at school. The topic was presented last year by Elaine Jack and there was extensive research done by her and I at that time. The decision at the time was to monitor the drinking water situation (related to Gen-X) and encourage families to send their child with bottled water if they were concerned. A key point from research is the possible waste a RO system produced, as well as the beneficial minerals that are removed. Newer systems, according to Amy and E., don't waste as much water and remineralize the water. It was mentioned that, while fundraising for a system would allow the system to be installed, the school would have to maintain it which could be costly. Keri Wray mentioned that she uses them at a pre-school she operates and the costs are not overwhelming. The group decided to reach out to an outside vendor and obtain additional information.

Elaine Jack brought up that many parents spend a fair amount of time volunteering at the school. She suggested incorporating some type of service hours for our students. Several options included offering older students the option of a service academy or bring a "graduation project" style of assignment for middle grades similar to the county schools assignment in high school. Kim McCormick mentioned a CAS

(creativity, activity, service) project her daughter created at an IB (international baccalaureate) middle school. Introducing small projects through Green team was also mentioned. The group discussed that these were ideas to talk more with teachers about and revisit.

The partnership meeting will be Thursday January 17th at 530pm. There will pizza available for sale and a magic show for the students as well as a short presentation for parents from teachers about what technology looks like at CFCI followed by a Q and A session. A survey will be sent out during the presentation to all parents to get a better indication of where concerns are.

Mrs. Roy updated several items. The 2019-2020 school calendar will be presented to the board at the next board meeting. There are no major changes and will closely follow NHCS. The giftedness identification program along with information about the process will be up on the school website asap. The PCN page will also be up soon along with the names and bios of each member. A program that will be part of future meetings is a new family orientation. In the past, a “buddy” family was assigned to each new family.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the City Council meeting on January 22nd, as they vote on rezoning the area on Medical Center Dr for the Healing Place residential facility.

Please email your rep., or the main email pcn@cfc.net with any questions or concerns you would like considered. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 17th for Pizza, Magic, and Tech!